



“Everyday Heroes”

Grade 2: Pre-Visit Lesson

Introduction:

This pre-visit lesson is designed to take place prior to the students’ viewing of the video segments or participation in the live broadcast from the Midway. It provides appropriate background and prior knowledge upon which to build throughout the lesson. By completing the pre-visit material, your students will be better prepared to reap the most benefit from the video presentations they will see.

Materials:

- Selected Mini-Book Biographies from 15 Easy-to-Read Biography Mini-Books: Famous Americans published by Scholastic (individuals include Susan B. Anthony, Dian Fossey, Helen Keller, Sally Ride, Squanto, Harriet Tubman, and the Wright Brothers)
- Instructions on how to cut, fold, and assemble the Mini-Books
- About Our Hero worksheets
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Staplers and staples

Vocabulary for Lesson:

Most 2nd graders probably already have an idea about what the following words mean, so the teacher could elicit ideas from the class and write their answers on the board to begin the discussion. Answers will probably sound something like what is listed below:

- **hero** – Someone who does something great. A hero doesn’t have to be physically strong or risk his life to save someone. He or she does something to help someone out, maybe something he didn’t have to do or something that others would be afraid to do.
- **courage** – Being brave.
- **risk** – Take a chance . . . when you take a risk, something good might come of it, but something bad might come of it, too.
- **sacrifice** – To give up something you want for a higher cause, a greater good, or because it’s the “right” thing to do.
- **dedication** – Not giving up; to keep your goal in mind; to face hardship because you know you are working toward something big and important.



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Engage:

- Starting the conversation with students about the concept, definition, and their interpretation of a hero.
- Have students offer “describing words” that their hero shows.
- If not given by students, suggest the attributes of *courage*, *dedication*, *sacrifice*, and *helping others*. These four heroic qualities are the focus of the overall lesson.

Explore:

- Distribute a few, to all seven mini-booklets of: Susan B. Anthony; Dian Fossey; Helen Keller; Sally Ride; Squanto; Harriet Tubman; and the Wright brothers.
 - (**NOTE:** More well-known Americans such as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Martin Luther King Jr. were not included as students may study these individuals as part of their regular curriculum. At your discretion, feel free to include one or all three of these individuals.)
- Through the use of the mini-booklets, students are introduced to seven individuals from American history and their heroic actions.
 - **Instructions** on how to cut and fold the Famous American mini-books:
 - 1) Print pages in landscape orientation, on both sides of the paper (flip along short edge)
 - 2) Cut the page in half (lengthwise) along the solid line.
 - 3) Place page 3 behind the title page.
 - 4) Fold the pages in half along the dotted line.
 - 5) Check that the pages are in the proper order and then staple them together along the books’ spine.
- Provide each student with the “About My Hero” worksheet. Assign or have students choose one hero and on the worksheet, have them write about the one they chose.

Explain:

- Compare the seven American figures to those in popular media to establish the idea that heroes are not always superhuman, that everyday people can do heroic actions.
- It is important that students understand this as the associated video and live broadcast will describe how ordinary sailors on the Midway exhibited extraordinary attributes by carrying out their assigned duties.

Evaluate:

- Students share their completed “About My Hero” worksheet.

Elaborate:

- To conclude, the following prompts could be used:
 - “We have studied several famous American heroes, people who are remembered for their courage and sacrifice.”
 - “Every day, there are people across America who will never become famous, who will never have a holiday named after them or be in a history book, but who demonstrated heroic qualities of *courage*, *dedication*, *sacrifice*, and *helping others*.”
 - “We will learn about some of these ‘unsung’ heroes, like the crewmembers that served on the aircraft carrier, USS Midway.”