



Let's Read About...Cesar Chavez
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Grade/Class/Subject: 3-5 Language Arts

Content Standards:

LA.4.5.2.1 The student listens to information presented orally and shows an understanding of key points.

LA.3.1.7.4 The student will identify cause and effect relationships in texts.

LA.3.4.2.3 The student will write an informational essay that contains at least three paragraphs and include a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information.

Content Objective(s): Meets FL STATUTE 1003.42 – *Hispanic Contributions to the United States*
Character Education: The Core of Our Lives

Students will sequence the events Cesar Chavez's life that led him to become the farm workers' hero.

Language Objective(s):

- 1.) Students will cite cause and effect relationships found in the text, in writing
- 2.) Students will write an informational essay that contains at least three paragraphs and include a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information.

Grouping Configurations: Whole class, partners

Story Synopsis: This biography about Cesar Chavez helps readers learn about the Farm Workers' hero who fought for change. Cesar carried his mother's lesson of respect to the fields of migrant workers, and demanded fair treatment for all.

Key Vocabulary

landowners
migrant workers
marching
striking
fasted

Supplementary Materials

Broward County Public Schools'
Character Education poster

Lesson Sequence

Introduction: Building Background

This non-violent civil rights leader is an important role model for students to learn about. His beliefs, respect, and honesty embody the character traits that serve as an excellent model for the students today.

- 1) Point to the Broward County Public School's poster of the Character Education traits in your classroom and then hold up the book. Explain to students that the man on the cover of this book is someone who believed in

and exhibited the character traits. He is an example or role model of someone who lived by the character traits listed on the poster. His name is Cesar Chavez. He started working in fields when he was a young boy. This is his story of how a poor farm worker changed the lives of thousands of people forever. He was a hero.

- 2.) Ask students to turn to a partner and answer this Pair-Share question, “What makes a hero?”
- 3.) Ask students to begin thinking about a definition of the word ‘Hero’ by asking them to name three heroes, the reasons why they are heroes.
- 4.) Refer to the Character Education poster and ask students which traits describe a hero.
- 5.) Ask students to name one of the people who is his/her hero or role model.
- 6.) Ask students what they think of this definition of hero: ‘Heroes’ are ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

Modeling/Guided Instruction:

- 1) As students listen to the story about Cesar Chavez, ask them to identify certain things that happened to Cesar Chavez, the boy and Cesar Chavez, the man that led him to becoming the farm workers’ hero.
- 2) Model the procedure by identifying these cause and effect relationships:
 - Cause: Cesar spoke Spanish. Cesar’s teachers spoke English.
Effect: Cesar and the teachers had trouble understanding each other; school was hard for Cesar.
 - Cause: Cesar’s family traveled all over California to work.
Effect: He went to 37 different schools by the time he was in eighth grade.
- 3) Ask students to listen for more cause and effect relationships in the story.

Review/Assessment:

1. Individually, or in small groups, students will chart the other cause and effect relationships found in the story.
2. Cesar Chavez died on April 23, 1998. Ask students to write a three-paragraph essay defining the traits of a hero, explaining why Cesar Chavez was a hero when he was alive and give reasons why he is still a role model today.