

Grades 6-12 Lesson Plan
Live with Purpose
Humility, Selflessness and Modesty



Audie Murphy



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 6-12	Lesson: Live with Purpose, Humility, Selflessness and Modesty

<p>OBJECTIVES: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums, determining which details are emphasized in each account. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats, as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <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 Article 1; copies of Article 2; copies of the Audie Murphy Biography Worksheet; copies of the Audie Murphy Acrostic Poem Activity
Engage: Hook the students	<p>Explain: Humility is freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble. Selflessness is having no regard for self: the quality or state of being unselfish. Modesty is the quality of not being too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>T/P/S Question: How are each of these qualities demonstrated? Do you know someone who meets all three of these qualities? Who? Do you meet all three of these qualities?</p>
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	<p>Hand out Article 1, "Gala Farmersville Parade Bewilders Lt. Audie Murphy". Choose to have the students read the article aloud or silently.</p> <p>Hand out Article 2, "I Wasn't Much, Thinks Most Decorated Texan". Choose to have the students read the article aloud or silently.</p> <p>Play the YouTube Video, "Audie Murphy: Great American Hero" Full Documentary, Biography. https://youtu.be/FjRr0Hn2cRw?si=sd67Obkb53a4kbW7</p> <p>Hand out the Audie Murphy Biography Worksheet. Allow students time to complete the assignment.</p> <p>Hand out the Audie Murphy Acrostic Poem Activity. Allow students time to complete the assignment.</p>
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	Teacher will select the vocabulary based on grade level.
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	<p>6-8 Students will integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts.</p> <p>9-10 Students will analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums, determining which details are emphasized in each account.</p> <p>11-12 Students will integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats, as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.</p>
Evaluate: assessment.	Teachers will select which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	<p>Draw pictures or make cards for servicemen and women overseas or veterans at a local VA Hospital or VA Home. 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.</p> <p>Print project completion certificates here.</p>

Remember-Honor-Teach

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Article 1

Gala Farmersville Parade Bewilders Lt.

Audie Murphy

THE GREENVILLE MORNING HERALD

BY WILLIAM C. BARNARD FARMERSVILLE,

June 14, 1945

pages 1, 2 column 2

(AP) Lt. Audie Murphy, freckle-faced boy with cool green eyes who won every decoration in the book, came home Thursday to one of the happiest families any fellow ever had.

Happy would describe Farmersville, too. And throw in a full-blown feeling of pride.

There never was so much horn honking and cheering and waving in Farmersville as when that long parade of automobiles swept down the square.

The little lieutenant was in the lead car, his face full of bewilderment.

For Audie is the type of guy who wonders what all the fuss is about.

The parade that met Audie at McKinney 16 miles away sped right on down to the little white house on the edge of Farmersville, where the lieutenant's sister, Mrs. Corrine Burns, lives.

There on the lawn were Corrine and Audie's two young sisters and a brother, from the Boles Orphans Home, Greenville.

Their eyes were bright with adoration and expectancy and tears.

There were tears in the brave lieutenant's eyes, too. They all tried to embrace him at once.

Mrs. Burns patted Audie's shoulders affectionately and said: "He hasn't changed a bit—not a bit. I was afraid he would change but he hasn't. All that has happened hasn't done a thing to him. I can see he's the same."

Nadine Murphy, 13, a slim pretty girl in a flowered print dress, looked lovingly at her famed brother and said softly, "You did awfully well." "And you've grown up," Audie replied.

"My, how you've grown up." He had seen her last three years before he went off to war.

Billie Murphy, 11, the youngest sister, announced to a smiling crowd: "I'm 11 and this is my brother."

As for little brother Joe, 10, he clung with silent rapture to Audie's belt and looked up at the medals.

Murphy drove from San Antonio Thursday where he attended the thunderous homecoming accorded 13 generals and 45 other officers and servicemen.

During the long drive he seemed to draw a feeling of warm content from the countryside. He sank back in the car seat and relaxed and his vision lazily followed the passing scene—green rows of corn, gentle hills, fat cattle in the soft tree-shade of a meadow.

"This is what I came home to see," Murphy said. "You can't realize how swell this is until you've been away. Here I am riding along a highway—but I'm not watching every bit of the way for mines. Up there is a bridge, but I'm not sticking my head out of the window to make sure it hasn't been blown—I'm sure it hasn't. We passed through Temple and Waco and all the houses were not half wrecked by bombs. If we want to stop for soda, we can do it and we don't have to speak a sign language to get it. The bones of cattle here don't rattle when they walk away from you."

"All this makes me feel fine. Over there it was a helluva thing. I don't like to talk about it, but I'm telling you it was a helluva thing. It wasn't bad for me in Africa, but in Sicily and Italy and France it was bad."

"Absent Minded."

"It was so bad that I am getting absent minded from trying to push the unpleasant things out of my mind. You get so you push the things you ought to remember out of your

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mind, too. There were times when I was in battle from 70 and 80 days at a stretch, without relief. You get mad and tired and disgusted

“I swore while I was over there that I wouldn’t try to tell civilians how things were in the war. Words just don’t get it when you try to tell what war is. You can tell the funny things—like the time Sgt. Sammy Sanchez of San Antonio and I were on Anzio beachhead. It was raining and we were in our foxhole and it was half-full of water. We had an old blanket over us. It was late in the afternoon and the Germans were throwing screaming meemies at us. A screaming meemie is an eight-inch shell that sounds something like a donkey braying. ‘I wish I could get a good look at one of those screaming meemies,’ I said to Sammy.

“Two seconds later, here came a screaming meemie. It burst in half near us and one half dropped to the ground right by our foxhole and rolled into it. I spit on it and the spit steamed. ‘Don’t you ever say anything like that again,’ Sammy said.

and you don’t care what happens to you. You just don’t care at all. You may think you have just a few minutes to live, but you don’t care.”

“You can tell funny things like that, but that is just a piece of the war. Maybe you get a little idea about war when I tell you that just driving along like this and looking out at good old Texas scenery makes me feel really swell and safe. Well, I wouldn’t take anything for this.”

Friday Farmersville pays tribute to Murphy—there will be speeches from the platform in the square and the band from Ashburn General Hospital will play.

Mayor R. B. Beaver says it will be the biggest celebration Farmersville ever had.

Thursday night Murphy dined with his immediate family and other relatives in the private dining room of a downtown café.

As for the celebration Friday, the little lieutenant grinned gamely and said: “I’m as shaky as Hirohito’s dreams.”

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Article 2

I Wasn't Much, Thinks Most Decorated Texan

Associated Press - July 7, 1945

He Stopped 250 Nazis, Killed 50, and Won Battle.

Farmersville, Texas, July 7. – A freckled faced kid, fresh from European battlefields, limped down the ramp from a C-54 transport at a San Antonio airfield.

There were about 20 G.I.'s with him and he could have been their mascot. He was 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed 134. He looked about 17. When he started down a long reception line of waiting notables, he didn't give his name to a single member of the welcoming committee.

This was Lt. Audie Leon Murphy, who held just about every combat decoration in the book, including the Congressional Medal of Honor.

This was the Murphy who made a lone stand against 250 German infantrymen and six German tanks; the kid who ran through a hail of machine-gun fire and single-handedly cleaned out prepared enemy positions; the 20-year-old youngster who came up the hard way to a battlefield commission.

He Stole the Show.

This was Murphy, back on his native Texas soil, but he looked like an Eagle Scout: Texans gasped with surprise. There were 13 generals in the group that landed at the airport. Murphy stole the show.

When Audie left Texas for the wars, he was a nobody. He was quiet, kept to himself. A boy who has to start making his own living at the age of 12 doesn't have much fun.

Now flowers drifted down on him from everywhere, a crowd of 250,000 jammed the parade route in downtown San Antonio.

Going away had been simpler for Murphy. Going away had meant getting his few belongings together and kissing his two little sisters and little brother at the orphans' home

goodbye and telling his big sister, "I'll sure try to do my part."

"Not Much to It."

Delighted reporters pounced on him. In amazement they wrote down the long list of awards: The Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, two Silver Stars, the Bronze Star, the Croix de Guerre with palm leaves, and the Croix de Guerre with silver star. He grinned at some of the questions and then, he looked so much younger than his 20 years, that it was difficult for them to identify him with his deeds.

"You have two clusters on your Purple Heart?" "Yes," Murphy replied. They meant shrapnel in both legs and a sniper's bullet in the hip.

"I'd like to know every detail about how you won the Congressional Medal of Honor," a girl reporter said. Murphy's cool green eyes studied the girl. "There wasn't much to it," he said.

Put in Command.

Not much! It was a January morning of this year, and the woods outside of Holtzwihr, France, were heavy and silent with bitter cold. There were 36 men, all that were left of a company of the 15th "Can Do" Regiment of the Third Division, Seventh Army. In command, succeeding the leader who had fallen the day before, were Second Lieutenant Murphy, who didn't drink or smoke, and whose strongest cuss word was "gosh."

Valor had boosted him from the ranks. He had become a private, first class, in Africa; a corporal in Sicily, a sergeant and staff sergeant in Italy, a second lieutenant in Southern France. Now company command was handed to him by field telephone at 3 a.m. on a freezing morning.

Hours crawled by. The company, scheduled to attack, awaited ammunition. At 10 a.m. Murphy raised his field glasses and took a long look. His mouth went dry. The enemy,

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camouflaged in white sheets, was attacking over the hard-packed snow with 250 infantrymen and six tanks. Murphy ordered his men out of the woods. Then he ran to his field telephone and called for artillery fire. Shells began bursting in the German ranks and Murphy dropped his telephone often to fire his rifle.

Alone With Rifle.

The Germans came on.

An artilleryman yelled into a telephone; "How close are they to you?" "Just a minute," Murphy replied. "I'll let you speak to them."

An American tank destroyer approached the young officer's position and a German 88 shell set it afire. Two men lay dead in the turret. The others bailed out and went back.

That left Murphy alone with a rifle, a telephone, and a burning tank destroyer loaded with ammunition and gasoline and likely to blow sky high at any moment.

Murphy's accurate spotting of artillery fire had killed or wounded 50 Germans. Now he ran to the tank destroyer, climbed atop of it and manned the guns. He knew he was sitting on a time bomb, but his guns belched death for the Nazi infantrymen.

"He was completely exposed to the enemy fire," Lt. Walter W. Weispfenning, an artillery officer, recounted later. "Machine gun, machine pistol and 88 shell fire was all around him.

But He Stopped the Nazis.

"Twice the tank destroyer was hit by shell fire and Murphy was engulfed in smoke and flame. His clothing was riddled by flying fragments of shells and bits of rocks. His trouser leg was soaked with blood."

In all, he killed or wounded 50 Germans with the machine guns. The Nazi infantry was stopped. Without the infantry, the whole attack collapsed. Only then did Murphy drop wearily off the destroyer and limp back to his company. He refused treatment for his shrapnel wound, reorganized his company and led it in an attack that routed the enemy.

From San Antonio, after that welcome, Murphy headed for Farmersville, North Texas agricultural community. Farmersville hadn't been his home—he didn't call any place home. He was born near Kingston in Hunt County and went to school at Celeste and Greenville until he finished the eighth grade. Then he held jobs at a Greenville service station and radio shop and worked on a Hunt County farm. He enlisted in 1942.

What He's Home For.

During the long drive from San Antonio to North Texas, Murphy relaxed and his vision lazily followed the passing scene—green rows of corn, gentle hills, fat cattle in the soft tree-shade of a meadow.

"This is what I came home to see," he said. "You can't realize how swell this is until you've been away."

"Over there it was a helluva thing. There were times when our outfit was in battle 70 to 80 days without relief. You got mad and tired and disgusted and you didn't care what happened to you. That was the way I felt on that tank destroyer and that was the way I felt when we landed near Ramatuelle in Southern France."

It was Staff Sergeant Murphy then when his platoon piled out of the landing craft on the beach of Tropez Bay. Just inland, the Germans were strongly entrenched. Murphy repeatedly dashed through intense machine-gun fire, alone silenced a machine-gun nest.

In close combat he killed six Germans, wounded three and captured five, entirely disregarding bullets which glanced off rocks about him and hand grenades which exploded on every side. He fought like a madman because the Nazis had feigned surrender and then had cut down his buddy, Pfc. Lattie Tipton of Erwin, TN.

Unbeatable After That.

Tipton fell into Murphy's lap and after that the Texan was unbeatable. The action earned Audie the Distinguished Service Cross.

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The youthful hero watched a tractor running down the rows of a Texas cotton field.

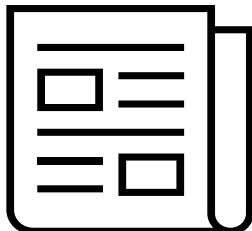
“They talk about bravery,” he said. “Well, I’ll tell you what bravery really is. Bravery is just determination to do a job that you know has to be done. And if you throw in discomforts and lack of sleep and anger, it is easier to be brave. Coldness and wetness and disgust have gotten medals for lots of soldiers.”

“Just wanting to be back in a country like this can make a man brave. I have seen many a dough foot do many a brave thing because he wanted to get the war over with in a hurry and go home. Many a guy who wanted to come home worse than anything else in the world will stay over there forever. They are the fellows I want the honors to go to, not to me.”
Murphy pointed out across a sunny field. “This is enough for me,” he said.

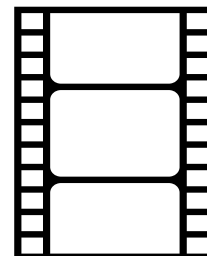
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Name _____



Audie Murphy Biography



Date of Birth: _____

Birthplace: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Death: _____

Cause of Death: _____

Best Known For: _____

Also Known For: _____

3 Words that Describe Audie Murphy

LIST 5 MAJOR INFLUENCES IN AUDIE MURPHY'S LIFE:

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-
-
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Major Lifetime Achievements of Audie Murphy

Using information from the newspaper clips and the video, explain how Audie Murphy epitomizes the qualities of humility, selflessness and modesty.

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Audie Murphy Acrostic Poem

Name _____

Write an Acrostic Poem outlining the achievements of Audie Murphy in the United States Army.

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