

Unit I: Human Behavior

Grade Levels: K-5

Time: 30 minutes

Lesson EI-1: Chrysanthemum: The Power of Words

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Literacy, art, character education

Objective:

- The students will be able to explain how words leave an impression on one's heart.

Materials:

- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes; cut outs of paper hearts (one for each student)

Activities/Procedure:

- Distribute hearts to the students.
- Explain that you are going to be reading a story to them. They may have heard the story before but this time you want them to pay attention to certain details.
- Direct students that, as you read the story, each time something mean is said to Chrysanthemum, or makes her feel sad, to fold their hearts. It does not matter how they fold their hearts. When positive, nice things are said to Chrysanthemum they are to unfold their hearts.
*As you are reading you may want to pause to make sure that the students are "catching" all the positive and negative things being said to Chrysanthemum.
- When you finish the story their hearts should be unfolded. Direct the students to try to get all the wrinkles (folds/creases) out of the heart. Give them a few minutes to try to get them out. Then discuss how they cannot get them out. Discuss how we can forgive people for saying mean things and hurting our feelings but they still leave an impression or wrinkle on our heart and feelings. The next time a student makes fun of another person you can remind him/her that he/she is causing that person to have a wrinkle or impression on the heart.

Evidence of Understanding:

- The students can be evaluated on their discussion. Older students can write a paragraph explaining what they learned through this lesson.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service:

- Explore the symbol of the heart as the seat of emotions. Make a list of the ways the heart shape is used to convey an idea or feeling. (For example: the heart for valentines, for loving another person or pets or flowers, "broken heart," heartache, etc.)
- The concepts and issues raised in this lesson may be reinforced and incorporated into behavior/classroom management throughout the school year by revisiting the story at appropriate times and reminding the students of the activity and the lessons learned when the lesson was originally presented.