



Thanksgiving for Farmers

Goals

Review activities that happen on the farm and animals that live there. Make the connection between farms and the food we eat each day, emphasizing the importance of community farms. Introduce letter writing, specifically thank you letters, and guide students in writing thank you letters to farmers in your county or region.

Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at www.growing-minds.org.

Materials

- Pre-addressed and stamped envelope to a farmer
- Farm description to read to students
- Blank folded paper for thank you letters or pictures
- Drawing and writing materials

Preparation

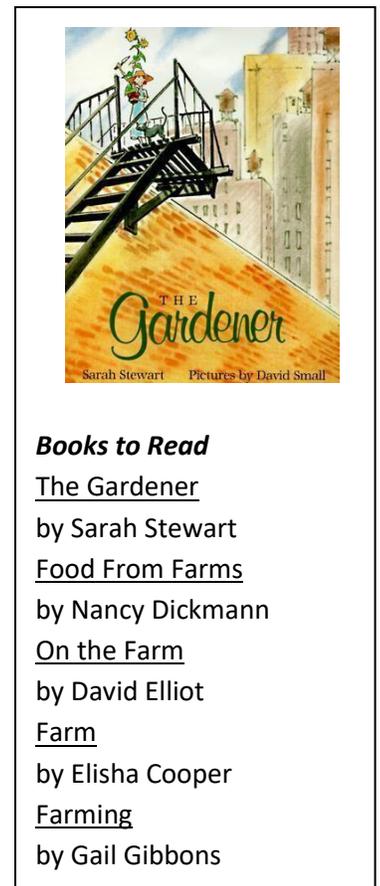
For this lesson you will need to choose a local farmer in your community to give thanks to – perhaps from a farm you have visited, a farmer who sells at your local market or to your school, or a farmer who has visited your school or classroom. Prepare a brief description of the farmer and their farm to read to the students.

Activities

Read a Book

Read The Gardener by Sarah Stewart. The main character of this book, Lydia Grace Finch, brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. The story is told through a series of letters Lydia Grace writes home to her parents and grandmother. This book provides great examples of letter writing, including a thank you letter. As you read through the Lydia Grace's letters, point out the structure or the content of the letters as appropriate for your grade.

If time allows, read one of the supplemental books: Food From Farms by Nancy Dickmann, On the Farm by David Elliot, Farm by Elisha Cooper, or Farming by Gail Gibbons. These books will set the stage for a brainstorm and conversation about the importance of farms.



Books to Read

The Gardener

by Sarah Stewart

Food From Farms

by Nancy Dickmann

On the Farm

by David Elliot

Farm

by Elisha Cooper

Farming

by Gail Gibbons



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Student Conversation

Share information about the farmer and their farm with the students. Lead a conversation with your students and ask them to brainstorm all of the jobs the farmer has in the community. What activities do they do on their farms? Why are they an important part of your town or region? Why are the students thankful for the farmer? Write the answers on the board.

Write the Letters

Give each student a blank folded card. Students will write "Thank You", "Giving Thanks for Farmers", or another phrase of gratitude on the outside of the card and can add drawings as well. On the inside pages, students will write 1-3 sentences to the farmer, thanking them for some role they play or activity they do in the community. First and second grade should start the letters with "Dear Farmer "x" (the name of the farmer here). To end the letter, students should write their names.