

## Teaching News Is Elementary

### January 6, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.*

**Materials you will need for this lesson:** The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

**Article: “Migrant families hold a special place in my heart’ says teen behind toy drive”**

**Pages: NW Arts&Life, page H3**

**Date: Sunday, December 25, 2016**

#### **Standards:**

Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation’s fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

#### **Objectives:**

Students will read about the charity project of one teen, and use it as a basis to brainstorm their own charitable acts.

#### **Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:**

Write the word “Charity” on the board. Ask students to reflect on what the word means to them. Is it a good word? Is it a bad word? Why or why not?

#### **Vocabulary:**

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it’s used in the sentence.

“The parents wait outside, happy but uncomfortable. They don’t like to take **charity**. They are **migrant workers** who would rather earn what they have.”

**Charity:** the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need

**Migrant workers:** people who move from place to place to get work, especially farm laborers who harvest crops seasonally

“As Christmas approached, I called the St. James offices looking for an **unsung** face of the holiday spirit. Someone who made the day what it should be — what people needed it to be — with a full and **selfless** heart.”

**Unsung:** not celebrated or praised

**Selfless:** concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own; unselfish

““I look at Jack and see a kid who has really got his **priorities** straight,” he said. “He is so committed to service and there is so little **ego** wrapped up in it. There’s this desire to be of use to the people who need it.”

**Priorities:** the things that someone cares about and thinks are important

**Ego:** a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance

“At St. James, Ipsen made sure there was a toy-drive announcement in the church **bulletin** and a giving tree in the lobby.”

**Bulletin:** a short official statement or broadcast summary of news

### **Journal Writing Prompts:**

*“He’s a senior at O’Dea High School and just 18. But he thinks and acts well beyond his years. And he knows how lucky he is to be born into his family — father Theodore, a former Seattle police officer; mother Teresa, a former police dispatcher; and 19-year-old twin brothers Andrew and Isaac — and a church community he’s known all his life.”*

What are some things in your life that you are grateful for? What are you lucky to have in your life? Can you think of a way that you could share these good things that you have with others that might not be as fortunate?

### **Discussion Questions:**

What inspired Jack to take on this project? What has Jack’s impact been? How do you think helping others makes Jack feel? Is there anything that Jack might have had to give up in order for his project to be successful? What kind of skills

does this project show that Jack has? Why is this project worth it for Jack? Have you ever done an act of charity or something similar to this? How did it make you feel?

**Small group discussion and activity:**

*At O'Dea, he arranged "Dress Down Day," when students pay \$5 to wear casual dress instead of their uniform of khakis and collared shirts (140 students donated, raising \$700 for the toy drive).*

Jack arranged "Dress Down Day" as a way to raise money for his toy drive. Brainstorm your own list of ways that you could use to raise money for a cause or charity important to you. What charitable act would you want to support with your fundraiser? How would your fundraiser support this cause? What steps would you need to take in order for your fundraiser to be successful?