



LESSON 3 | Building Empathy Through Reading

During National Reading Month, get students reading an informational text and developing empathy for those in need.

Objective

Students will determine the main idea of a text and locate supporting evidence while practicing empathy.

Time

Two 15-minute lessons (start day 2 with step 8)

Materials

- What You Can Do to Help Fight Poverty activity sheet
 - version A for grades 2–3
 - version B for grades 4–5
- Videos about child poverty at rednoseday.org/videos
- Optional: Everyday Heroes comic strip
- Optional: Stories of children helped at rednoseday.org/stories

Everyday Heroes' lines aloud, while you read the rest.

- Have students read the entire passage in pairs or independently.

1 Tell students When we read informational texts, we learn facts. We can use those facts to understand other people's experiences and feelings better.

2 Distribute the Everyday Heroes reading passage (preface it with the comic strip, time permitting).

3 Ask What do you think you are going to learn about in this passage? Based on the first paragraph, what do you predict the main idea is? Have students underline or highlight the sentence that they think states it.

4 Remind students that they may encounter unfamiliar words as they read, but they can use clues around the word to figure out the meaning. Have students identify the context clues surrounding these words and work in pairs to figure out the definitions.

- **poverty** (paragraph 1)
- **illiteracy** (Rusty's section)
- **nutritious** (Scarlet's section)
- **vulnerable** (Rojo's section)

5 Read the rest of the passage, choosing the method that meets the needs of your class.

- Read the passage aloud.
- Invite student volunteers to read the

6 Ask Now that you have read the whole passage, was your guess about the main idea correct? Write the main idea on the board. Then have students list specific supporting details.

7 Reflect As appropriate for your class, have students make connections between the passage sections. For example, how are hunger and sickness interconnected? Homelessness and illiteracy?

8 Say Now that we have learned facts about poverty, let's try to understand people's experiences better. Have students write or draw a journal entry from the point of view of a child experiencing one of the problems included in the reading passage. Invite students to share their work.

9 Go Further: Share the videos and ask students: Can you identify the problems and the solutions presented in the videos?

CHANCE TO WIN \$100!

Tell us what you think of this program with our five-minute survey at scholastic.com/RNDsurvey19.

NOSES ON!

The Red Nose Day Everyday Heroes noses will be available for purchase in bulk on Walgreens.com in March, and at Walgreens stores nationwide on April 22.



How You Can Help Fight Poverty

There are millions of kids in the U.S. and around the world who are living in poverty and do not have what they need to feel safe, stay healthy, and learn. Poverty is a big problem made up of smaller ones that need solutions. Join the Everyday Heroes below to help other kids like you!

“For years, I have used my powers to help end child poverty. Now, I give these powers to Rusty, Rojo, Ruby and Scarlet.”



Red Fights Poverty



“I use my speed to deliver school supplies to those in need.”

Rusty Fights Illiteracy

Problem: Some kids don't have books at home and are not able to go to preschool, so it can be harder for them to learn how to read.

Solution: Write a letter to your town government. Ask them to make sure all kids can have books and early education. If you have books at home, you could pick some to donate.



“When a child is sick, I can deliver medicine super quick.”

Rojo Fights Sickness

Problem: Many families aren't able to visit the doctor or get medicine. That makes it hard for kids to stay healthy.

Solution: You can help keep yourself and other kids from getting sick by washing your hands so germs don't spread. Write to your principal asking for healthy food options at school to help keep kids healthy.



“With my might, I give children a safe place to live day and night.”

Ruby Fights Homelessness

Problem: When kids don't have a home to go to after school, it is hard for them to feel safe and cared for. They are also less likely to have all the supplies they need for class.

Solution: Make all students feel safe by always being kind. If your family is able to, volunteer at a homeless shelter to help those in need.



“I can hear a hungry tummy miles away, so I bring food to children every day.”

Scarlet Fights Hunger

Problem: One in six U.S. children don't have enough nutritious food to eat that can help them stay healthy. That can make it hard to pay attention in school.

Solution: You could host a canned food drive, then deliver the donations to a local food pantry that feeds hungry kids and families.

What You Can Do to Help Fight Poverty

Millions of kids in the U.S. and around the world are living in poverty. They may not have what they need to feel safe, stay healthy, and learn. Poverty is a big problem made up of many smaller ones that need solutions. Join the Everyday Heroes below to help make a difference for kids in need. These small acts add up!

“For years, I have used my powers to help end child poverty. Now, I give these powers to Rusty, Rojo, Ruby and Scarlet.”



Red Fights Poverty



“I use my speed to deliver school supplies to those in need.”

Rusty Fights Illiteracy

Problem Some kids don't have books to learn how to read, and many families in the U.S. are not able to send their kids to preschool, so they fall behind in learning.

How you can help Use your writing skills to write to local lawmakers, encouraging them to act quickly to make sure all kids have access to early education programs. If you have books at home, you could pick some to donate to a local charity center.



“When a child is sick, I can deliver medicine super quick.”

Rojo Fights Sickness

Problem Many families don't have access to doctors or medicine. That makes some kids more vulnerable to getting sick.

How you can help Be sure to wash your hands regularly to prevent germs from spreading at school and getting other kids sick. You could also write a persuasive letter to your principal asking for nutritious food options at school to help keep all kids healthy.



“With my might, I give children a safe place to live day and night.”

Ruby Fights Homelessness

Problem When kids don't have a home to go to after school, it is hard for them to feel safe and cared for. They are also more likely to miss school and not have basic school supplies.

How you can help Make all students feel supported by always practicing kindness. If your family is able to, volunteer at a homeless shelter to help those less fortunate than you.



“I can hear a hungry tummy miles away, so I bring food to children every day.”

Scarlet Fights Hunger

Problem One in six U.S. children faces hunger at some point during the year, meaning they don't have enough nutritious food to eat. That can make it hard to concentrate in school.

How you can help You could host a canned food drive and then deliver the donations to a local food pantry that will feed the hungry.



EVERYDAY HEROES

For years, I have used my powers to help end child poverty. Now, I give these powers to you.

RED



RUSTY

I give you speed to deliver school supplies to children in need.



SCARLET

You can hear a hungry tummy miles away, so you can bring food to children every day.



ROJO

I grant you the ability to fly. When a child is sick, you can deliver medicine super quick.



RUBY

With your might, you can give children a safe place to live day and night.



EVERYDAY HEROES

Together, you are the Red Nose Day
Go forth and use your powers to help end child poverty!

