

Classroom Activities

Based on *The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving*

To Librarians and/or Teachers:

The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving is a story about a special Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the Spaniel family for the animals in their community. The main idea of this story is to portray good citizenship through the Spaniel family's actions. Several other character traits along with good citizenship are woven into the story including: sharing, thankfulness, and responsibility. These worksheets are for you to utilize in the library/classroom along with *The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving* book.

There are three sections to the worksheets. Section one contains a simple definition of each character trait along with an example from the book.

Section two is a match test for second grade. Students will match quotes from the book to its corresponding trait.

Section three contains exercises. The exercises will get your 1st -2nd grade students to think beyond the book. The second grade will be able to utilize their writing skills to answer the questions.

Section 1- Character Trait Definitions

Sharing:

Definition: A person who shares includes others in their activities.

Example from the story: When the black and brown pup told Daisy he was lost and needed something to eat. Daisy barked, "Come join us. We have plenty to share."

Good Citizenship:

Definition: A person who is a good citizen finds ways to serve others and make the community better. A good citizen is also loyal and respectful of our nation and honors and celebrates national events and holidays.

Example from the story: Maggie knew one of the most important days of the year was here. She told her brother and sister, "Come on Joe and Daisy, we have to get ready."

Thankfulness:

Definition: A thankful person appreciates many things and tells others about their reasons to be thankful.

Example from the story: When the Spaniel family and the animals each told what they were thankful for.

Responsibility:

Definition: A responsible person is someone whom others can count on to take care of important duties and tasks.

Example from the story: After Maggie prepared the food for their Thanksgiving dinner Joe and Daisy helped Maggie carry the heaped-high bowls to their backyard picnic table.

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Section 2 – Character Traits Match Game for Second Grade

Each of the four character traits listed on the left side of the page is assigned a letter.

A=Thankfulness, B=Responsibility, C=Good Citizenship, and D=Sharing. Quotes from the book *The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving*, are on the right side of the page. Read the quotes and choose the trait or traits that best describe the quote (in many cases there is more than one trait being utilized). Circle the corresponding letter or letters. Good Luck!

A. Thankfulness

B. Responsibility

C. Good Citizenship

D. Sharing

- A B C D Maggie knew one of the most important days of the year was here.
- A B C D Maggie replied, "If we get good food to serve, there will be plenty of company."
- A B C D Maggie barked after them, "Remember, you two, we are here to get good food for our guests."
- A B C D Daisy jumped into a big pile of dirt. She uncovered a dozen earthworms for their dinner guests.
- A B C D Joe and Daisy helped Maggie carry the heaped-high bowls to their backyard picnic table.
- A B C D A skunk crawled under the fence carrying a beautiful yellow rose. He dropped the flower at Joe's feet.
- A B C D The pup told Daisy, "I've been lost for days and need something to eat." Daisy barked, "Come join us. We have plenty to share."
- A B C D Maggie said, "Before we eat, let's each say what we are thankful for."
- A B C D When he finished he burped and said, "Thanks! That's the finest meal I've ever had."
- A B C D Maggie said, "Today is officially called Thanksgiving Day, but every day is a thankful day when you gather together and share a meal."

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Section 3- Exercises by Grade Level

First Grade

Go over the definition of sharing. Page two of this document provides a definition of sharing.

Have the students fill in the blanks.

I can share a _____ with _____.

Ask... Why is sharing good?

Go over the definition of thankfulness. Page two provides a definition of thankfulness.

Have the students fill in the blanks.

I am thankful for _____

because _____.

Ask... What is something you are thankful for at our school? Then, discuss all the things at your school students can appreciate and be grateful for.

Go over the definition of good citizenship. Page two of this document provides a definition of good citizenship.

Have the students fill in this blank.

I can be a good citizen of this school by _____

_____.

Go over the definition of responsibility. Page two provides a definition of responsibility.

Ask... What are some things we can do to show we are being responsible in our school?

Ask... What are some things we can do to show we are being responsible in our community?

Classroom activities for *The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving*.

For First and Second Grade Science:

In the story *The Spaniel Family's Thanksgiving*, the Spaniels and the animals enjoy a variety of foods.

Have the students pick one animal from the book. Have them research and study the animal's habitat and what they might eat on a daily basis.

For Second Grade Poetry

Have the students think about their favorite food or their favorite animal.

Tell them about Haiku Poetry.

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems have three lines. In the first line the combination of words will add up to have five syllables. In the second line the words will add up to have seven syllables. In the third and final line the words will add up to have five syllables. The lines rarely rhyme.

Here is a Haiku to help you remember

I am first with five
Then seven in the middle —
Five again to end.

Have them write their own Haiku poem about with their favorite food or animal.

Here is one about cotton candy.

Bright happy colors
Swirling onto a white cone,
Melting on my tongue.

Here is one about a frog.

Green and speckled legs,
Hop on logs and lily pads
Splash in cool water.

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Second Grade

Character Trait Questions

Who do you want to share a meal with and what kind of food would you serve?

Describe in your own words what being a good citizen means.

List five things you're thankful for today.

Tell about the important duties and tasks you can be counted on to do at your home.
