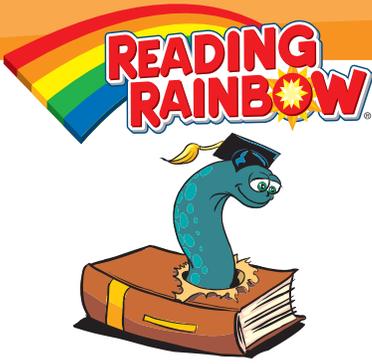


HEROES AND HOPE



Episode	Segment
My America: A Poetry Atlas of The United States	Entire video
Enemy Pie	Feature Book
Max	Firefighters, volunteers at Wildlife Rescue Center
The Tin Forest	911 heroes, music video
Our Big Home: An Earth Poem	Kids can Free the Children, volunteering

Setting the stage:

- Create a book corner with books about a variety of heroes. Ask your media specialist for assistance to help gather the collection.
- Display pictures of a various heroes on a bulletin board to encourage discussions about different types of heroes.
- At a writing center have story starters available such as:
 - _____ is my hero because _____
 - I can make a difference in my community by _____
 - If I had a super power it would be _____ because then I could _____

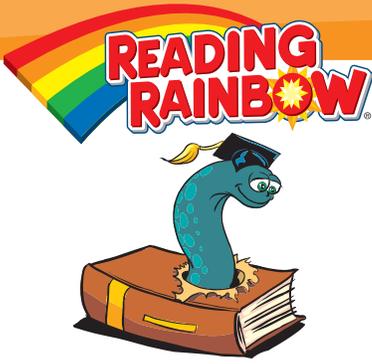
Topics for Discussion:

- Prior to viewing the Reading Rainbow programs, ask students what a “hero” is and if they can name any heroes. Write the heroes they name on the board or a chart. If they name fictional heroes along with people or occupations from everyday life, list them in a separate column and use the opportunity to discuss the difference between heroes on television or in movies (some of whom might be “superheroes”) and real-life heroes. Encourage students to look for all kinds of heroes as they watch the videos. After viewing the programs, add the heroes or occupations they noticed to the chart.
- Discuss with students why people might want to become firefighters or police officers.
- Talk with students about the idea that not all heroes are famous, nor do all heroic activities make the news. Sometimes our heroes are in our homes, neighborhoods, or school, and often the heroic deeds are acts of kindness, helpfulness, and generosity. Encourage students to look for heroes who are nearby. If a camera is available, take pictures of these heroes and display them on a bulletin board with an explanation as to why they should be recognized.
- Ask the class how heroes can inspire us. Discuss what gifts students can share with others to become heroes. How can they make a difference?
- Talk about how animals can be heroes, such as guide dogs or police dogs.

Activities to get started:

- Encourage each student to select a local hero. Have them write to a letter to their hero letting him or her know what a difference they have made to the community.
- Ask the class to select one local hero. Start a garden in your classroom in his or her honor. When the plants mature, make arrangements for the class to take them to their hero to thank him or her personally for their contribution.

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Activities to get started, con't.:

- Make star mobiles to hang in the classroom. Ask students to choose 3-5 heroes and cut out one star for each. (Heavier paper such as construction paper works the best.) Write a hero's name on one side of a star and his or her accomplishments on the other side. Repeat for each hero. A mobile can be made by hanging the stars from a wire hanger with string or yarn cut at different lengths.
- Ask each student to select a hero they would like to learn more about. Provide time and materials for them to research about their hero. Be sure to allow time for students to share their research with others.
- Invite everyday heroes to school to discuss their occupations. Possibilities might include a firefighter, police officer, park ranger, nurse, animal recovery worker, lifeguard, and many others. Ask them to explain their daily activities, training, equipment, and why they enjoy their jobs.
- Encourage students to write stories or poems about their favorite heroes or write fictitious stories about heroes.
- Arrange for the class to volunteer in your community to become local heroes.