

LESSON PLAN IV

Grade Level K - 3

Time Needed 30 minutes

Skill Areas Language Arts : Speaking, listening, and writing.

Objective By identifying some of the causes and effects of homelessness, students will gain the understanding that homelessness exists in both the rural, urban, and suburban areas.

Materials Blackboard

Teacher Preparation Preview the scenarios and the Teacher Background information regarding rural homelessness.

Activity The teacher will read the urban, suburban, and rural homeless scenarios to the class. After these readings, students will answer and discuss the questions relating to the stories. The teacher will list the student answers on the blackboard under the headings urban and rural, focusing the student attention to the similarities that exist between the lists.

Rural Scenario

The Hall family lives in Small Town, USA. Fred, the father, has been a farm worker for 20 years. He has a wife, four children, two dogs, and little education. One day Fred loses his job. The Hall family has some money in savings, but they have many bills to pay. They can no longer afford their present apartment and must move. Because neither parent can find a job above minimum wage, they are unable to find another apartment which they can afford. They are now homeless.

Urban Scenario

The Thompson family has just moved to The Big City. Mr. And Mrs. Thompson have three children. They have brought only a few things with them since their trip was long and their car was small. The Thompson's had \$1,000 when they left for The Big City, but they had to spend \$400 to get their car fixed. They no longer have enough money to rent an apartment, and do not know anyone in The Big City or anything about The Big City. They are now homeless.

Suburban Scenario

Ms. Lee lives in Suburbia, USA and is recently divorced. She and her four children remained in the family apartment but can no longer afford to pay the rent. Ms. Lee had been a nurse, but for the last 5 years she has been a stay-at-home mom. She is confident that she will find a job, but currently she is unemployed. Ms. Lee and her children are now homeless.

Possible Questions

“Who is homeless in these stories?”

“What caused the families to become homeless in each story?”

“What are the consequences of their homelessness?”

“What are the immediate needs of each family?”

“Where can they look for help?”

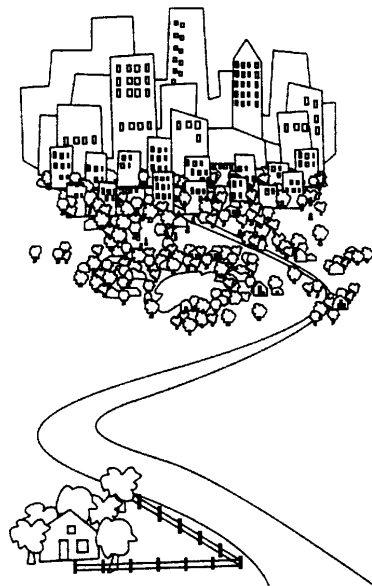
“Do you think more help is available in Small Town, USA, Suburbia, USA or The Big City?”

“Why?”

“Are these families responsible for their homelessness?”

The class can then discuss that although people and families become homeless for various reasons, the basic needs and consequences of homelessness are very similar.

This discussion gives the teacher an opportunity to make the students aware of some of the services that may be available to homeless people and families.



How do children become homeless?

- Many children are homeless because their moms and dads are homeless.
- It costs a lot of money to pay for a house. Sometimes moms and dads work all day but still do not make enough money to pay for a house.
- Sometimes bad things can happen to a family's home. A fire, tornado or hurricane can ruin their home. Some families do not have enough money to get a new home so they become homeless.
- Sometimes when moms and dads get sick and cannot work their family becomes homeless.
- Sometimes children are homeless and live without their parents or an adult to care for them.