

Memory Quilt (9-12)

Mathematics and Language Arts

Summary: Students work with senior citizens to create a memory quilt to hang in the seniors' retirement center.

Service and Learning Activities

Preparation: Students learn geometric shapes and design a border and geometric squares for a memory quilt. The class brainstorms and prepares interview questions to use in the seniors' oral histories.

Action: Students go to the retirement home, conduct an interview and write an oral history of a senior partner. During the next visit, students share the oral histories with their senior partners. They ask the seniors what things in their life would they like represented in their memory quilt square (e.g., a favorite pet, a spouse's name, a hobby). Students and seniors work together to create a square that represents the senior partner using embroidery, appliqué, or fabric pens. After all the squares are completed, the students help to sew the quilt together, making sure to measure accurately. Geometric patterned squares are combined with the memory squares and borders to complete the quilt.

Reflection: What did you learn about the life of your senior partner that you did not know? Compare and contrast the life of your partner with your own. How did you like working with your senior partner? What kinds of geometric shapes are easiest to use in a quilting project? What kinds are the most difficult? How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

Demonstration: Present the oral histories and memory quilt to the seniors at the year-end celebration. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

Standards

Language Arts: The student

- LA.B.1.4 Uses the writing processes effectively.
- LA.B.2.4 Writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.
- LA.C.1.4 Uses listening strategies effectively.
- LA.C.3.4 Uses speaking strategies effectively.

Mathematics: The student

- MA.A.4.4 Uses estimation in problem solving and computation.
- MA.B.1.4 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.
- MA.C.1.4 Describes, draws, identifies, and analyzes two- and three- dimensional shapes.

Academic Objectives

- Use geometry and measuring skills to create a memory quilt
- Use listening, interviewing, and writing skills to prepare an oral history

Assessment(s): Group work (e.g., interviewing questions), oral history, quilting square, and journal

Service Objectives

- Work with seniors to create a memory quilt and oral histories.
- Provide companionship to senior citizens

Assessment(s): Completed oral histories, memory quilt, letters and comments from seniors