

**BRINGING VOCABULARY TO LIFE:
USING OUR WORDS TO HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN
BYNIKINI FRAZIER, SARAH MILLS HODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

GRADE LEVEL AND CONTENT: 1st Grade English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies

OVERVIEW

This unit plan – Bringing Vocabulary to Life: Using Our Words to Help Homeless Children – engages students in explicit and systematic vocabulary instruction which strengthens their abilities to construct meaning of robust vocabulary. Throughout the unit plan, students embody the meanings of the words concerned, support, and compassionate by completing a service learning project. The core of the unit plan involves students learning about homelessness, and working on initiatives which both support homeless children, and help students master English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics and social studies standards. The unit is taught over a series of about five sessions. While the materials for this unit focus specifically on homelessness in Savannah, this unit can be adapted to address homelessness in your own town, city, county or state.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

English Language Arts: ELA.1.L.6; ELA.1.RF.2; ELA.1.RF.3; ELA.1.W.5; ELA.1.W.6; ELA.1.W.7; ELA.1.W.8; ELA.1.SL.1; ELA.1.L.2;

Mathematics: M.1.MD.4; M.1.MD.2; M.1.NBT.2; M.1.NBT.1

Social Studies: SS.1.E.1

AVAILABLE MATERIALS

- Video of Unit
- Letter from the Teacher
- Daily Lesson Plans
- How Can We Support Homeless Children? PowerPoint
- Vocabulary Cards
- MimioStudio Notebook Chart
- What Are Some Ways You Can Support the Homeless? Sheet
- Illustrate a Word Sheet
- Letter Writing Template
- Student Letter Writing Checklist
- Friendly Letter Checklist (for teachers)



ABOUT THE TEACHER

Ms. Frazier is currently a 1st grade teacher at Sarah Mills Hodge Elementary School. She is the 2015 Savannah Chatham County Public Schools District Teacher of the Year. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University. Her best piece of advice is to embrace your significance as a teacher, transcend teaching expectations, and teach with such a passion that your students accomplish the impossible and exceed their established goals.