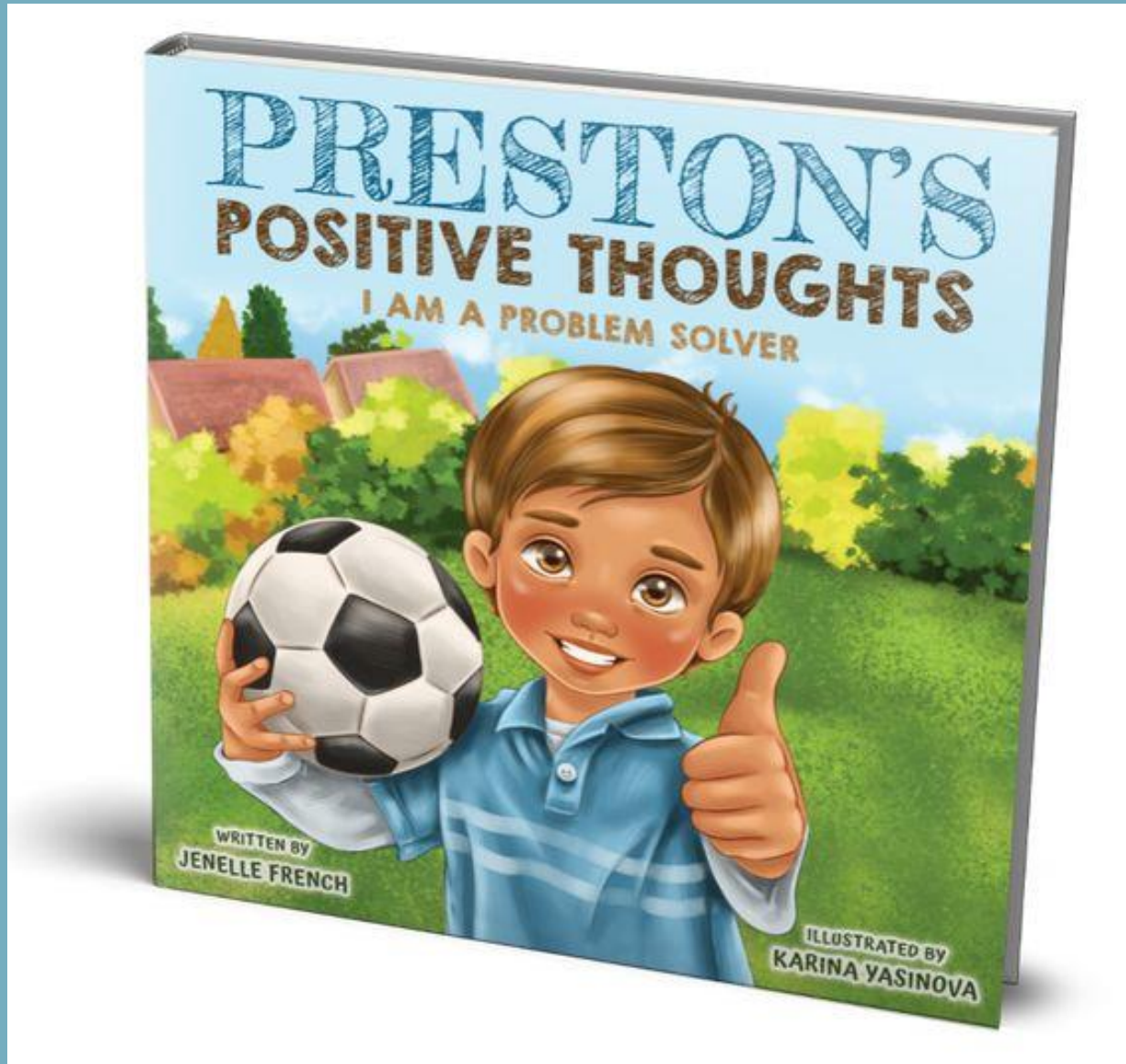


3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Lesson Plan  
Live with Purpose  
Optimism for America



# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesson: Live with Purpose-Optimism for America

<p><b>OBJECTIVES:</b> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Large Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>MATERIALS:</b></p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies Check for Understanding <i>Preston's Positive Thoughts, I Am a Problem Solver</i>; copies of Character Traits and Character Motivation; copies of Optimism at Work-Positive Thinking Activity</p>
<p><b>Engage:</b> Hook the students</p>	<p><b>Explain:</b> Positive thinking is a mindset that focuses on the good in any situation, helping individuals approach challenges with optimism and resilience. The first step to becoming something is to think it. When we start thinking negatively about something, we give those thoughts more power than we should. When this happens it's really difficult to think clearly and logically. However, if we don't allow those negative thoughts to have our time and attention we can focus on positive thoughts instead, then we can create hope and help ourselves approach things in a more constructive way. 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: Explain a time when you have used positive thinking to overcome a challenge.</p>
<p><b>Explore:</b> Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Play the YouTube Read Aloud, <i>Preston's Positive Thoughts, I Am a Problem Solver</i>, Author-Jenelle French, Illustrator-Karina Yasanova <a href="https://youtu.be/3ph6Ei8vclQ?si=cIOllwTqbalX0aQM">https://youtu.be/3ph6Ei8vclQ?si=cIOllwTqbalX0aQM</a> Hand out Check for Understanding <i>Preston's Positive Thoughts, I Am a Problem Solver</i>. Allow students time to complete the assignment. Hand out Character Traits and Character Motivation Worksheet. Allow students time to complete the assignment. Hand out Optimism at Work-Positive Thinking Activity. Allow students time to complete the activity. Ask for volunteers to share their answers with the class.</p>
<p><b>Explain:</b> Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.</p>	<p>optimism positive thinking Others words selected by the teacher.</p>
<p><b>Elaborate:</b> Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Students will describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.</p>
<p><b>Evaluate:</b> assessment.</p>	<p>Teachers will select which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.</p>
<p><b>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</b></p>	<p>As a class, collect gently used or new stuffed animals to donate to a local fire department or police station to give to children in emergencies. Make sure to contact the fire department or police department first, to determine the need. Print project completion certificates <a href="#">here</a></p>

# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesson: Live with Purpose-Optimism for America

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Check for Understanding *Preston's Positive Thoughts, I Am a Problem Solver*

1. When the book starts out, Preston comments, "Today was stinkier than my Dad's feet." What happened that made Preston feel that way?

2. When Preston went to bed that night, what did he think about first?

3. Then Preston's thoughts changed, what did Preston think about next?

4. How did "thinking about his thoughts" change Preston's mind about the way he should approach doing things?

5. Preston did not want to feel bad again the next day, what did he decide he would do?

6. What happened the next day when Preston put positive thinking into practice?

7. Have you ever felt like Preston? What did you do about it?

# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesson: Live with Purpose-Optimism for America

### ANSWER KEY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check for Understanding *Preston's Positive Thoughts, I Am a Problem Solver*

1. When the book starts out, Preston comments, "Today was stinkier than my Dad's feet." What happened that made Preston feel that way?

a. They played soccer in PE, and Preston thought to himself he was not good at soccer. He gave a half-hearted try to kick a goal, he missed the goal, and everyone laughed at him.

b. When Preston went to class, he had a multiplication test. Preston thought to himself, he was not good at math. Preston could only answer a few questions and he did not think he got those questions correct.

c. When Preston got home from school, his brother asked him to try his hoverboard. Preston thought to himself, he could not ride the hoverboard. He fell off of the hoverboard and skinned his knee and his elbow.

2. When Preston went to bed that night, what did he think about first? When Preston went to bed, first he thought about what a horrible day he had.

3. Then Preston's thoughts changed, what did Preston think about next? Preston thought about his thoughts. He realized that when he thought he could not do something, he struggled with doing it.

4. How did "thinking about his thoughts" change Preston's mind about the way he should approach doing things? Preston began to wonder what would happen if he thought that he could actually do something.

5. Preston did not want to feel bad again the next day, what did he decide he would do? Preston decided he would approach things differently-by having positive thoughts about his abilities instead of negative thoughts.

6. What happened the next day when Preston put positive thinking into practice?

a. In Art class, Preston made a beautiful clay pot.

b. In Reading class, Preston did a good job reading his book to his teacher.

c. After school, when Preston played computer games with his brother Aidin, they beat their cousins at the online game.

7. Have you ever felt like Preston? What did you do about it? Answers will vary.

# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesson: Live with Purpose-Optimism for America

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Traits and Character Motivation

Character:

Character Traits:

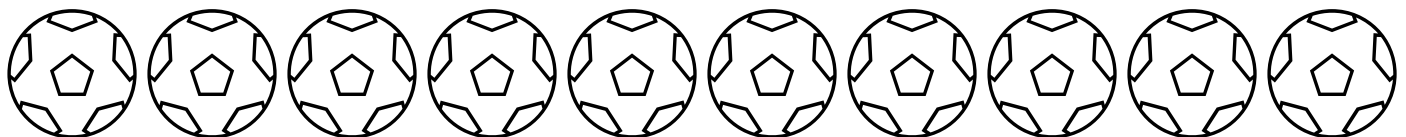


What did the character do at the beginning of the story?

What did the character do in the middle of the story?

What did the character do at the end of the story?

What "life lesson" can we learn from this story?



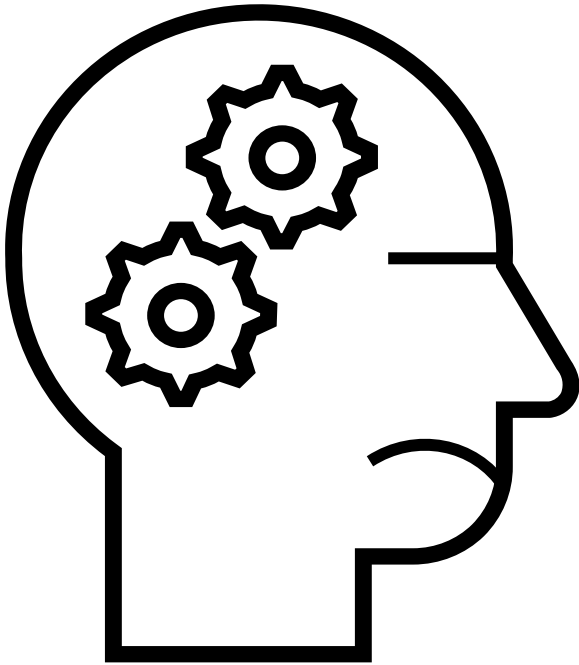
# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesson: Live with Purpose-Optimism for America

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Optimism at Work-Positive Thinking

**Directions:** In the first box, write something you think you do **not** have the ability to do. In the second box, write some things you can do to improve your ability to accomplish it.



BOX 1

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BOX 2

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