

# MADDIE MORRISON LESSON OVERVIEW

School is not the first priority for many children. This comes as no surprise to us, yet we expect them to be completely attentive to our instruction and show interest as well. Boys and girls are preoccupied with their social lives during most of their school years and it is a struggle to concentrate on academics a lot of the time. As teachers, we need to find a way to help them connect to our subject matter and find some relevance.

One way is to find books that our students can relate to. Characters around their age with the same problems that they have and the same experiences that they have had, or hope to have, will motivate students to listen and eventually learn from the reading.

If that book can promote good reading skills like story elements, critical thinking skills, and comprehension while at the same time promoting discussions about character, values, and social issues that affect all of our students, then you have the kind of lesson where instruction and relevance are joined!

Maddie Morrison books offer you just that. These books concentrate on the issues that all of our students face starting from fourth grade and even earlier. The themes include acceptance, self-esteem, positive parent communication, overcoming obstacles, taking control of your life, and being a good friend. There are story elements to discover and reading techniques to examine as well as many historical references that make this a great book for any American history class, too.

Take a look at the lesson plan attached to see how you can connect this book to your reading classroom and your character education program at the same time.

# MADDIE MORRISON LESSON PLAN

## Lesson Objectives:

Students will examine and identify strategies to:

- Gain self-confidence, accept others, and recognize the importance of communicating with their parents.
- Become aware of acceptable and unacceptable social behaviors in their peer group.
- Feel empowered to take control of their lives and make better decisions

...by reading and discussing Maddie Morrison books!

Students will explore, analyze, and evaluate:

- Character traits and development of the fictional characters in the book
- Personal character traits, values, and motivations
- Story themes
- Reader predictions and outcomes in the stories
- How someone's behavior affects others
- How your own behavior affects YOU
- Discoveries based on all of the above

...by reading and discussing Maddie Morrison books!

## Learning Activities:

Students will read one or both of the Maddie Morrison books. There's No Room for You, Maddie Morrison and/or You Can Make a Difference, Maddie Morrison. While reading, teachers will prompt discussions, journal entries, or pair/share conversations to promote the students' character development. Teachers will also have students plot the story elements, make predications, and discuss character development of the fictional characters in the story. The PowerPoint presentation created for this lesson can be used during or after the reading based on teacher preference. If used during the reading, you will stop and start

at the appropriate slides. If used after the reading, the PowerPoint can be used to facilitate a complete reading/character education lesson incorporating all aspects of the story and themes. (Please preview the PowerPoint to decide how it will work best for your class.)

### **Materials:**

1. PowerPoint presentation - You will notice, after previewing the PowerPoint, that it can be used for either *Maddie Morrison* book. There are two slides that are specific for *There's No Room for You, Maddie Morrison* and two slides that are specific for *You Can Make a Difference, Maddie Morrison*. One of these slides has a picture of the book cover and some dialogue and a few slides later there is one with a list of the characters from that same book. Please make sure to skip the two slides for the book you are not using.
2. *There's No Room for You, Maddie Morrison* and/or *You Can Make a Difference, Maddie Morrison*

### **Assessments:**

1. Based on your activities during the reading, you may have journal entries, class discussions, or plot charts to demonstrate an understanding of the content and themes.
2. The PowerPoint will prompt discussions and lists of character traits for the fictional characters as well as the students themselves.

### **Homework:**

This is up to the teacher.

*Suggested assignments* - One to two chapters of reading each night and periodic journal entries