



ILA CHAPTER AFFILIATE

November 2018 - Literacy Strategy Spotlight

Gratitude

It is that time of year again, when teachers are looking for new ideas to for discussing the concept of gratitude in their classrooms. This month's spotlight provides three ideas for you to try out.

Idea #1: each teacher in your grade level (or better yet, make it school wide) reads a Patricia Polacco book. Then assign an age appropriate writing tasks centered around gratitude. Hold class discussions on how Polacco's books illustrate the concept of gratitude.

Idea #2: The students will create an acrostic poem for someone they are thankful for. Students brainstorm people they are thankful to have in their life. Then they choose one person, and write their name vertically on a sheet of paper. The students will start each line of the poem with the letters they wrote. Each line of the poem should be made up of words or phrases that relate to that person. They can then turn this into a present for that special person.

Idea #3: Start a gratitude journal. This can be done one of three ways. 1) whole class: start each class period writing on chart paper what the class is grateful for, like a shared writing activity, by the end of the year your class will have a nice journal of gratitude. 2) individual: students can write what they are grateful for every morning in a journal they decorated and 3) personal: even teachers, though I know we don't have time, need to take the time to express appreciation for what we have. Here are a few prompts: What is a popular song that you enjoy and why do you like it? Who is someone you can always rely on? Describe a tradition that you are most grateful for. What do you like most about your town / city?

I hope you try one or all three of these ideas!

Biography. This spotlight has been brought to you by Dr. Tara Wilson. Tara is the reading program coordinator at The University of Texas - Permian Basin. Before becoming a tenure track college professor, she was a literacy coach in Conroe ISD, early childhood adjunct for Sam Houston State and a kindergarten teacher at Klein ISD.. For more information and ideas, contact Tara Wilson at wilson_t@utpb.edu. Also contact her if you are interested in obtaining your reading specialist certification!

If you would like to share a literacy strategy or highlight something your school is doing, please email Matthew Panozzo, the Community Involvement Committee Director, at talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

If your school is interested in applying for the International Literacy Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award, please visit their online [application](#) for more information.

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