

Lucky Dog Humane Education Lesson – School Inclusion Project

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

- ! **ELA Re Literature** - Standards 1,2 & 9
- ! **ELA RE Informational Text** - Standards 1,2,5,6,7 & 9
- ! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1,2,4,5 & 6
- ! **ELA Writing** – Standards 1,2,4,6, & 9

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

- ! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values
- ! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control
- ! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity
- ! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building
- ! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel compassion and empathy by asking them to look into the heart and mind of a peer at their school who may feel lonely. To Empower Children to research what has been done at other schools and propose a loneliness solution to the school principal.

PREPARATION: Teacher or Presenter will lead a discussion that includes reading the Book *Before You Were Mine* By Maribeth Boelts. This will give students basic knowledge about a companion animal's need for a loving home and shelter, the teacher will help the children understand that humans feel loneliness to. And that they can help animals and people feel a sense of belonging.

METHOD:

- Lucky Dog H.E. presenters (or classroom teacher) will present a lesson about inclusion using a PAWfessor visit, PowerPoint slideshow, video, and/or storybook, accompanied by posters, puppets, and props – The children will be introduced things that make an animal feel safe and happy vs. things that make an animal feel scared and sad.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After participating in the Empathy for Animals lesson and story, the classroom teacher will read the book [The Invisible Boy](#) by Trudy Ludwig, then facilitate a class discussion on ways to help peer/s feel safe, happy and included. The teacher will ask open-ended questions about how a child feels if forgotten/neglected or when sitting alone at lunchtime/recess. The class can also discuss what children wish for and dream of and compare their own wishes and dreams.

The children will then be given the task of researching what other schools have done to combat problems of loneliness and decide on a project for their school or district. The teacher will empower students to write a letter to their principal and or district superintendent and propose their project. (Lunch Club, Friend Bench, Recess Buddy Program) Depending on chosen project the children will map out their skills and resources, fund raise (if needed) and implement the project.

Materials:

Computer, Paper, pens, and real pictures of schools that have created a project to combat student loneliness. (other materials will be project based)

Concepts: Teaching empathy and compassion. Teaching the importance of inclusion and kindness. Empowerment to advocate for causes that are important.

CONCLUSION: Have a community ceremony to honor the kids and their project. Make the project a focal point during "Kindnessfest" at the conclusion of the PittyPAWfessors/Lucky Dog Humane Education Program