First Grade
Lesson Plan
Remember*Honor*Teach

We Can Do It
**OBJECTIVES:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2 Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.


**STRATEGIES:**
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- Think/Pair/Share
- Collaboration
- Small Groups
- Large Group

**MATERIALS:**
- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board;
- Copies of Nonfiction Graphic Organizer Main Ideas & Details;
- Copies of Reading Comprehension Worksheet;
- 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;

**Engage:** Hook the students

Play the PowerPoint, *From Paperboy, to a Wreath Maker in Maine.*
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 Question: How did Morrill win a trip to Washington, D.C.? Which place had the greatest impact on Morrill? Why do you think it had such a big impact on him? How did Morrill use that experience later in his life to do something good?

**Explore:** Students make sense of a concept through observations.

Students will complete the Nonfiction Graphic Organizer Main Ideas & Details. Project the What is a Veterans’ Wreath on your screen and read the information to your students.
Students will complete the Reading Comprehension Worksheet.
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.

Teacher will select vocabulary for this lesson plan.

**Elaborate:** Students apply what they have learned.

Explain to students that veterans, at some point in their lives, committed 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 another activity from the list on the last page.
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
Nonfiction Graphic Organizer Main Ideas & Details

Identify the Main Idea of the text and three supporting details.

Main Idea

Three Supporting Ideas

1._____________________________________________________

2._____________________________________________________

3._____________________________________________________
From Paperboy to a Wreath Maker in Maine
Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Find the word in the box that completes the sentence. Write the word in the space provided.

1. Morrill was a ________________ from Maine.

2. He won a trip to ________________________________ when he was 12 years old.

3. One of the places he went to see was ________________
______________ ________________.

4. The ______________________ so many veterans made to protect our ______________________ had a big impact on Morrill.

5. As Morrill grew up, he never forgot the sacrifices of our __________.

6. In 1971, Morrill started a ________________ company.

7. In 1992, Morrill had a ________________ of wreaths, so he carried them to Arlington National Cemetery.

8. In 2007, he and his wife started Wreaths Across America, to ________________ the Fallen, Honor Those Who Serve, and ________________ the Next Generation the Costs of Freedom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>freedoms</th>
<th>Teach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>surplus</td>
<td>Arlington National Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>veterans</td>
<td>sacrifices</td>
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<tr>
<td>wreath</td>
<td>Remember</td>
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<tr>
<td>paperboy</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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From Paperboy to a Wreath Maker in Maine

ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Find the word in the box that completes the sentence. Write the word in the space provided.

1. Morrill was a paperboy from Maine.
2. He won a trip to Washington, D.C. when he was 12 years old.
3. One of the places he went to see was Arlington National Cemetery.
4. The sacrifices so many veterans made to protect our freedoms had a big impact on Morrill.
5. As Morrill grew up, he never forgot the sacrifices of our veterans.
6. In 1971, Morrill started a wreath company.
7. In 1992, Morrill had a surplus of wreaths, so he carried them to Arlington National Cemetery.
8. In 2007, he and his wife started Wreaths Across America, to Remember the Fallen, Honor Those Who Serve, and Teach the Next Generation the Costs of Freedom.

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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.

Wreaths Across America
Date:

Remember*Honor*Teach

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
WREATHS across AMERICA

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.
A 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.
C is for Christmas with family and friends so dear.
It makes us sad that our servicemen aren’t here.
Wreaths Across America

Date:

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Subject: Remember - Honor - Teach

is for the dead we honor here.

Remember - Honor - Teach all through the year.
E 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.
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.
K is for kindness, this is what Americans believe.
Helping one another: family, friends, neighbors, community to achieve.
L 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.”
P 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.
is for veterans of all wars
and those who still serve.
Remember - Honor - Teach:
this our veterans deserve.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE
W is for wreaths so beautifully dressed in green and red.
Honoring each veteran—what more can be said?
Wreaths Across America

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Subject: Remember*Honor*Teach

is for the unknown.
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is in Washington D.C.—a national monument for all to see.
Wreaths Across America

Date: 
Subject: Remember*Honor*Teach

“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.