

Sadako – A Message of Hope and Remembrance

Timing of Presentation: Day 4, Morning, “Hope and Remembrance”

Purpose:

- Students will develop empathy for the character Sadako by taking on her perspective.
- Students will realize and restate the message of hope in this story. Students will understand and use the terms “hope” and “remembrance.”
- Students will respond to the text during reading.
- Students will consider how they view themselves, and how they are viewed by others. Students will consider how they view other classmates.

Materials:

- Sadako by Eleanor Coerr and Ed Young
- Square pieces of scrapbook paper – a variety of patterns

Instruction:

1. Tell the students that today you are going to read a story that can be quite sad. However, there is a message of hope in the story. Tell students that their purpose, or goal, for reading is to read critically by taking on perspectives to find the message of hope and be able to retell it in their own words.
2. Introduce the book Sadako.
3. Read the book. At various times throughout the text, stop and ask students to whisper to a neighbor telling them what they are thinking and feeling at that point in the story.
4. After the story has been read, ask students to share how they felt and what they were thinking during the story.
5. Ask students to share their own perspective of the message of hope in this book.
 - a. Ask students how the kids took action in this story (discuss being an activist).
 - b. Ask why they think the author is sharing this story and this message.
 - c. Ask students to journal in their perspective journals about what this message of hope can inspire them to do in their lives. How can they be activists or motivators in their lives and in the lives of others?
6. Distribute a piece of square scrapbook paper (picked from various patterns) to each child.
7. At the top have them write two or three words that describe how they see themselves (for example: smart, funny, friendly).
8. Have them turn the paper ninety degrees and write two or three words that describe how they think others see them.

9. Now have each child set their square on their desk. Play quiet music in the background (The Change is a good song to use). Have each child walk in a line to each other child's desk and write one word describing how they view that child. Make sure they understand that these words need to be positive and uplifting.
10. After every child has written on every other child's paper, allow the child time to look at their own paper and the way people view them.
11. Each child will then use their piece of paper to fold into their own paper crane (for directions, go to <http://www.sadako.org/foldingcranes.htm>). Hang the cranes in the classroom as a reminder of perspective taking, hope, and inspiration.
 - a. How does the message of hope in Sadako's story relate to the message of hope in the story of the OKC Bombing?
 - b. Tell about the golden paper cranes hanging in the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. Talk about the survivor tree as a message of hope.
 - c. What does it mean to remember or honor people? How was Sadako remembered and honored? How are the victims of the OKC Bombing remembered and honored?
 - d. Why do you think we are hanging our cranes?

Assessment:

- Informally assess the message of hope derived from the story. Although there is not one right answer, check to see if the students derived personal and meaningful messages from the text and connected it with their own lives.

Extensions and Alternatives:

- Extend this lesson into a mini unit on heroes in which students look for everyday heroes and assess what makes them heroes. Critically examining dominant definitions of a hero and change the definition to encompass their idea of a hero. Challenge them to search for the unheard voices in the world of heroes, extending beyond famous people and present them to the class. Ask them to consider the survivors of the OKC Bombing heroes.
- Use the graphic novel [Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq](#) by Mark Alan Stamaty as an example of an everyday hero.
- www.sadako.org is a wonderful website to accompany this story.