

Student Lesson



LESSON TITLE: "SAYING GOODBYE"

GRADE LEVEL: 7 - 12

"And on August the tenth, the pastor of our church, (*Crying*)... I'm sorry"... (*Off camera voice* "That's okay, there's... there's no hurry") "came out and talked to my father... handed me this telegram... it was from the War Department... and said tha....that he was missing in action

Rita Schwisow, Civilian

EALRS:

- Social Studies: History EALR 1.2 - analyze the historical development of events, people and patterns of Life
2.2 - analyze historical information
2.3 - synthesize information and reflect on findings
- Writing EALR 1.1 - develop concept and design (benchmark 3 - develop analysis and Synthesis
2.2 - write for different purposes (benchmark 3 - to make inferences or draw conclusions)
3.0 - understand and use the steps in the writing process

OVERVIEW:

The WWII Oral History Project website will have the full text transcripts from the WWII oral history mini-series, "When We Were Kids...We Went To War," available to students, teachers and the general public. The "Saying Goodbye" lesson is designed to enhance a student's skill in reading and analyzing selected portions of transcripts from the mini-series.

PURPOSE:

This lesson will promote oral histories in the classroom by providing students with examples from previous interviews and promoting students interests to conduct their own oral history project. This lesson also gives students the opportunity to practice WASL type activities and at the same time meet requirements of the EALRS.

MATERIALS:

1. Transcripts from "When We Were Kids...We Went To War."
2. Writing materials
3. Access to the world wide web

TIME REQUIRED:

2 class periods (45 minutes each)

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Have students read the selected transcripts provided by the teacher and/or watch the video segment, "Relations left behind" from "When We Were Kids...We Went To War."
2. On one piece of paper, **identify common thoughts, feelings or phrases** that you can detect in the quotes from those people who are telling us about saying goodbye to their loved ones.
3. On a separate piece of paper have students respond to the transcripts by putting themselves in the place of the interview subjects, and **write a letter to your mother, father or friend telling them you have been assigned overseas and there is a good chance you will not come home again.** How are you going to say goodbye? What are you going to say?

EVALUATION:

1. The teacher can use a rubric for assessment. (Sample rubric is included with this lesson plan)
2. Have students work in groups, reading letters of other students. They can rate each letter on the basis of what kind of letter they would like to get from a friend or relative who is leaving for overseas tomorrow.

Student Lesson



Selected interview transcripts Student Handout

"You come to the realization that when you leave, that I might not be back, like so many thousands, well hundreds of thousands of other guys did. If they didn't leave their wives, they certainly left their families, their mothers and fathers, and siblings and so forth, and best friends. It's that going away; not knowing whether you are going to come back, but everybody thinks they are. It's a serious time.....stressful time!"

Lauren Schwisow, US Army Air Corps

"What they did then was ...they would call you and tell you that they had a telegram. They didn't tell you he was killed. They said it was word about your husband and we will bring the telegram to you, so I sat on the steps. I just kept praying that he would just be injured. But it wasn't so."

Pat Normoyle, Civilian

"At the time when you know that your husband could go overseas and something could happen, every day is precious, because you just don't know what the next day is going to bring."

Serene Sandmeyer, Civilian

"Our oldest son was born in Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver, and I left just exactly two weeks after he was born."

Question: So what was that like? Here is this newly born.....

"Very, Very traumatic. When you go you don't know if I am ever coming back."

Ben Sandmeyer, Army Air Corps

"We lived in an apartment, we were upstairs. And when my husband said goodbye to me and kissed his baby, he didn't go out the door. He stayed in at the bottom of the stairs for a while. I think....you know, maybe he was saying maybe I will never come back. Who knows what he was thinking. But, he stayed down there before he opened the door."

Mary Taranova, Civilian

Student Lesson
"Saying Goodbye Letter"
RUBRIC

Effort in writing the letter is weak
5 points

Effort was made in writing the Letter
10 points

Good job expressing your thoughts
15 points

Excellent effort in this letter
20 points

IDEAS AND CONTENT _____

- ◆ Clearly states a position on the issue
- ◆ Supports the position with sufficient elaboration
- ◆ Includes an effective introduction and conclusion
- ◆ Uses logical reasoning
- ◆ Ends with a strong statement

SENTENCE FLUENCY _____

- ◆ Includes transitional words and phrases to show relationships among ideas and maintain coherence within and between paragraphs
- ◆ Uses a variety of sentence structures
- ◆ Sentences are clear and avoid clutter

ORGANIZATION _____

- ◆ Uses a logical, effective organizational strategy
- ◆ Explains reasons in well-developed paragraphs

VOICE _____

- ◆ Uses own, unique style
- ◆ Writes honestly, as if the reader was standing right there
- ◆ Writes with confidence and enthusiasm

CONVENTIONS _____

- ◆ Contains no more than two or three minor errors in grammar and usage
- ◆ Contains no more than two or three minor errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

Final Score _____

Comments: