4th Grade Lesson Plan
Remember*Honor*Teach

What is a VETERANS’ WREATH?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES:</th>
<th>STRATEGIES:</th>
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| CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. | □ Drawing/Coloring  
□ Writing  
□ Think/Pair/Share  
□ Collaboration  
□ Small Groups  
□ Large Group |

| MATERIALS: | Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of Wreaths Across America Parts of Speech Worksheet; Copies of What is a Veterans' Wreath Word Search Puzzle; Copies of From the Tip Land to a Wreath Maze Activity; Copies of Wreaths Across America Veterans Wreath Coloring Sheet; Copies of the Wreaths Across America Read-Rhyme-Design-Color Storybook A-Z |

Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair 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 Questions: Where does an idea come from? Why was the boy afraid to tell people about his idea? Why did the idea get bigger? |

| Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations. | Play the PowerPoint, From Paperboy, to a Wreath Maker in Maine. What influenced the idea Morrill had? What did Morrill do with his idea? What impact has his idea had on people?  
Play the video: What is a Veterans' Wreath? | Wreaths Across America Veterans' Wreaths [https://youtu.be/5_-EW6a_VAs](https://youtu.be/5_-EW6a_VAs)  
Students will complete the Wreaths Across America Parts of Speech Worksheet. Students will complete the 10 Special Qualities of a Veteran Synonym activity. Students will complete the What is a Veterans' Wreath Word Search Puzzle. Students will complete the From the Tip Land to a Wreath Maze Activity. Students will complete the Veterans' Wreath Coloring Sheet. Students will write a Holiday Thank-You Note to a Veteran. Students will complete the Wreaths Across America Read-Rhyme-Design-Color Storybook A-Z. |

| Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students. | Vocabulary is used in the 10 Special Qualities of a Veteran Synonym activity: optimism-positivity, dreams-visions, ambitions-goals, honesty-trustworthy, belief-confidence, pride-enjoyment, strength-strong suit, veteran-soldier, humility-modesty, concern-interest |

| Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned. | Explain to students veterans made a commitment to the service of our country. Veterans make many sacrifices for the freedoms we all enjoy in the United States. Students will brainstorm a way to serve veterans in their local communities. |

| Evaluate: assessment. | Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments. |

| Enrichment/Service-Learning Project | Color the Veterans Wreath Coloring sheet, write/design a holiday Thank-You Note to a Veteran mail them to a VA Hospital or VA Home for the holidays! Or chose an activity from the list on the last page. |
Wreaths Across America!
Fill in the blanks with the right parts of speech to complete this story!

______ was a ____ paperboy from _________.

When he was 12 years old, he won a trip to _________________.

He went to _______________ ___________ ______________ while he was there.

______ was ___________ impressed by ______________.

______ _____________. He never forgot the ________________ of those who were buried there.

Later in life, Morrill opened a_____________ factory. In 1992, he had _____ wreaths leftover at the end of the season. He ______ an idea! He _______ calls, and soon, he and his family were on their way to

place the extra ____________ in an __________ part of Arlington National Cemetery.

Morrill and ______ family continued this ___________ tradition quietly for the next 13 years.

In 2007, Wreaths Across America was founded, and since then, __________ from across the country have helped remember the _______________ of the fallen in cemeteries across the United States and other countries.
Visit [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org) to learn about our mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, sponsor a wreath for a veteran at any participating cemetery, or sign up to volunteer.

A veterans’ wreath is a symbol of **HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY.**

**What is a VETERANS’ WREATH?**

10 **BALSAM BOUQUETS** make up each veterans’ wreath, representing the

10 **SPECIAL QUALITIES** that our veterans embody.

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn’t always come true, but left them with no regrets
Name____________________________________

### What is a Veterans’ Wreath Word Search

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10 Special Qualities of a Veteran Synonyms

Synonyms are words that have the same, or almost the same meaning.

For example, box and carton.

Use the words in the word bank below to complete the pairs of synonyms. Use each word only once!

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1. ___________________  2. ___________________  3. ___________________
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4. ___________________  5. ___________________  6. ___________________
   ___________________  ___________________  ___________________

7. ___________________  8. ___________________  9. ___________________
   ___________________  ___________________  ___________________

10. ___________________                   ___________________
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   modesty
10. **concern**  
    interest
Name______________________________

FROM the TIP LAND to a WREATH MAZE

ENTER HERE

EXIT
Name ________________________________

FROM the TIP LAND to a WREATH MAZE

ENTER HERE

EXIT
COLOR YOUR WREATH and write a thank you note for a local veteran or active-duty military in your community.
A
Read-Rhyme-Design-Color
Storybook A-Z

Written by Nancy Willey

Illustrated by: ____________________________
Get out your crayons, 
and markers too! 
I've rhymed the text— 
the illustrations are up to you.

Put on your thinking cap, 
see what you can do. 
Start with A, continue to Z. 
Remember the veterans 
who keep our country free.
is for America, our land so free.
In the whole wide world,
this is where I want to be.
is for the bows of bright red placed on wreaths of green. Each veteran’s grave honored and seen.
is for Christmas with family and friends so dear. It makes us sad that our servicemen aren’t here.
D is for the dead we honor here. Remember - Honor - Teach all through the year.
is for the evergreen trees, like fir, spruce, and pine. Fir tips are used and their flat sprills shine.
F is for fir—balsam, that is.
It smells so good!
You will find it in our Maine woods.
G is for white graves
row on row, green wreaths,
red bows, white snow.
is for honor. We honor the veterans all over this land. Reach out, shake a veteran’s hand.
I is for July 4th — America’s Independence Day. Thanks to our veterans, it will continue to be that way.
is for justice, life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. Guaranteed freedom we enjoy, we are blessed.
is for kindness, this is what Americans believe.

Helping one another: family, friends, neighbors, community to achieve.
is for love.
Love your country, keep it strong.
May America live on and on!
is for Memorial Trees.
Keep their memories alive—
those who died, those who survived.
is for the vast numbers who gave.
Salute and give thanks as you honor this grave.
is for observing our cherished holidays. Having lost loved ones makes us sad: “The Christmas they never had.”
is for purple—the purple heart. It is given to servicemen wounded or killed in combat. It was established by George Washington in 1782.
Q is for quiet.
The thin white storied stones so quietly they stand.
Each brave veteran loved this land.
is for rings and red ribbon, too—completing the balsam wreath brand new.
is for Saturday.
The second Saturday in December, we place wreaths on veterans' graves... always remember.
Dear Veteran,
Thank you for serving our country and keeping us safe.

Love,
Tommy

T is for “Thank you.”
Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice.
What they do for us is very nice.
U is for united.
We must always be united, strong, forever free.
Remember - Honor - Teach:
this our veterans deserve.

Freedom isn’t free.

For veterans of all wars
and those who still serve.
W is for wreaths so beautifully dressed in green and red. Honoring each veteran—what more can be said?
is for the unknown.
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
is in Washington D.C. —
a national monument for all to see.

"Known but to God."
is for you. You and I must
Remember - Honor - Teach.
Free to exercise our freedom of speech.
is for zero. Don’t be a zero—be a hero.
Remember - Honor - Teach
“Find a Way to Serve”

- Make Thank You cards to Veterans you know in your community, or in a local VA Home or VA Hospital. Let them know you appreciate their service to our country.
- Help an elderly veteran with yard work.
- Collect items for “Survival Back-Packs” for homeless veterans with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless vets in your community. Many large cities hold Operation Stand Downs for Veterans. For more information, Click Here.
- Organize a Checkers, board game or card game tournament at your local VA Home. Coordinate with the nursing home staff and plan a fun afternoon for the residents and students alike!
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. Operation Gratitude sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.
- Organize a Zoom Meeting between your class at school and a local VA Home. Discuss what their childhoods were like growing up, what kind of classes they took in school. Did they live in town or in the country, what kinds of chores and activities did they participate in when they were your age. Document their responses and share with other classes in your school. If some of your interviewees have a talent like singing or playing the piano, maybe they could share those talents with the class the next time you Zoom. Once you have met the veterans, select a “pin-pal” you can correspond with by letter every few weeks.
- Be a companion to a local senior citizen who is a veteran. Make cards, surprise them with visits around their birthday or sing carols for them around the holidays.