



LEVEL: Elementary (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

SUBJECT: Social Studies and Writing

DURATION: 30-40 Minutes

LESSON: Give Savings

**Objectives:**

Students will write thank you cards to a family member or friend for the things they need and want. (Demonstrates understanding of needs and wants)

Students will use correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Materials Needed:**

Crayons

Markers

Construction paper as the Thank you card – fold in half

Paper and pencil – if needed

Read aloud – Silverstein, Shel. (1964). The Giving Tree. Harper Collins Publisher.

**Activities:**

1. Read aloud – The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. What does it mean to give and what things did the tree in the story give to the boy? Which character in the story are you more like?
2. Review and discuss needs and wants.
3. Brainstorm – Have you ever received a thank you card? Explain. What is a thank you card? Why do people send thank you cards? Allow students ample time to share ideas and personal stories.
4. Have students think about someone they would like to send a thank card to and what reason they would be thanking that person. Share.
5. Write the following sentence starters on the board.
  - Thanks for giving me\_\_\_\_\_. I needed that!
  - Thanks for giving me\_\_\_\_\_. I wanted one!

6. Display a couple samples of thank you card. Teacher reads. Then the students will read aloud.  
Students will complete the sentence starters to make thank you cards for people who gave them things they needed and wanted.
7. Students will decorate their cards.
8. Students will share their cards with the class.

**Assessment:**

Teacher Observations

Student Responses

Thank You Cards

**Example Thank You Cards:**

Dear Mom,  
Thanks for giving me a great  
home! I need that!  
Love,  
Karen

Dear Grandma,  
Thanks for giving me some  
birthday money!  
It's just what I wanted!  
Love,  
Billy

**Sources Used:**

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