

LESSON PLAN IX

Grade Level 4-6

Time Needed 45 minutes

Skill Areas Critical thinking, problem solving

Objective Students will find resources to meet hypothetical homelessness situation.

Materials Phone books, community services guides, newspapers, internet, paper and pencils.

Teacher Preparation Have copies of *The Harper's Misfortune* ready for distribution to the class.

Activity The students will be divided into groups and given a copy of a hypothetical homeless situation, *The Harper's Misfortune*. The groups will use the materials provided to find resources and agencies that could be used to meet the family's needs.

The teacher should read the story with the class and offer these questions for discussion:

- 1) What are the basic needs?
- 2) What are possible sources that can be used to meet the basic needs?
- 3) Can the solutions be implemented quickly?

The teacher can add to the story to challenge the groups. Also pose other questions. How can the remaining money best be used? How large of an apartment, if any, can they afford? Can they afford to stay in a motel or hotel for a few nights? What is the cost of food for the family? Remember, they have no possessions; all of their furniture and beds have been destroyed.

THE HARPER'S MISFORTUNE

The Harper family just moved to Anytown, USA from Greenville, SC. Mr. Harper is to start a new job within two weeks. The family arrived in town early so that they could get acquainted with the city and get the three kids, ages 8, 12, and 14, into school. They found a small apartment to rent. The Harpers have about \$1,500 in cash which will have to last them at least one month.

The Harpers have been out shopping for school clothes. They have spent about \$275. When they arrive home, they find that there has been a fire that destroyed their apartment and all of their possessions. Because they are new in town and have not made any friends, they have no one to turn to. They are now **HOMELESS!**

Using community resources, map out a plan that the Harper family can use to end their homelessness.

How do children become homeless?

- Many times children become homeless because their parents lose their housing.
- Many families live in poverty and become homeless.
- There are not enough affordable houses or apartments for every family to have one.
- Sometimes things like fire, tornados or hurricanes can ruin a family's home. Some families do not have enough money to get a new home after a tragedy happens.
- Sometimes children are homeless because they live without their parents or another adult to care for them.