

**Title:** Mandy

**Author:** Barbara D. Booth

**Publisher:** Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books    **Copyright Year:** 1991

**Reading Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis:** This is a story about a deaf girl, Mandy, who is at her grandma's house. She loves the pin that her grandpa gave her grandma on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. During a walk, her grandma loses her pin. Later that night, Mandy goes by herself to find it. She had almost given up, but she finds the pin.

**Theme:** Love

### **Activity 1**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objectives:** The students will write about unique people that they see in their community.

**Activity:** The teacher will talk about different disabilities and show the students that people are unique. Then, the students will brainstorm the different disabilities they have seen in their community. They will then write stories about how they have seen people overcome their disabilities.

### **Activity 2**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objectives:** The students will experience being deaf and write about their experience.

**Activity:** The teacher will provide ear plugs, ear muffs, and anything else that will simulate deafness. Students will partner up and take turns being "deaf." After they are done, they will write about their experience. What was easy? What was difficult? What things to deaf people do to make up for their disability?

**Title:** A Country Far Away

**Author:** Nigel Gray

**Publisher:** Orchard Books

**Copyright Year:** 1988

**Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis:** This story is about two boys on the opposite sides of the world. One is from America; the other appears to be from a country in Africa. Even though they are from different places, they do the same activities. They ride bikes, go into town, and have baby sisters. They also wonder about other countries and want to make friends.

**Theme:** Children do the same things all over the world

### **Activity 1**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will write to a pen pal from a different country.

**Activity:** The teacher will arrange for students to have a pen pal in a different country, on the other side of the globe. The students will write letters back and forth; learning about their country, what they do for fun, and what their favorite things are.

### **Activity 1**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will compare their lives to the lives of their pen pal.

**Activity:** Using information from their pen pal, the students will create Venn diagrams and posters to show the differences and similarities in the lives of them and their pen pal.

**Title:** The Paperboy

**Author:** Dav Pilkey

**Publisher:** Orchard Books

**Copyright Year:** 1996

**Reading Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis:** This story is about a boy who has a job delivering papers early in the morning. He and his dog wake up before anybody else does to get started. They eat breakfast, put rubber bands on the papers, and start on their way. They finish the route as the sun is coming up. When they get home, they go back to sleep.

**Theme:** Jobs

### **Activity 1**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will write a letter to a person in the community who they appreciate.

**Activity:** After a mini lesson on jobs in the community, the students will pick a job in the community that they think is very important. They will write a friendly letter to the person who has that job. Students will tell them how much they appreciate what they do for the community.

### **Activity 2**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will write about what they want to be when they grow up.

**Activity:** As a class, the students will brainstorm a list of jobs that they could be when they grow up. From the list, or a different job, the students will write about what they want to be when they grow up. They will need to include where they want to live and as many details about the job they will doing as they can name.

**Title:** Once When I was Scared

**Author:** Helena Clare Pittman

**Publisher:** E.P. Dutton

**Copyright Year:** 1988

**Reading Level:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis:** Daniel has to run across two hills and through a wood to get coals from the neighbor for his mother before the storm. He makes it to the neighbors and gets the coals. On his way back, he uses his imagination to help him make it through the woods. He meets a bear and pretends to be an eagle and he escapes. He makes it home unharmed.

**Theme:** Imagination

### **Activity 1**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** Students will tell about a time when they were scared.

**Activity:** Before reading the story, students will write about a time when they were scared. How old were they? What were they doing? Where they alone or with somebody? What exactly were they afraid of? How did they overcome their fear? Then, have students share their stories.

### **Activity 2**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will write about an animal they would become if they were scared.

**Activity:** Have the students brainstorm an animal they would be if they were scared. This animal has to make them feel safe. After they have picked their animal, have them write why they picked that animal. Then have them draw a picture.

**Title:** Jamaica Tag-Along

**Author:** Juanita Havill

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Company

**Copyright Year:** 1989

**Reading Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis:** Jamaica wanted to play basketball with Ossie, her brother. He wouldn't let her so she followed him to the park. After he still wouldn't let her play, she goes to play by herself. Berto, a little boy, wanted to play with her and she wouldn't let him. After a while, she knew what it was like being left out so she let him play. Even Ossie joins in at the end.

**Theme:** fairness

**Activity 1**

**Source:**

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/printables/PLASSActivitiesForJamaicaTagAlong2.htm>

**Objective:** The students will be involved in role playing.

**Activity:** The teacher will have different role plays about bullies and fairness. In small groups, the students will act out whichever role play they are given. Because this is for younger students, a lot of practice and teacher guidance will be needed.

**Activity 2**

**Source:** Leanne Rakestraw

**Objective:** The students will write a story from the point of view of one of the characters in the book.

**Activity:** The students will choose to be Jamaica, Ossie, or Berto and write a story as if they were in their shoes. What are their feelings? Why do they do the actions that they do? Then have them share their stories with the class.

Born with a true passion for music, Mandy Praet, better known as 'MANDY', started her career back in...<sup>Â</sup> See more of MANDY on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of MANDY on Facebook. Log In. Forgotten account?