❯ MABEL'S YARN (PART 1)

Target Group: **Year 5**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **English**

Creating texts

+ Use a range of software, including word processing programs, to confidently create, edit and publish written and multimodal texts (ACELY1728).

LESSON SUMMARY

This is the first of a number of lessons.

Lesson 1

Students discuss and brainstorm the idea of volunteering, applying this knowledge to a proposed volunteering experience in a nursing home.

Lesson 2

Students develop a Photo Story about Mabel, a fictitious nursing home resident *(note: this lesson assumes students have a basic working knowledge of Microsoft Photo Story).*

Following these lessons, students visit a nursing home and create a further Photo Story about their experiences with one of the residents they meet.

LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction: assess background knowledge

Discuss the idea of volunteering with students and loosely define volunteering:

+ unpaid work or service, for example Clean Up Australia Day

+ civil action, for example anti-bullying day or save the koalas

+ leisure volunteering, such as eco-tourism.

Body: aspects of volunteering

+ Brainstorm aspects of volunteering. Elicit responses from students about:

  + what it is possible to volunteer in *(charity organisations such as the Red Cross, animal shelters and soup kitchens, government organisations, libraries, museums, national parks, political campaigns and nursing homes)*

  + why we volunteer *(altruism, work experience, fun, capacity to effect change, empathy)*

  + who benefits from volunteering *(recipient and participant, organisation and individual)*

+ when we volunteer *(once retired, work experience, holidays, weekends, as our main job, spontaneously during floods/bushfires and other emergencies)*

+ where it is possible to volunteer *(in the local community, nationally and internationally).*

+ Ask students to think about volunteering to visit a nursing home, and what they think that would look like. Elicit responses about:

   + why people live in nursing homes *(retired, elderly, may experience physical or mental illnesses that inhibit adequate self-care, lack of family support)*

   + what volunteer visits provide for residents *(enrich quality of life, provide mental stimulation and fun games, assistance with self-care like doing nails or brushing hair)*

   + how volunteer visits affect the volunteer *(increased feelings of self-worth, fun, capacity to effect change for an individual or small groups of people, building relationships, making connections with a different generation, empathy for those less fortunate than yourself).*

+ Ask students to imagine the following scenario:

   Mabel is a retired singing teacher, keen crocheter and bingo player who is 80 years old. Her son recently assisted her to move into a nursing home as she was forgetting to eat meals regularly and found it difficult to prepare food. Mabel's son was finding it a challenge to keep Mabel's house clean and visit twice a day to check on her. When he telephoned Mabel during the day, she occasionally sounded disorientated and took a little time to remember who he was.

   Mabel is adjusting to the nursing home but seems sad and lonely, missing her home of 40 years, her daily routine and her independence. She often sits alone during organised group activities at the nursing home. She also misses her daughter who lives very far away, preventing regular visits.

+ Ask students to imagine themselves as Mabel. How would they feel? What would they be thinking? Create a Wordle ('word cloud') using the words the students suggest. Visit www.wordle.net to create your Wordle.

+ Organise students into pairs to Think, Pair and Share using the above scenario (refer to the *Resources* section in this lesson plan for more information about the Think, Share, Pair activity). Ask students to discuss with their partner how they would approach this situation if they were volunteering at this nursing home and were paired with Mabel. How could they help? What could they do? Students can record their ideas on paper.

+ Engage with individual groups to work towards these ideas:

   + try and engage Mabel to chat (about her family, the weather, her history)

   + ask her to teach you to crochet

   + ask her to sing her favourite songs, bring in a CD player to play songs she knows or sing together

   + play bingo with her and encourage her to join in the group bingo games

   + respectfully jog her memory when she forgets things

   + tell her how much you enjoy visiting her and having her show you her expertise with singing and crochet

   + assist her to write letters to her daughter who she does not see very often

   + help her with her nails or other appropriate self-care activities.

+ Sit groups in a circle to share ideas. Which ideas were the most creative? Which ideas do students think would assist Mabel to feel happier at the nursing home? Students may record any new ideas from other groups.

+ Ask students to think about the aim of visits with Mabel. Ideas could include helping her to cope with life, adjusting to her new home and finding pleasure in everyday experiences.

Conclusion: what do we now know about volunteering?

Ask students to give a brief recap about new information they have learnt in this lesson relating to volunteering. Ask students how they now feel about volunteering. Would they feel compelled to volunteer and, if so, for what type of agency?

Tell students that they will be creating a Photo Story during the next lesson, based around their knowledge of Mabel.

ASSESSMENT

Teacher to determine the following.

+ Did students engage with the concept of volunteering?

+ Did students work together actively and harmoniously during the Think, Pair, Share activity?

+ Did they engage empathetically during the scenario discussion?

+ Were students able to express new knowledge about volunteering at the conclusion of the lesson?

RESOURCES

+ Interactive whiteboard and internet OR blackboard/whiteboard, butcher's paper and paper and pencils

+ Microsoft Photo Story can be downloaded for free at microsoft-photo-story.en.softonic.com

+ Wordle is a toy for generating 'word clouds' from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and colour schemes. You can access Wordle at www.wordle.net

+ Think, Pair, Share: During this activity, students are given individual time to think about a question related to the topic of study. They then pair up with a partner to share their thoughts.