

## **Lesson Plan: Grades K - 6**

### **Letters to Veterans**

#### **Primary Subject: Literacy**

In lower grades (K-2) it would be more of an exercise of expressing gratitude in connection with research, questions, and then drawing and writing to express thanks. Could be combined with literature to build background knowledge.

In the upper grades (3-6) the focus is on clear writing that is appropriate to the audience. The students are expected to think about the purpose of the writing and make sure tone and word choice is appropriate to the reader.

Standards for each grade level:

For K- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.5](#)

With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

Grade 1-[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.5](#)

With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

Grade 2 [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.5](#)

With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

Grade 3 Production and Distribution of Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4](#)

With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

Grade 4 Production and Distribution of Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.4](#)

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

Grade 5 Production and Distribution of Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.4](#)

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

## Grade 6 -CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

### **Discussion:**

What is war and why it happens? Is war right or wrong?

Who is a veteran? In what wars would they have served? How old are they now?

- WWII - 1939 to 1945
- Korea - 1950 to 1953
- Vietnam - 1960 to 1975
- Gulf War - 1990 to 1991
- Modern wars Middle East & Africa - 1995 to 2017

Discuss branches of the armed forces and how each person would have served. What were their duties and tasks. What were the risks involved. What are the sacrifices.

Why should we thank them?

## HOW TO WRITE A LETTER

Write to a **Veteran who served in the military in the past.**

They deserve to be thanked for their commitment and bravery!

- Start with a generic salutation, such as:” Dear Veteran”, “Dear Hero” or “Dear Brave One.”
- Express your thanks for their selfless service. See suggestions below
- Avoid politics completely and religion in excess; however, saying you will pray for them is wonderful.
- Share a little about yourself: Family, Hobbies, Work, School, Pets, Travel, etc. Make this a personal letter
- Talk about life and interests: Sports, Weather, Music, Movies, Food, Books, etc.
- Talk about family or friends you know that are in the military and how they are sacrificing. Try not to use names. Make a connection with the recipient.
- Please do not include a date or year on your letter.

- Adults: You may include your contact information (mail or email) so the letter recipient can reply. *(Recipients may or may not write back; please do not be disappointed if you do not receive a response.)*
- Children's Letters: Include first names only with City and/or State. Do not include addresses.
- Can't find the words? Consider drawing or painting a picture instead; please add a note to kids' drawings with their age.
- No glitter or confetti please!
- Do not put your individual cards or letters in envelopes—they are not needed and create a burden for our letter screeners.
- Please don't date your letters, sometimes it can take up to a few months for our letters to be received after they are sent.

## **Some inspirational suggestions “thank you” text**

- Thank you for your sacrifice, your bravery, and the example you set for us all. In short, thank you for your service!
- To all those who have served, thank you for your service!
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank our veterans. We all owe you our thanks, but more than that, we owe you our freedom.
- There's no way to thank our veterans for everything they sacrifice for our freedom, but we must try. So, thank you to all our service men and women, who served!
- We should always remember that our freedom isn't guaranteed. It's protected by the men and women in our Armed Services. Thank you for giving us our freedom!
- To all the veterans out there... I salute you! Thank you for your service and sacrifice!
- We honor all our Veterans of the Armed Services. Our country's greatness is built on the foundation built from your courage and sacrifice. Thank you!
- I would like to thank all the Veterans who served for the vital service they perform for our country.