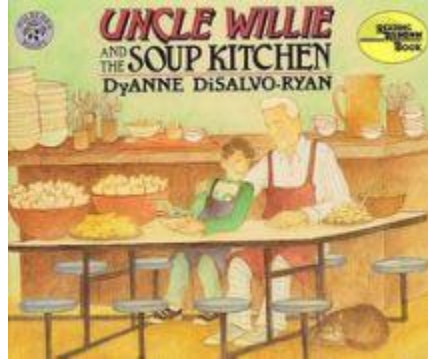


Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen



By: DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Topics: Building community, Student voices, What it means to be an American, Rights and responsibilities

Genres: Picture books, Soup kitchen stories, Intergenerational stories, Community service stories

The story of Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen 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 to the person receiving it, and the person who is giving it.

Before the Read Aloud:

What is a soup kitchen? What is served there? Who serves it? Can someone in elementary school help in a soup kitchen?

During the Read Aloud:

1. Every year, we have a National Day of Service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The day is frequently described as a day on, and not a day off from school. As a young

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen

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. Here 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 and/or present a play for senior citizens.
 - Organize a book/toy drive and collect gently used books and toys - then plan to distribute them to children in need.
 - 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?

Take Action Project:

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.

Can you identify a local pantry and/or soup kitchen to help as a student/a class right now?



Annenberg
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA