



Lesson Plan: Bringing Joy to Grandma Through Art and Magical Messages

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Subject: Social-Emotional Learning, Art, Language Arts, and Fine Motor Skills

Duration: 60 minutes

Standards:

- **English Language Arts:**
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1 – Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.4 – Tell a story or recount an experience with relevant details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
- **Art:** Understand how art can communicate ideas and emotions.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Demonstrates empathy, collaboration, and understanding of others' feelings.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Develop precision in cutting, assembling, and creative design.

Objectives

1. **Cognitive:** Students will analyze and discuss the relationship between the granddaughter and grandmother in *The Magic of Love*, focusing on empathy and problem-solving.
2. **Affective:** Students will explore ways to support someone emotionally and discuss the value of kindness.
3. **Behavioral:** Students will assemble a decoder to solve pre-made secret messages and create their own coded messages to share with others.

Materials

- **Book:** *The Magic of Love* by Alyssa Janney.
- **Art Supplies:** Crayons, markers, construction paper, and glue sticks.
- **Emotions Chart:** Visuals to help students identify feelings (happy, sad, confused, excited, etc.).
- **Printed Decoder Templates** (two circles per student: one with letters and one with symbols).
- **Symbols Page** (symbols for students to cut out and use for their custom codes).
- **Scissors** (for safe use).
- **Brass Fasteners** (to attach the two circles together).
- **Pre-Made Secret Messages:** Answers to discussion questions based on *The Magic of Love*.
- **Message Templates:** A blank template for students to create their own secret messages.
- **Music:** Soft, happy instrumental music.

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction and Discussion (10 minutes)

- **Start with a Question:** "Who has a grandparent or older family member they love spending time with? What kinds of things do you do together?" (Encourage brief sharing.)
- **Introduce Memory Loss and Empathy:** Explain how memory loss, like the grandmother in the book, can make someone feel confused or sad, and how love and kindness can help.
- **Relate to the Book:** Tell students they will explore *The Magic of Love*, a story about a girl and her grandmother, and how the granddaughter's love helps her grandmother in magical ways.

2. Read-Aloud and Guided Discussion (15 minutes)

- **Read the Book:** Read *The Magic of Love* aloud, pausing to engage students with comprehension and empathy-building questions:
 - "Why does the granddaughter call love magical?"
 - "What problem does the grandmother face, and how does love help her?"
 - "What are some ways we can show love to our family members?"
- **Questions as Messages:** Tell students that the answers to these questions will later be revealed as secret messages using their decoders.

3. Magical Decoder Wheel Activity: Creating Secret Messages of Kindness (20 minutes)


Part A: Decoder Assembly (10 minutes)

- **Distribute Materials:** Provide students with two decoder circle templates: one with letters and one with symbols.
- **Step-by-Step Assembly:**
 1. **Cut Out the Circles:** Guide students in carefully cutting out the circles using scissors. Monitor for safety and assist as needed.
 2. **Align and Attach:** Explain that the smaller "Symbols" circle goes on top of the "Letters" circle. Show how to align the circles using the provided **KEY** (e.g., A = ❤️), then attach them with a brass fastener in the center.
 3. **Test the Decoder:** Demonstrate how rotating the symbols reveals corresponding letters to decode a message.

Part B: Decoding Pre-Made Messages (5 minutes)

- **Hand Out Pre-Made Secret Messages:** Provide each student with a card featuring a coded message (symbols instead of letters).
 - Examples of Pre-Made Messages (answers to questions from the book):
 - "Love helps us feel connected."
 - "Memories are made with love."
 - "Kindness is the best magic."
- **Decoding Process:**
 - Students use the key on their decoders to match each symbol to its corresponding letter and reveal the hidden message.

Part C: Create Your Own Secret Messages (5 minutes)

- **Distribute Message Templates:** Give each student a blank secret message template and a **Symbols Page**.
- **Cut and Paste Symbols:** Students choose symbols from the Symbols Page, cut them out, and paste them into their message template to create their own coded messages.
- **Write Their Answers:** Students write a corresponding key to their coded message using letters (e.g.,  = A).

4. Art Activity: Creating Gifts of Joy (10 minutes)

- **Introduce the Art Project:** Explain that students will now create a card or artwork to give to someone they love, just like the granddaughter in the story brought joy to her grandmother.
- **Choice of Art:**
 - **Draw or Paint:** A picture that makes someone smile (e.g., flowers, hearts, or scenes with loved ones).
 - **Make a Card:** Include their decoded message or custom secret message inside the card.
- **Work Time:** Play soft instrumental music while students work. Walk around and encourage students to think about how their creations might make someone else feel.

5. Sharing and Reflection (5 minutes)

- **Share Art and Messages:** Invite students to share their artwork and decoded or custom messages with the class.
- **Reflect:** Ask, “How does it feel to create something for someone else? Why is love so powerful?” Reinforce the idea that small acts of kindness can bring happiness to others.

Assessment

- **Formative:** Observe participation during discussions and activities. Note how students engage with the story’s themes of empathy and problem-solving.
- **Summative:** Evaluate students’ completed decoders, decoded messages, and custom secret messages for understanding and creativity. Assess their ability to share their thoughts clearly during reflection.

Extensions and Follow-Up

1. **Classroom Code Exchange:** Allow students to exchange their custom messages with a classmate to decode each other’s creations.
2. **Creative Writing:** Have students write a short story about a “magical act of love” they could do for someone in their life.
3. **Family Connection:** Encourage students to use their decoders at home to write secret messages for family members.