

## **A Welcome Hero**

with *Anne of Green Gables: The Animated Series*

Based on the episode "A Welcome Hero"

A fun and educational tool for children –

Designed for parents and teachers.

Includes: videotape, parent/teacher guide and reproducible materials

### **Example 1-hour Workshop for "Anne of Green Gables: The Animated Series"**

#### **Goals for the workshop:**

Encourage discussions on why we should not judge others based on outward appearances  
Help children to recognize and understand that seemingly ordinary people can be heroes

**Theme:** Not to judge a book by its cover

#### **Episode Summary:**

Anne is thrilled to hear that famous adventure novelist E.J. Lark is coming to town. Upon meeting the novelist, she is dismayed to realize that the writer isn't the handsome, debonair celebrity she envisioned, but a bespectacled female who looks like a librarian! However, a few hours in her company soon makes Anne aware of her sterling qualities and she ultimately realizes that you can't judge a book by its cover.

#### **Learning Objective:**

Showing children the importance of being accepting of others, despite outward appearances.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Anne of Green Gables: The Animated Series Video Tape
- Books
- Activity Supplies

#### **Introduction:**

Introduce yourself to the group. Include your background and a brief summary of what you will be discussing including goals for the workshop.

#### **For Example:**

- Introduce the kits (tape, book and theme book)

- Explain that the workshop deals with the theme of not to judge others based on appearances and the target audience for the program is children ages 4-8 years old.
- Note: It is important to remember the ages of the children involved when you are designing your workshop or activity. Older children will respond better to longer clips than younger children will.

## **BEFORE VIEWING**

### **A) Fill in the blanks**

-The teacher writes the following sentences on the blackboard and the students fill in the blanks. Before the students answer, the teacher may choose to write the responses out of order – *hero, author, explorer* – on the blackboard, if s/he thinks that the students need a list from which to choose. Students may copy the sentences or answer orally.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone you admire, because he or she has done something brave, new or good.
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who has written a short story, a poem or a novel.
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who travels to new places to discover something.

-When the teacher corrects the sentences, s/he asks the students to name heroes, authors, and explorers. S/he lists the names beside the sentences on the blackboard.

### **B) Groupings by student preferences**

-The teacher separates the classroom into halves. The students who would prefer to be authors make a line in one half and the students who would prefer to be explorers make a line in the other half.

-Students must find someone from the other group to pair up with (or make a group of three) and each student must explain his/her choice.

### **C) Discussion Topics**

-Focus on heroes → The world is filled with heroes, both famous and unrecognized everyday heroes. Tell the children about some of the everyday heroes in your life.

-Return to the list of heroes generated earlier when the sentences were corrected. Consider heroes that the students know personally versus those that they know within their own school and community. What makes each a hero? Do all heroes look the same? Why is it important to be a hero? Who is your hero and why? *\*This final question could also be done as a written journal response – to be shared either in pairs or by a few volunteers in the large group.*

## **NOW VIEW**

**View the “Anne of Green Gables: The Animated Series” episode “A Welcome Hero”.**

The workshop can be run in a variety of ways. You can show the whole episode or break the episode into smaller segments.

## **AFTER VIEWING**

**Discussion (either in the large group or smaller groups)**

- Why is Anne disappointed when she sees E.J. Lark get off the train?
- “Appearances aren’t everything.” Have you ever been fooled by how something or someone looked?
- Why does Anne eventually change her opinion of E.J. Lark?
- Dialogues (interviewer and hero **or** author **or** explorer) – in pairs, choose a specific hero, author or explorer and prepare a short interview with this person → 3 – 4 questions and answers – the teacher selects volunteers to perform their dialogues for the large group

## **DO ACTIVITY:**

**The length of time for the activities varies. Older children will spend time with activities than younger children will.**

### **Sample Activities:**

**Create a map of your community (blank paper/construction paper, markers/pencil crayons optional)**

In the episode, Miss E.J. Lark had the opportunity to see the sights of Avonlea. Individually or with a partner, create a map of your community and the area that surrounds it; show important and interesting landmarks such as your school and where you and your friends live. Imagine that this is the tour you would use to show your community to a visitor.

**Make your own picture book (blank paper/construction paper, markers/pencil crayons optional)**

E.J. Lark was a famous author and Anne and her friends loved reading all her books. Try making your own picture book. Your book could be about any topic: your family, your hero, an adventure that you have had. Write a short story about the topic and draw pictures that correspond to the story. Design a cover for your book. Once complete, you and your friends can take turns sharing your stories with one another.

**Do an interview to learn some history of your community**

By talking with E.J. Lark, Anne learned that both she and the author were orphans and that both loved to read. Prepare a few questions to ask someone who was alive before

you were born. Your questions should focus on what life was like for that person when s/he was your age. What differences are there between your experiences? What similarities? Be prepared to share what you find out with your classmates.

**Write a letter to your hero**

Anne had the chance to actually meet her hero! Write a letter to your hero: talk about why you admire this person and offer some information about yourself. If the hero is someone in your own family, school or community, deliver the letter!