



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Example from 'Learning to Give'

Garden of Relationships

Lesson: 'I'm In a Tizzy, How Can I Help?'

(Grade levels K – 2)

Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce children to literature that reinforces the concept of **unconditional kindness** and demonstrates the idea that a **good deed** deserves another. Students will begin to understand that one act of kindness can lead to other acts of kindness and that acts of kindness are acts of philanthropy, giving of one's time, talent and/or treasures for the good of others. Teacher may also focus on the importance of kindness in all of our relationships.

Duration:

One 30 minute class period

Objectives:

The learner will:

- define the term *philanthropy*.
- define unconditional kindness.
- hypothesize why certain events take place.
- brainstorm how to show kindness to others.

Materials:

- Story *Miss Tizzy* by Libba Moore Gray
- Handout: 'My Act of Kindness' – School/Home Connection (Attachment follows)

Instructional Procedure(s):

Anticipatory Set:

Ask the students to think about family members or the people that live in their neighborhood. Do they know their neighbors? Do they like to do things with their family members or any of their neighbors? Ask for volunteers to share with the class some of the things that they do with these people. Can they think of something kind that they or their family has done for a neighbor or, can they think of something kind that a family member or neighbor has done for them? Ask students to share any experience and talk about how it made them feel. Hold up a copy of the book Miss Tizzy. Ask the students to share what they think the book might be about.

- Do a picture walk-through of the story and ask how Miss Tizzy is the same or different from people they know and with whom they spend time. Discuss the pictures to identify how the characters feel about Miss Tizzy based on what they see in their facial expressions.

- Read the book to the class, having the children interact with the pages and what the characters in the story are doing.
- Ask students what it means when we say "a good deed done for others will come back to you." Have them give examples from *Miss Tizzy*. Ask students if they think it is hard to be nice to someone. Does it take a little extra effort or time? Would the results of friendship be worth the extra time or effort?
- Write the words ***philanthropy*** and ***kindness*** on the board. Ask for volunteers to share what they think the words means. Tell them that the word *philanthropy* means "giving of your time, talent or treasure for others." Discuss why philanthropy is a desirable thing, using examples from the story and real life. Explain that doing acts of kindness is one way of being a "philanthropist." **Note: Focus also on the importance of kindness in all of our relationships.**
- Ask students to reflect on whether there is someone in their lives (in their class, school, family, neighborhood) who needs a little extra help or a kind word. Ask each student to make a plan for something they could do for someone else. Explain that they will be taking home a note to their families, asking them to help in doing an act of kindness. (**Attachment: My Act of Kindness**). They should write or draw their plan, carry it out, evaluate how the plan worked and how it felt. (It may be as simple as a phone call to a lonely relative or bringing a treat to an elderly neighbor.)

Assessment:

Assess whether students can name the days of the week. Evaluate student understanding of the benefits of philanthropy and kindness through their participation in the discussion and the results of their plan.

School/Home Connection:

Give the learners a copy of **Attachment: My Act of Kindness**. Ask them to share the story *Miss Tizzy* with family members and fill out the attachment. Have the learners return the attachment and ask them to share some of their answers.

Bibliographical References:

- Gray, Libba Moore. *Miss Tizzy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993. ISBN: 0689818971.

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The Stewardship website, Learning to Give, offers a wide variety of lesson plans which may be used to incorporate the Twelve Gardens of Stewardship into your curriculum. Though philanthropy is the filter for many of these lesson plans, you will find a large number of appropriate choices and useful ideas to adapt to your needs. Visit LearningToGive.org.

HANDOUT ATTACHMENT IS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

My Act of Kindness

Dear Family,

In class today, we read a book about a woman and the children in her neighborhood. Many of the neighbors thought Miss Tizzy was odd, but the children loved her for the special attention she gave to them. When Miss Tizzy was ill, the children got together and did something nice just for her. In our discussion of the story, we learned about philanthropy, which is the giving of time, talent, or treasure for the common good. We also talked about how a good deed done for others will come back to you and that kindness is important in all of our relationships. For a home challenge we are asking students, with the help of their family members, to do something kind for another family member or a neighbor who may need a little extra help. The kind deed may be as simple as bringing a treat, or as generous as helping with yard work. You and your child can decide. When your child has performed the act of kindness, help your child write about the experience explaining the act and describing how it felt.

Describe what you did for a family member or a neighbor.

How did your family member or neighbor respond to the kindness?

How did you feel after your act of kindness?
