



Our Youngest Citizens Change the World
Read Aloud Lesson based on the book
***Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan**

In these difficult times, there are many young people who are coming up with creative ways to make their older neighbors smile. Reports of simple happy drawings posted on our doors, windows, or trees have made people walking by or looking out their window feel better. One of the groups of people who are very challenged by the events of the day are those who get their meals from local soup kitchens. Listen or read to the story of Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen. The story will help you understand what a soup kitchen is, and how important it can be for some people. It will also help you understand how a simple act of kindness can make a difference for the person who is receiving the act of kindness, and the person who is giving it.

1. Every year, we have a National Day of Service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. The day is frequently described as a day on, and not a day off from school. As a young citizen, do you think that every school-aged student should be required to volunteer on this National Day of Service? Why or why not?
2. Below is a list of possible volunteer activities in which all of our youngest citizens can participate. Choose the one from the list that you might like to try.
 - Help clean up a local park or vacant lot;
 - Sing songs, present a play for senior citizens;
 - Organize a book and toy drive and collect gently used books and toys. Then plan to distribute them to needy children;
 - Organize and collect for a food drive or a clothing drive. Arrange what you have collected to be taken to a local food bank.
3. In the book, the brick building that houses the soup kitchen is described as ***old and kind of run down***. What could you and a group of your friends do to help change that look? Why do you think that might be important?
4. Uncle Willie tells his nephew that they fed 121 people at the soup kitchen that day. Then he says, “That’s a lot of citizens.” Why do you think Uncle Willie called them ***citizens***? Share some ways you have modeled ***active citizenship***.