

Lesson Plan

Create a Card

Book: *Single-Parent Families*

Series: All Families

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice their letter-writing skills by creating and writing a card for someone who is important to them.

Supplies

- *Single-Parent Families* book
- Cardstock
- Crayons, markers, and colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Stickers, ribbon, or other craft supplies

Before the Activity

Read the *Single-Parent Families* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Chapter 2 (“Single Parents”) of the *Single-Parent Families* book describes some of the reasons why a family might have only one parent. Invite a few volunteers to list reasons mentioned in this chapter, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- a parent might die
- one parent might not be involved in the child’s life
- a single parent might adopt a child
- parents may get divorced or stop living together
- parents may take turns caring for kids
- one parent may live or work in a different city or country
- one parent may be deployed by the military
- one parent may be in prison

Many of these changes can be hard and sad. Children might miss the parent who is gone. However, like the girl in Chapter 1, children still have people in their lives who love and care about them. Invite students to think of someone who is important to them. This can be a friend, a family member, a teacher, a coach, or anyone else they like or appreciate.

Students should use the craft supplies to make a card for this person. Inside the card, students should write a note thanking this person. The note should start with a greeting, such as “Dear Emily.” Then, students should write two or three sentences thanking the person. In these sentences, students can say what they like about the person or tell about a time the person helped or encouraged them. Students should end the note with a closing, such as “Sincerely,” or “Love,” and sign their name at the bottom.

Evaluation

Could students recall reasons the book gave for why children might be part of single-parent families? Could they follow the format for writing a note in their card?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.1), writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.4), and the National Council for the Social Studies Standard 3.