

Second Grade Lesson Plan The Story of the Four Chaplains



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 2 nd Grades	Lesson: The Four Chaplains

OBJECTIVES: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL 2.2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.		STRATEGIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group 	
MATERIALS:		Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of The Story of the Four Chaplains; copies of The Story of the Four Chaplains Questions; copies of the Four Chaplains Quilt Square Activity	
Engage: Hook the students		Think/Pair/Share Activity- the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner, and share their answer. T/P/S Question: Ask the students to define what it means to be a hero. After students have shared with their partner, brainstorm some of their answers on your board. Ask students what kind of people they usually think of when they think about heroes. Ask the students if they would give their life jacket to someone else if they were on a sinking ship? Explain to students that on February 3, 1943, four men on board the US Army Transport the Dorchester did just that.	
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.		Play the YouTube video, The Four Chaplains of World War II Drive Thru History with Dave Stotts https://youtu.be/azLpYkDJVvc?t=20 Continue the discussion about what it means to be a hero. Ask the students if they think the Four Chaplains are heroes. Explain to the students that sometimes heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things during a crisis. For example, a young person who sees a person who is having a medical emergency, and that young person calls 9-1-1 for help. Read The Story of the Four Chaplains aloud to the class. Students will answer the questions about key details in the text.	
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.		Teacher will select vocabulary according to grade level.	
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.		Students will answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. Students will complete the Four Chaplains Quilt Square Activity.	
Evaluate: assessment.		Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.	
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project		Discuss people who work in the school that go above and beyond what their job responsibilities. Students will write a thank you card to people who work in their school.	

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The Story of the Four Chaplains

The Four Chaplains, Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Rev. George L. Fox, and the Rev. Clark V. Poling met when they attended Chaplain School together at Harvard University in November 1942.

The chaplains found out they had a lot in common, and they quickly became good friends. A common cause brought them together, the desire to serve their country during World War II.

On board the ship, one of their job responsibilities in addition to ministering to the troops, was to keep the morale of the soldiers high. The chaplains worked together to organize talent shows, game nights and other activities for the troops!

In January 1943, the four chaplains boarded the US Army Transport ship the *Dorchester* headed for the American base in Greenland. Because it was war time, and the seas were full of German submarines called U-Boats, the *Dorchester* and two other ships were being escorted by three Coast Guard cutters.

On February 2, one of the Coast Guard cutters received sonar readings indicating the presence of an enemy submarine in a place known as "Torpedo Junction".

That evening, the Commanding Officer of the *Dorchester* ordered the men to sleep in their clothing, with their life jackets close at hand.

The ships were only 150 miles from their destination in Greenland, and if they could make it through the night, the ships would have air cover from the American base in Greenland in the daylight hours.

At 1:00 in the morning on February 3, the chaplains were still awake when the torpedo struck. The missile exploded in the boiler room, the explosion threw soldiers from bunks and the lights went out as the ship started to sink.

Those not killed in the explosion or trapped below deck, rushed topside. Dazed and disoriented, the men stumbled about on the dark, crowded decks.

The four chaplains acted quickly, calming the men, and directing them to life rafts.

They urged them to escape the ship. Some of the men gripped the rails of the ship, too afraid to move to the lifeboats.

Many had forgotten their life jackets. The chaplains located a supply in a deck locker and passed them out. When the bin was empty, they pulled their own life jackets off and made other crew members put them on.

As the ship was sinking, the four chaplains were seen standing on the ship's stern, arms locked as they prayed and sang hymns.

On that night, only 230 of the 902 on board survived. The ship was carrying servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers.

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The Story of the Four Chaplains Questions

1. Where did the four chaplains meet?
2. Why did the four chaplains become such good friends?
3. What common cause brought the four chaplains together?
4. In addition to ministering to the troops on the ship, what else did the chaplains do?
5. What was the name of the ship the four chaplains were on?
6. Where was the ship going?
7. What happened on February 2, 1943?
8. What did the four chaplains do after the Dorchester was hit by the torpedo?
9. What did the four chaplains do when they handed out all of the life jackets, including the ones they had on?

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Answer Key

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The Story of the Four Chaplains Questions

1. Where did the four chaplains meet? **The four chaplains met at the Chaplain School at Harvard University.**
2. Why did the four chaplains become such good friends? **The four chaplains found out they had a lot in common in addition to being chaplains.**
3. What common cause brought the four chaplains together? **The desire to serve their country during World War II.**
4. In addition to ministering to the troops on the ship, what else did the chaplains do? **The chaplains worked together to organize things like talent shows, game nights and other activities for the troops.**
5. What was the name of the ship the four chaplains were on? **The name of the ship was the Dorchester.**
6. Where was the ship going? **The Dorchester was going to an American base in Greenland.**
7. What happened on February 2, 1943? **One of the Coast Guard cutters received sonar readings indicating the presence of an enemy submarine in a place known as "Torpedo Junction".**
8. What did the four chaplains do after the Dorchester was hit by the torpedo? **The four chaplains rushed to the deck, tried to calm the soldiers, gave out life jackets to the men that did not bring theirs.**
9. What did the four chaplains do when they handed out all of the life jackets including the ones they had on? **The four chaplains stood on the ship's stern, arms locked as they prayed and sang hymns.**

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The Four Chaplains Quilt Square Activity

Draw a picture in the Quilt Square below that tells something you learned about the Four Chaplains. Color your square. When you have finished, your teacher will tell you when to cut your square out to connect it with other squares in the class.

