

## Activity 3

## Gratitude

9/11

6<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Define “gratitude.”</li> <li>■ List 3 people, experiences, or objects they are grateful for.</li> </ul>
<b>Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6-8.5</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.4</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6-8.4.b</li> </ul>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Journal: Gratitude printable</li> <li>■ A Poem About Gratitude printable</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Print a copy of Journal: Gratitude printable for each student.</li> <li>■ Print a copy of A Poem About Gratitude printable for each student.</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tell students that 9/11 Day is a national day of service, which means helping or doing things for other people.</li> <li>■ It is also a day of remembrance, when we honor the thousands of people who died in a series of events on September 11, 2001.</li> <li>■ Point out that after 9/11, people did kind things for each other and served their communities together.</li> <li>■ Let students know that people were very thankful for the service and help that others provided for them.</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Write the word “gratitude” on the board.</li> <li>■ Have students explain in their own words what the word means. If they need help getting started, circle the root word “grat,” noting that this root is related to thankfulness and pleasure. You may also want to list other words that include the root, such as “grateful” and “gratuity.”</li> <li>■ Share that gratitude means being aware of, and appreciating, the people, experiences, and objects in your life.</li> <li>■ Ask volunteers to share ways they can express gratitude.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Distribute a copy of A Poem About Gratitude to each student.</li> <li>■ Read the poem aloud, or have students read it silently before asking a volunteer to read it aloud.</li> <li>■ Review elements of poetry by analyzing its structure, pointing out its rhyme pattern, rhythm, and organization in stanzas.</li> <li>■ Have students reflect on gratitude in their journals by using the Journal: Gratitude printable to record three people, experiences, or objects they are thankful for, along with explanations. You may want to require students to list one person, one experience, and one object.</li> <li>■ As an alternative, extension, or homework assignment, you can have students write a poem about gratitude.</li> <li>■ Have volunteers share their journal and/or poems with the group.</li> </ul>



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal: Gratitude

Write about three people you are grateful for. Explain why you are grateful for each one in as much detail as possible.

I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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## A Poem About Gratitude

“Gratitude”, by British-American poet Edgar A. Guest (1881-1959), appeared in his 1916 poetry collection called A Heap o’ Livin’.

### Gratitude

by Edgar A. Guest

Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way;  
Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day;  
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do,  
For round about you there are men less fortunate than you.

Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom,  
The tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days of gloom;  
Be grateful for the morning dew, the grass beneath your feet,  
The soft caresses of your babes and all their laughter sweet.

Acquire the grateful habit, learn to see how blest you are,  
How much there is to gladden life, how little life to mar!  
And what if rain shall fall to-day and you with grief are sad;  
Be grateful that you can recall the joys that you have had.