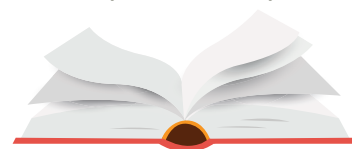


COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Introduction

'What Grew in Larry's Garden'
by Laura Alary



The purpose of these lessons is to develop pupils' perception, knowledge and understanding of different character virtues through the use of stories. In this lesson, the **CIVIC** virtue of **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** is explored, using the book, 'What Grew in Larry's Garden' by Laura Alary. To accompany these Teacher's Notes, a pupil activity and a PowerPoint are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre website (jubileecentre.ac.uk/readgrowgo).

The following supporting documents are provided online:

- Read Grow Go Introduction
- Community Awareness PowerPoint
- Community Awareness Pupil Activity
- 'What Grew in Larry's Garden' Read-Along
- Other stories in the programme including: The Whopper, Dogger, The Breaking News, Ada Twist – Scientist, Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg, Up the Creek and Counting on Katherine.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

Community awareness is a civic virtue which can be defined as actively and meaningfully learning from, and sharing information with, different parts of the community.

Aims of the lesson:

1. Virtue Perception: The lesson should allow pupils to notice situations within the story which demonstrate a sense of community awareness.
2. Virtue Knowledge and Understanding: The lesson should teach pupils the meaning of the term 'community awareness'. Pupils should be able to discuss why this virtue is important, both for themselves and others.
3. Reflection: Pupils should be given the opportunity to reflect on the story and how they can apply the virtue of community awareness to their own life.

Summary of 'What Grew in Larry's Garden'

This story follows a young girl named Grace who helps her elderly neighbour, Larry, to grow tomato plants in his garden. Larry – a teacher – takes the tomato plants into school and encourages his students to give them away to someone in the community, be that a neighbour, bus driver, or friend and to include a letter to explain why they have been chosen. This brings joy and happiness whilst helping to build relationships in the community. One day, a neighbour's fence threatens to block the sunlight out of Larry's garden. Grace steps in by giving the neighbour his own tomato plant and letter and manages to persuade him to use his fence for a different reason.

The following lesson plan provides a guide for teachers and gives suggestions for how to teach the virtue of community awareness. It offers inspiration and is a suggested way to conduct a lesson to explore this virtue. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the plan to best suit the needs of their class and individual pupils. Pupils should become aware of the virtue of community awareness and its meaning; the story provides opportunities to discuss and reflect which will help to develop pupils' understanding of community.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Lesson Plan

KEY VOCABULARY: Virtue, community, awareness, neighbours, neighbourhood, school, family, friends, people, bonds, relationships.

RESOURCES: 'What Grew in Larry's Garden' book or [read-along version](#) [available 12/20], Community Awareness PowerPoint, Community Awareness Pupil Activity, One Wonderful Word Community Awareness card, craft materials, plant pots, seeds.

READ

10 MINUTES

Explain to the class that they are going to hear a special story which contains an important message. You would like them to try and work out what the message is but to keep it in their head until the end of the story. Explain that you are also looking for 'One Wonderful Word' – this is the virtue which is the theme of the story – COMMUNITY. Leave the questions on Slide 1 up on the screen as you read the story 'What Grew in Larry's Garden' by Laura Alary or, alternatively, listen to the read-along version. The 'One Wonderful Word' Community card should be accessible so that it can be revealed in the Grow discussion.

GROW

10 MINUTES

Discussion – ask the class to explain what they think the message of the story is. If not already mentioned, ask if they know what the 'One Wonderful Word' is. You can then reveal the COMMUNITY card which can be displayed in the classroom. Explain the definition of the term 'community' using Slide 2. Use the Key Questions to discuss this virtue in relation to the story and the pupils' own lives. Allow the class the opportunity to discuss what types of community they belong to and how they could show kindness to members of their community.

15 MINUTES

Activity – Give each pupil a copy of the Community Awareness Pupil Activity sheet (ideally on card). Ask the pupils to decorate the plant pot and to create flowers growing out of the pot. This will be given to someone in their community. Teachers may need to differentiate the activity to best suit their pupils' needs; paired, shared, group or guided work is encouraged. See Differentiation for suggestions around activity support and challenge.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What did Larry's students do with their tomato plants?
- How do you think people felt when they received a letter and a plant?
- Was this a good way to show kindness to the community?
- What kind of communities do you belong to?
- Why is it important that we get along with the people in our community?
- How could you spread kindness in your community?

DIFFERENTIATION

- To challenge, pupils can write a message on the plant pot to give to a member of their community.
- Pupils can draw their own flowers or use craft materials (for example: tissue paper and pipe cleaners) to create 3D flowers.
- A modelled example of a completed plant pot may help some pupils to create their own.
- If possible, give each child their own real plant pot and seeds for them to grow a real plant to give to someone.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Lesson Plan

GO**🕒 10 MINUTES**

Bring the class together again so that they can share the plants they have created. Ask the pupils to think about who they might like to give their plant to and to suggest a reason for choosing that person (to say sorry, thank you, hello). Encourage pupils to think of someone in their community (lollipop man/lady, neighbour, bus driver, dinner supervisor) who they think would appreciate the gift of their plant. Pupils can share their choice and reason with the class once they have decided.

