

English as a Second Language; Language Arts; Visual Arts; World Languages;
Intergenerational

**Spanning Generations through Figurative Language:
Linwood Intergenerational Outreach for North Brunswick Seniors
(LIONS)**

By:

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Teaching Team:

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School:

Linwood Middle School
North Brunswick, NJ

Grade Levels: English as a
Second Language (6, 7, 8)

**Academic Focus/Core
Curriculum Standards:**

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Core Curriculum Standards:**

The Arts (Visual and
Performing) 1..2, 1.4

Language Arts Literacy 3.1-3.2

World Languages 7.1-7.2

Consumer, Family & Life Skills
9.2 A, B, C, D.

Core Ethical Values: Empathy,
respect, responsibility,
citizenship

Project Description:

Students in English as a Second Language reinforce their understanding and use of figurative language by creating Valentine cards for senior citizens through the LIONS (Linwood Intergenerational Outreach for North Brunswick Seniors) initiative.

Students explore the simile during a lesson on figurative speech and learn that a simile is a figure of speech in which things that are different in most ways are compared to each other using like or as. Sentence stems are employed as prompts:

e.g. "She _____ like a _____."

"She runs like a deer."

"She sings like a bird."

Students work in small cooperative groups to create similes based on the themes of love and friendship, which reinforces newly learned concepts. The students more highly skilled in the English language assist beginning students.

Student work is developed into inserts for the Valentine cards, using Print Shop, and artwork is added to reflect the theme of each simile. Students then personalize the Valentines and hand color the artwork. Advanced students translate the similes into their native language; beginning and intermediate level students include a simple greeting. Students discuss the Valentine's Day traditions from their cultures and their thoughts and feeling about the character trait *caring*. Students reflect on the project and their thoughts and feelings about reaching out to the senior citizens of their community.

Target Audience: Linwood Senior Citizens (LIONS)

Timeline:

A two-week time period

Project Scheduling: completed during allotted ESL class time.

Equipment Needed:

Computer, overhead projector and Xerox.

Project supplies:

Construction paper, paper lace doilies, markers, colored pencils, "I Am Loved" buttons (courtesy of the Helzberg Foundation www.iamloved.org)

Academic Focus:

Language Arts Literacy:

Students enrich their knowledge and understanding of figurative language to express an original idea with the use of sentence stems. Each student designs an appropriate simile based on the themes of love and friendship:

e.g. Friends are like a box of chocolates, each one is different, but we like them all.

Friends are like water in the desert.

Love is like my favorite teddy bear.

Visual arts:

Students create valentines of pink construction paper with red heart-shaped doilies on the front, embellished with "I Am Loved" buttons centered on each heart. The inside of the card contains a simile and a hand-colored illustration reflecting the theme.

World Languages:

"I Am Loved" message written in eight different languages.

Advanced level ESL students translate similes into their native language.

Character Education: Students develop interpersonal skills, empathy.

Educational Strategies:

Performance-based Education

Students experience hands-on training in developing a tangible product that is the result of their work.

Cooperative Learning

Students work in groups and help each other design the cards with the more skilled in language assisting those new to the country.

Interdisciplinary Approach

Students combine skills in language arts literacy, visual arts and world languages.

Personal Growth Outcomes: Students will develop a broader knowledge base from which to compare their own experiences. Students will become more aware of the needs of the elderly population of the community.

Hurdles Encountered:

Hurdles

Students are at varied levels of fluency

Solution

Differentiated instruction

Demonstration: Highly skilled students help newcomers; all students explain work.

Celebration:

Valentine's Day party with special treats; Presentation of "I Am Loved" buttons.

Recognition:

Students will meet with Meals on Wheels coordinator and local reporter for "Press Opportunity."

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