

**Compassion Lesson**  
**First Grade (December 2006)**  
**Anny Kenney, Jefferson Elementary School Counselor**

1. **Developmental Level:** First Grade
2. **Topic: American School Counselor Association (ASCA)**  
**Personal/Social Standard A:** Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.
3. **ASCA Objectives:**
  - **PS:A1: Acquire Self-Knowledge**
    - (PS:A1.2) – Identify values, attitudes, and beliefs.
4. **QCC/GPS Objectives:**
  - **QCC: Grade 1 Guidance. Strand A. Self-Knowledge. Competency I: Knowledge of the importance of self-concept.**
    - Describe how behavior influences the feelings and actions of others - IIIA,B,C
  - **GPS: ELA1LSV1 – The student uses oral and visual strategies to communicate. The student**
    - b. Recalls information presented orally.
  - **GPS: ELA1R6 – The student gains meaning from orally presented text. The student**
    - c. Asks and answers questions about essential narrative elements (e.g., beginning-middle-end, setting, characters, problems, events, resolution) of a read-aloud text
5. **Integration Suggestion:** This activity could be used to supplement English/Language Arts Unit 3.
6. **Essential Question:** How do we show compassion?

**7. *Materials:*** The Brand New Kid by Katie Couric, poster board, compassion quilt centerpiece (see end of document), white die cut squares, pencil, crayons, glue.

**8. *Directions for the Activity:***

- Make the compassion quilt sign prior to class and glue it on the poster board. It will be the centerpiece of the “compassion quilt.”
- Discuss what *compassion* means with students. (*Caring enough to do something about someone else’s need*).
- Read The Brand New Kid by Katie Couric to students.
- Have students identify rhyming words in the story.
- Ask students questions about the narrative elements of the story (beginning-middle-end, setting, characters, problems, events, resolution).
- Ask students to identify when and how the characters demonstrated compassion to others.
- Give each student a blank square. Instruct them to write their name at the top of it in small letters.
- Tell them to draw and color a picture of them showing compassion to others underneath their names.
- As each student finishes their squares, instruct them to bring their squares up to be glued on poster board.
- Show the class the poster board, which is now a *compassion quilt*, after all students’ squares have been glued on. Tell them to refer to it this month as we focus on showing compassion to others.
- Leave it in the classroom for the teacher to display; may be laminated.

**9. *Time Needed:*** 30 minutes

**10. *Modifications:***

- ***Other grade levels:*** Older students can write a graphic organizer and/or an essay about compassion or organize a class or club-sponsored community service project.

- ***EIP/ELL***: Students can work in a small group facilitated by a teacher or paraprofessional.
- ***Gifted***: Gifted students can compose an essay about a historical figure that demonstrated compassion.



Our Compassion Quilt  
By Ms. Joiner's Class



Compassion means  
caring enough to do  
something about  
someone else's need.



