



Connect with Kids

Honor

Discussion Questions, Vocabulary and Activity

For Grades 3-5

Segment Summary

Students find unique ways in which to honor the memory of their friend and classmate, Nader Parman II, who died in an accident.

Nader Parman II was an active and outgoing first-grader who wanted to make the environment – and the entire world – a better place. But Nader never got the chance to realize his dreams. At age 7, he died in an accident, leaving his friends and family to grieve the loss of a boy who meant so much to so many in the community. Nader's classmates, including Jake Lehman, expressed their feelings of loss by composing letters and creating cards for Nader's mother, Sherri Parman. Others in the community donated a bench to Nader's school and raised funds for a charity as a way to honor Nader's often-heroic efforts. While they miss him terribly, Nader's friends and family continue to keep his spirit alive by holding a memorial race to remind them of the special times they shared with him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What character traits did Nader possess? What characteristics can you identify in Jake?
2. What steps did Nader's friends take in order to demonstrate honor?
3. Have you ever been in a situation similar to Jake's? Explain. What did you learn from the experience?
4. Do you believe that honoring your family, friends and others is important? Why or why not?
5. How can you honor your family, friends and others in a significant way? What have you done in the past or plan to do in the future to honor someone in your life?

Related Vocabulary Words

heroic honor memorial

Honor

Vocabulary Words and Definitions

Heroic (adj.)

Definition: extremely brave or determined; admired by many people

Context: The heroic firefighters carried my grandmother from her home as it was burning.

Honor (n.)

Definition: showing respect; giving praise; remembering; the respect that someone or something receives from other people

Context: We honor the American flag by putting our hands over our hearts when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorial (adj.)

Definition: performing, happening or occurring in order to remind people of someone who died

Context: Our family held a memorial service to honor and remember our grandmother when she died.

Source: *Longman Advanced American Dictionary*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 2000.

Honor

Special Days of Honor

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- Define honor in their own words
- Discuss the various ways in which holidays honor a person, event, object or action
- Generate examples of honorable acts
- Honor another person or group by creating a special banner

Materials:

- Pens, pencils, markers
- Long sheet of butcher paper
- Chalkboard or overhead projector
- ***Special Days of Honor*** worksheet
- ***American Holidays*** teacher handout

Procedure:

1. Begin this activity by asking your students to define the term honor. Record their responses on the chalkboard or overhead projector.

Note: If your students do not mention the difference between being an honorable person (acting with integrity, demonstrating trustworthiness, etc.) and honoring a person, event, object or action (celebrating a birthday, awarding a certificate for a job well done, etc.), you will need to prompt them to do so.

2. Divide students into pairs, and distribute one copy of the ***Special Days of Honor*** worksheet to each pair. Explain to your students that every year, people living in the United States celebrate holidays to honor a special person, event, object or action.

Example: On Memorial Day, we honor the U.S. military personnel who died fighting for and upholding our freedom.

3. Instruct your students to work with their partners to generate a list of at least five holidays they observe, recording their examples in the appropriate boxes on the ***Special Days of Honor*** worksheet. Allow enough time for pairs to brainstorm and record what each holiday honors.
4. After pairs complete their worksheets, ask several students to share their lists with the class and record the holidays on the board. Continue by asking your students to explain what we do to show honor on each of the holidays listed.

Example: Americans fly flags, hold parades and wear red, white and blue out of honor for their country on Independence Day.

Note: You may wish to complete the class list by adding holidays with which your students may not be familiar. Refer to the ***American Holidays*** teacher handout for ideas.

5. Explain to your students that several people within their local community deserve to be honored for the ways in which they serve others or for the heroic acts they perform. Offer one example from the list below and then solicit additional ideas from your students. Record student responses on the board, along with why each person deserves to be honored.

Examples: an animal shelter employee, a police officer, a hospital staff member, a librarian, etc.

6. Explain to your students that they will work together as a class to create a “Banner of Honor” praising one individual or group who serves the local community. Allow students to choose which individual or group they wish to honor by referring to the class list created in *Step 5* and voting by a show of hands.
7. Copy the following template on a long sheet of butcher paper, and fill in the blanks with assistance from your students:

<p style="text-align: center;">We honor _____ (name) _____ for _____ (reason) _____.</p>
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8. Instruct each student to write on the banner at least one sentence explaining why he or she is honoring the individual or group. Have each student sign his or her name beneath the appropriate sentence.

Note: You may wish to allow students to take turns signing the banner throughout the day or the week.

9. If possible, invite the honored individual or group to your class to accept the “Banner of Honor.” Enlist students to help with the presentation of the banner. As an alternative, ask a parent and student to deliver the banner to the honored individual or group and take a photograph of the presentation. Have the student describe the experience to the class.

Related Vocabulary Words

heroic honor memorial

Special Days of Honor

Names: _____

Directions: In the United States, Americans celebrate many different holidays, some of which honor a special person, event, object or action. Working with your partner, list *at least* five holidays with which you are familiar, and identify what each holiday is designed to honor.

Holiday	Person, event, object or action being honored



American Holidays

Below is a list of holidays honoring a person, event, object or action.

Holiday	Person, event, object or action being honored
New Year's Day (January 1)	Honors the arrival of the new year
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (third Monday in January)	Honors the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who struggled to win civil rights for all people through nonviolent methods
Presidents' Day (third Monday in February)	Honors George Washington, a hero of the Revolutionary War and the first U.S. president; Abraham Lincoln, the president who fought to end slavery; and all past presidents for their service
Earth Day (April 22)	Honors and encourages environmental awareness
Mother's Day (second Sunday in May)	Honors all mothers
Memorial Day (last Monday in May)	Honors the U.S. military personnel who died fighting for and upholding our freedom
Flag Day (June 14)	Honors the American flag
Father's Day (third Sunday in June)	Honors all fathers
Independence Day (July 4)	Honors the day Americans won their freedom from Britain and signed the Declaration of Independence
Labor Day (first Monday in September)	Honors the nation's workforce
Patriot Day (September 11)	Honors the memory of all who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 and recognizes the selfishness and courage of those who aided the rescue and recovery efforts
Columbus Day (second Monday in October)	Honors Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World
Veterans Day (November 11)	Honors all Americans who served admirably in the military in wartime and in peace
Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)	Honors the goodwill relationship between the Pilgrims and local Indians

Honor **Assessment/Evaluation**

Name _____

Class _____

<i>Lesson/Activity</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Honor Special Days of Honor</i>	No participation	Participated in class discussion	Participated in class discussion and worked with partner to identify what several holidays honor	Participated in class discussion, worked with partner to identify what several holidays honor and contributed to the banner of honor	

Additional comments:

National Character Education/Life Skills Standards

The following is an outline of the national Character Education/Life Skills standards and benchmarks for each ***Honor, Peace and Citizenship*** lesson/activity. National and state standards for language arts, social studies and health appear online.

Grades 3-5	
Activity	Standards
<i>Honor Special Days of Honor</i>	<p><i>Self-Regulation</i> Standard 2: Perform self-appraisal 5. Identify basic values</p> <p><i>Thinking and Reasoning</i> Standard 1: Understand and apply the basic principles of presenting an argument 4. Make basic distinctions between information that is based on fact and information that is based on opinion Standard 2: Understand and apply basic principles of logic and reasoning 9. Understand that personal values influence the types of conclusions people make 10. Recognize situations in which a variety of conclusions can be drawn from the same information</p> <p><i>Working with Others</i> Standard 1: Contribute to the overall effort of a group 2. Demonstrate respect for others in the group 4. Take initiative when needed 7. Engage in active listening Standard 2: Use conflict-resolution techniques 1. Communicate ideas in a manner that does not irritate others Standard 4: Display effective interpersonal communication skills 1. Display empathy with others 2. Display friendliness with others 3. Display politeness with others 9. Use emotions appropriately in personal dialogues 14. Communicate in a clear manner during conversations 15. Acknowledge the strengths of others</p>

Source:

McRel: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, 2000 – <http://www.mcrel.org>