Lesson Plan

Anyone can be a Leader!

Subjects and Topic:
Social Studies
Leadership

Grade: 5  Class Periods: 4-5

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Subject/Course:
5th Grade
Literature
Social Studies

Guiding Questions
• What makes someone a leader?
• What can motivate a person to take action?
• What is an injustice or issue that is important enough for you to take action?
• How can you inspire others to pay attention to that injustice or issue?

Learning Objectives
As a result of participating in these activities, students will
• Understand that many leaders are not widely known or recognized; they are unsung
• Demonstrate knowledge that challenging circumstances can motivate people to take risks and demonstrate leadership
• Critically examine unjust situations that exist in the present day and form opinion on how to address

When we think of the Civil Rights Movement, most of us think of Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and The March on Washington. These are some of the most widely circulated people and events of the Civil Rights Movement and are also a part of the “Greatest Hits” of the Civil Rights Movement. While these people and events are important to the movement, they do not give credit to the thousands of men, women, and children who also took part in the movement in numerous ways.

The activities of this lesson will introduce students to the concept of unsung heroes and introduce them to the actions that these individuals took as they committed to creating change in the United States. Students will come away from these activities with a greater understanding that anyone who is committed to a righting a wrong or improving the world at large can be a leader.

Lesson Plan Details
College and Career Readiness Standards
- NCSS.D1.2.3-5. Identify disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question that are open to different interpretations.
- NCSS.D2.His.2.3-5. Compare life in specific historical time periods to life today.
- NCSS.D2.His.3.3-5. Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.

Lesson Activities

Activity 1
Unsung Heroes Gallery Walk

Students will view the Unsung Heroes Gallery Walk (some images 2 per page). They will choose two images that stand out to them and use the What Do You See form 2 per page. Students will reconvene as a whole group to discuss their observations. The teacher will then reveal that each person on the images they saw were actually unknown heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. The whole group discussion will conclude with a group brainstorm of the character traits of good leaders and some examples of poor leaders.

Activity 2
Who Are These People?

Students will research to find a Civil Rights Movement Unsung Hero.

Students will explore the stories of the images of the gallery walk at the interactive Unsung Heroes of Civil Rights site. They will begin their research at this site.

They will create a FactBook profile page for the individual, making specific note of important information in the person’s life and experience. The student will create at least two statuses
from the point of view of the person. The profiles will be circulated so that other students will have the chance to “comment” or react to posts.

The profiles will be combined into the class fact book. The “Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement” fact book will become a part of the classroom library.

Activity 3
Make YOUR Voice Heard

Students will identify a present day injustice or cause that is significant in their lives. Students will create an action plan of steps that they can take to tackle the injustice issue. Students will then have the option to independently:

- Create a protest sign to creatively bring attention to the injustice or issue.
- Create an original visual representation of the injustice or issue
- Write a song to call others attention to the injustice or issue.

Extension Activities

Recruit Students will write a persuasive speech to convince others to get involved in addressing the injustice or issue.

Support

Take Students will choose one specific action from their action plan to carry out.

Action