



In this whole class activity, students will plan one big act of love or GRAND GESTURE for one person at school who typically does a lot for them with little to nothing in return.



Chart paper and markers or Smartboard
Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the second Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing highlights from the Monthly Kick-Off, and if appropriate, monthly video.

Special Note: Consider starting class with the “Picture Book Discussion” activity from the “Extension” section of this lesson.

4 C's	SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING	SERVICE LEARNING
• Critical thinking	• Self-awareness	• Integrated learning
• Communication	• Self-management	• High quality service
• Collaboration	• Social-awareness	• Collaboration
• Creativity	• Relationship skills	• Student voice
	• Responsible decision-making	• Civic responsibility
		• Reflection
		• Evaluation

GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Discover ways to MAKE TIME for underappreciated people that helps them know YOU MATTER.
- Engage with communities in need by sending them heartfelt letters that convey WE MATTER.
- Understand how MAKING TIME to foster love through meditation shows that I MATTER.



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **GRAND GESTURE**

1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: GRAND GESTURE

2) CONSIDER ASKING 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY'S FOCUS:

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students' ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **Who are some people who do a lot for you and your classmates at school or at your afterschool program who may go unnoticed (custodian, lunch server, crossing guard, landscaper, nurse, librarian or counselor)?**
- **What can you do to make them feel LOVED, valued, and appreciated?**
- **What is a GRAND GESTURE?**
 - Possible response: celebrating something in a big way; greatly acknowledging something, etc.
- **How is a GRAND GESTURE different than a small act of kindness?**
- **What GRAND GESTURE would make these unnoticed helpers feel truly LOVED, valued and appreciated?**
 - Examples include: Planning and preparing their favorite breakfast or lunch; Surprise appreciation party; A giant poster listing one hundred things you LOVE and appreciate about them.
- **Why is expressing gratitude and appreciation through a GRAND GESTURE an important part of this month's theme to GET LOVING?**

3) SET UP THE "GRAND GESTURE" ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - We are surrounded by hardworking and caring people who create a safe, supportive and loving environment for us.
 - Many of these people, do things for us without us noticing or even being acknowledged.
 - They're simply happy knowing that they make our world a better place.
 - However, it is important to let these wonderful people know how much value and LOVE them.
 - Our school/program wouldn't be the same without them.
- **Ask:**
 - **How can a GRAND GESTURE convey how much someone means to us and that they MATTER?**

4) START THE "GRAND GESTURE" ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - Today, we will work together as a whole class to plan one big act of LOVE or GRAND GESTURE for one staff member at school/program who does a lot for us and mostly goes unnoticed: Custodian, lunch server, crossing guard, landscaper, nurse, librarian or counselor, etc.
 - We will plan a GRAND GESTURE as opposed to a small act of kindness to make our chosen person feel truly special, LOVED and appreciated.
 - Before we begin planning, we will vote to plan a GRAND GESTURE of LOVE for just one of the following school or program staff members: Custodian, lunch server, crossing guard, landscaper, nurse, librarian or counselor, etc.
- **After selecting the staff person, brainstorm with students how to CELEBRATE their chosen school staff member through one GRAND GESTURE of LOVE.**
 - Examples include: Planning and preparing their favorite breakfast or lunch; Surprise appreciation party; A giant poster listing 100 things you LOVE and appreciate about them, etc.
- **Provide time to plan the GRAND GESTURE.**
- **Finalize all details of the GRAND GESTURE, including, time and place, needed materials, student roles and responsibilities, etc.**
- **After completing the GRAND GESTURE plan, prepare students for the reflection.**

5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, CONSIDER ASKING 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students' ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- What about planning and presenting your GRAND GESTURE are you most excited about?
- How do you think your chosen staff member(s) will feel when they receive their GRAND GESTURE?
- What other GRAND GESTURES would you like to plan to make other school or program staff members feel LOVED, valued and appreciated?
- Are there any other GRAND GESTURES you would like to plan for friends, loved ones or community members outside of school?
- What smaller acts of kindness and gratitude can you use to show gratitude and appreciation to your friends, family and community members of a daily basis?
- How does a GRAND GESTURE help us understand that WE MATTER?
- How will MAKING TIME to plan your GRAND GESTURE help you and others GET LOVING?

6) THANK STUDENTS FOR SHARING THEIR "GRAND GESTURE" IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS WITH THE CLASS. REMIND STUDENTS THAT when people are asked how they would have lived any stage of their life differently or what they regret the most, their answers usually relate to how they spent their time. Some of the most common responses include: I wish I had stayed in better touch with my friends; or I wish I had spent more time with the ones I love the most.

7) CHECK IN WITH STUDENTS ON IF THEY HAVE PLANNED ANY OTHER "GRAND GESTURES" FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OUTSIDE OF CLASS. CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO spend more time with and be more present with our family, elders and loved ones.

8) CONSIDER CONTINUING TO EXPLORE "MAKE TIME" BY LEADING AN EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.



EXTENSION IDEAS:

DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.

- 1) **Picture Book Discussion:** Read or watch the read along video of the book, [Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch](https://bit.ly/36EhN6G) by Eileen Spinelli: <https://bit.ly/36EhN6G> and discuss why small and large acts of kindness are important, and how the book can inspire them to brighten someone's day.
- 2) **Grand Gesture Challenge:** Students will plan big acts of love or appreciation for a friends, family and community members to see who can plan the most grand gestures by the end of the month.
- 3) **Small Acts of Kindness:** Students will plan one small act of kindness for every important person in their life, including friends, family, school staff and community members.
- 4) **ELA Connection:** Students will write a creative narrative from the perspective of their future self to share how their life changed by making feeling and sharing love their top priority. Using sensory language, characterization, dialogue and other literary devices, students will paint a picture of how their daily habits, hobbies, relationships and career choices all fostered love.
- 5) **Social Studies Connection:** Students will research and write about one historical figure or current events icon who promoted love and peace to people in need (Mother Theresa, Gandhi, Susan B. Anthony, etc.)

“GO RUNNING THROUGH THE STREETS CREATING DIVINE CHAOS, GO RUNNING THROUGH THIS WORLD GIVING LOVE, GIVING LOVE.”

- HAFIZ, PERSIAN POET (1315 - 1390)