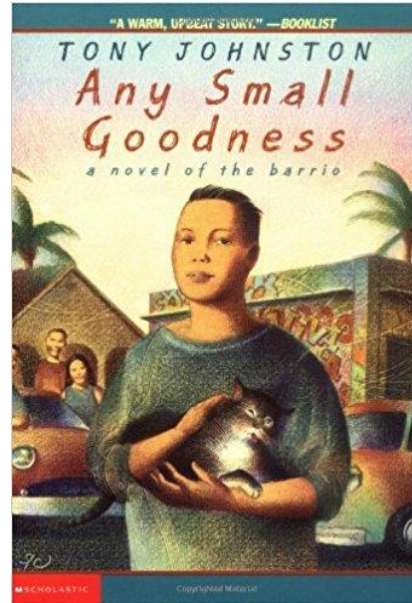


Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio



ISBN-13	978-0439233842
ISBN-10	0-439-23384-4
Author	Tony Johnson
Publisher	Scholastic
Copyright	2001
Lexile	600L
Genre	Realistic fiction
Synopsis	This story is about a Mexican-American family in East L.A. where random acts of generosity and goodwill improve the well-being of people in the community.
Themes	Friendship and Companionship; Resilience



Character-Based Literacy Program Independent Study Lesson Plan, Any Small Goodness, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Kindness Requires Empathy. Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

Why Should We Learn to Pronounce Names with Accuracy?

Knowing each other's name is essential for building a community. Foreign names can be hard to pronounce and remember, but the effort is worthwhile. Students can support each other by practicing writing down students' first and last names and taking the time to ask questions about the meaning of each other's name and nickname. Teachers can encourage students to repeat their names when talking in class or with friends. Students should not be afraid to ask how to correctly pronounce each other's names. Teachers can model diligence in learning correct pronunciation of names and praise students for correcting others when their name is mispronounced.

What is Aztec Heritage?

The Aztecs are among the best known of Mexico's many indigenous ethnic groups. In the sixteenth century, the Aztecs lived in central and southern Mexico. They spoke Náhuatl. Between the 14th and 16th centuries, the Aztec empire flourished culturally and economically. It included more than 500 small states and 600 million people. Today, many descendants of the Aztecs maintain their ancient customs together with a Christian lifestyle. Abuelita is from Aguascalientes in central Mexico, a state that was once part of the Aztec empire.

What is the Importance of After-School Enrichment Activities?

Several organizations provide funding for facilities, instructors, and materials for after-school programs. For example, they connect basketball players and other volunteers with students with the goal of encouraging athletic exercise, development of self-worth, and having fun in a safe environment. The programs have been proven to support academic, social, and emotional outcomes of children and adolescents. Everyone can support afterschool programs as a volunteer, through donations, and through spreading the word about opportunities in the neighborhood.

What is Mexican Muralism?

Murals have been a part of Mexican culture for many years, even before the Hispanic rule. In modern times, Mexican muralists had a substantial influence on Mexican

thought and culture from the Mexican Revolution – which had dictator Porfirio Díaz and his regime overthrown – through the 1970s. The famous muralists included Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. The murals showed colorful, rich scenes depicting, for example, Aztec warriors, peasants, and laborers.

What is the History of the Los Angeles River?

Many years ago, before white men came to California, the Los Angeles River, which ran across the San Fernando Valley, provided water and food to the Native Americans. The river is dry most of the year. However, it is a valued part of the landscape of the city and is currently undergoing a restoration project by some community and government groups. The project, called the Los Angeles River Revitalization, coordinate multiple river improvement efforts to add small and large parks along the river, bike paths, and public art.

Word Wall Here are fifteen vocabulary words to define and add to the Word Wall. Note: The book includes a section titled A Selected Glossary. Use this Glossary to learn new words in Spanish.

stacks (7)	excessively (10)	disfavor (11)	pulverize (13)	apprise (19)
desolate (28)	jittering (30)	fervor (30)	immaculate (32)	sprawl (36)
stupefied (42)	interloper (44)	understatement (47)	vending (48)	undisputed (48)
smothered (54)	tranquelize (60)	commotion (61)	sustain (62)	flashy (63)
swindle (64)	parched (64)	resplendent (66)	boisterous (70)	furor (70)

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 7–125 in the book, *Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio*.

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important events on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing class activities like a KWL chart or map: Mark key places in the barrio.

1. Start a map of a barrio – a Latino neighborhood in Los Angeles, CA. Draw a street and Arturo's house.
2. Add streets to your map and select a location for Leo Love's house. Draw a small image of the house.
3. Select a location for Arturo's school. Draw a small image of the schoolhouse.
4. Imagine the front yard of Arturo's home before and after the Valentine's Day project (Chapter: Piano Lessons). Draw a small image of the front of the house at the end of the project.
5. Select a location for the public library in the barrio. Draw a small image of the library building.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Complete Week 1 in the Kindness Journal.

Any Small Goodness: Kindness Journal

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Aesop

The book, *Any Small Goodness*, focuses on the value of kindness. In this journal, you will document the acts of kindness described in the chapters you have read this week. Write at least one paragraph for each chapter. Add pages as needed.

Chapters:

Date:

Name:



Think, Feel, Say, Do

- 1. What acts of kindness are described in the chapters you have read this week?**
- 2. How did kindness change influence people's attitudes, emotions, and behavior?**

Discussion Ask discussion questions.

Answer the key questions. Use evidence from the text.

“American Names” (pp. 7–21)

1. Why was Arturo willing to give up his old name?
2. Why did he change his mind?

“Corn Fungus” (pp. 22–36)

1. Why did the cat run away?
2. What risks and discomfort did Leo Love face when he saved the cat?

“The Coach” (pp. 37–52)

1. What is the teaching approach of Coach Tree?
2. How did Coach Tree show kindness to Jose?

“Piano Lessons” (pp. 53–63)

1. What did Leona Scott do for the barrio?
2. What made the Valentine’s Day gift so special?

“The River” (pp. 64–77)

1. How did Ms. Cloud get children interested in reading books?
2. Why did the barrio organize a demonstration when Ms. Cloud was let go?

Analyze the key paragraph.**Page 21**

“Abuelita’s prickly but full of goodness. As far from gangbangers as Papi is. I wish I could be like her, getting people’s names back for them—or something important like that.”

Instructions

1. Highlight two keywords in the Key Paragraph.
2. Answer: In what way does Arturo want to be like his grandmother?

Page 36

“On the way home Papi says, “This Leo Love is a brave man. In spite of fear he saved Huitla. When no eyes are upon him, that is a person’s true test.”

Instructions

1. Highlight two keywords in the Key Paragraph.
2. Answer: Why did Papi call Leo Love ‘a brave man?’

Page 50

“After Alicia goes, I’m in my room thinking about Coach Tree and Jose. Coach doesn’t have to do this. He’s lost by choice in our nothing barrio, helping a kid with not many chances.”

Instructions

1. Highlight two keywords in the Key Paragraph.
2. Answer: In your opinion, how could Coach Tree’s help change Jose life?

Page 63

“What can I do? I wish I knew.

In L.A., there’s bad. Druggies. Gangs. Thieves, lifting stuff from houses like army ants. Then there’s this.”

Page 77

“To myself I say, *I hope this very minute she’s in some other barrio—in full sparkle—and full disguise—fully resplendent, spouting the glory of book.*

EXTEND

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

“American Names” (pp. 7–21)

Our name is part of who we are. It is one of the very first words we learn as babies. It is part of our signature. It is part of our identity. Have you ever had your first or last name mispronounced by someone? How did it make you feel? Write a paragraph about this incident. Conclude your section with what you have learned from this experience. Why should people pay attention to the correct pronunciation of others’ names, especially immigrants?

“Corn Fungus” (pp. 22–36)

A true character is shown when we do kind things because we believe it is the right thing to do, rather than for praise or a reward. Write one paragraph about a time you did something kind because you believed it was the right thing to do.

“The Coach” (pp. 37–52)

There are different ways one can become a hero. List all the different ways Coach Tree is a hero, based on this chapter.

“Piano Lessons” (pp. 53–63)

There are different ways one can make a community a better place. Write about the example of Leona Scott. How did she make the barrio a better place?

“The River” (pp. 64–77)

Not all community protests accomplish their goal. In this chapter, we have learned that the people of the barrio were unsuccessful in bringing back their beloved librarian. Do you believe that communities should persevere and hold peaceful protest in support of social goals? What protests have you recently heard about in the news?

Character-Based Literacy Program Independent Study Lesson Plan, Any Small Goodness, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Kindness Requires Empathy. Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

What is the Most Effect Response to Provocation?

Provocation can lead to anger and impulsive behavior. Intense emotions, such as anger, impact our judgment. One of the reasons that anger influences our reasoning is because it misleads us to believe that we can control the outcomes of the situation. For example, it may lead us to think that by acting aggressively, we can punish the other person and make the person apologize. Appraisal of the same social situation can yield different results when we are emotionally detached. For example, such appraisal will involve predicting further short-term and long-term to us as a result of escalating the interaction. Therefore, the most effective response to provocation is to maintain emotional disengagement, keeping it cool, and distancing ourselves from the situation.

How Does Kindness Affect People?

Research shows that kind people tend to be happier and have a lower level of cortisol – the stress hormone. They have better close relationships and marriage. In addition, they are better able to focus on academic work and have better relationships at work. Kind people are role models who inspire prosocial behavior among others.

What is a Christmas Posada?

Posada is Spanish for Inn or Lodging. There are nine Posadas, one each for the nine days leading up to Christmas Eve. As part of this celebration, recreates Mary and Joseph's search to find shelter to give birth to the baby Jesus. A man and woman acting as Mary and Joseph walk together from store to store asking for shelter. A procession of people, some dressed as shepherds, follows behind them singing Christmas carols in English and Spanish.

How to Bring Joy to Children During the Winter Holidays?

All children, especially those in the foster care system, deserve the gifts of kindness and generosity during the winter holidays. By participating in a toy drive, you can give a foster child something to cherish and enjoy.

Think about the limited resources that the old lady had. How would Christmas look like without the gift of The Green Needle Gang?

What are Holiday Season Traditions?

Every culture has its own holiday season traditions. Some traditions commonly seen in the US include decorating ginger bread houses, decorating houses with holiday lights and candles, watching holiday movies, reading holiday books, and listening to holiday music. The last chapter of the book, *Any Small Goodness*, focuses on the Rodriguez family's traditions. Reflect on the traditions you are familiar with and like the most.

Word Wall Here are fifteen vocabulary words to define and add to the Word Wall.

haul (80)	scuffed (82)	tentative (84)	invincible (85)	bunching (86)
rivet (89)	crumple (90)	emulate (92)	weedles (95)	lodged (102)
lurch (108)	modus operandi (109)	nimble (111)	courtesy (112)	resplendent (112)
perplexed (118)	revealed (121)	aghast (121)	plunging (123)	exuberance (124)

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- Mention the setting and main character
- Point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read pages 78–125 in the book, *Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio*.

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15–20 most important events on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing class activities like a KWL chart or map: Mark key places in the barrio.

“The Band” (pp. 53–63)

Add the barrio’s small backstreets to your map. Select a route Papi may have driven from his house to the high school.

“The Lunch Box” (pp. 89–103)

Add the Mexican furniture store where Papi works to your map.

“The Green Needle Gang” (pp. 104–115)

Choose a location for the Pigeon Woman’s house and add it to your map.

“Christmas Presents” (pp. 116–125)

Create a graphical representation (e.g., flowchart, timeline, or drawing) of the sequence of activities that Arturo’s family conducts around Christmas.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Complete the Kindness Journal worksheet for Week 2.

Any Small Goodness: Kindness Journal

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Aesop

The book, Any Small Goodness, focuses on the value of kindness. In this journal, you will document the acts of kindness described in today’s chapter.

Chapter:

Date:

Name:



Think, Feel, Say, Do

- 1. What acts of kindness are described in the chapters you have read this week?**
- 2. How did kindness change influence people’s attitudes, emotions, and behavior?**

Discussion Answer the key questions. Use evidence from the text.

“The Band” (pp. 53–63)

1. Why did Papi avoid reacting to the gang’s insults?
2. Why was Papi angry at Luis?

“The Lunch Box” (pp. 89–103)

1. How did Arturo, Papi, and Rosa respond to the shooting event?
2. How did the shooting change Arturo’s perception of the barrio?

“The Green Needle Gang” (pp. 104–115)

1. Why did Rat Nose nickname the old lady “Pigeon Woman?”
2. In your opinion, what would be the reaction of Arturo’s parents if they knew about the plan of The Green Needle Gang?

“Christmas Presents” (pp. 116–125)

1. What was special about the gifts that the family members gave to each other?
2. What was special about the way the family members presented and received their gifts?

Analyze the key paragraph.

Page 81

“Without a flinch, Papi drives on, face rigid. Like the carving of an Aztec god.”

Discuss the tone of admiration that the narrator uses when describing Papi’s self-control. Find another quote in the chapter that adds supporting evidence to your claim. In what way did Papi serve as a role model in this incident?

Page 102

“No, it’s not much. But this small kindness changes the world. Rosa’s eyes go big as plates. He smiles a limp little smile. Then she hugs the lunch box – and she cries.”

Discuss Rosa’s inability to cry after the shooting and how Officer’s Paster’s gift enabled her to express her emotions. What was the importance of this act of kindness?

Page 113

“And do those babies come! Plumpeting in frenzied loco-motion. Like puppies tumbling over each other. When they see the tree and the food and the toys, I think they’ll expire from laughing – and crying. I think I’ll expire, from joy.”

p. 125

“I look around at the faces I love. *Mi familia*. Rodríguezes, warm and sweet and silly, glowing in the candlelight. I feel Christmas well up in me.

Music fills the room. “Silent night! Holy night!”

With my family here, with good people out there in the barrio, it is—total holy.”

EXTEND

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

“The Band” (pp. 53–63)

Papi advised his sons (p. 81): “For confrontations what you want to be is calm.” Write a paragraph about a time someone provoked you. Did you maintain your calm? What strategies did you use to keep yourself from getting angry?

“The Lunch Box” (pp. 89–103)

Identify three small acts of kindness people can do with little effort. Write a paragraph suggesting how such acts of kindness can make a positive impact on people and the community.

“The Green Needle Gang” (pp. 104–115)

Create a list of community service ideas for the holiday season. The list may include participating in a toy and food drive, performing at a senior house, volunteering at a soup kitchen, making holiday cards, and baking and cooking for families. Write a paragraph about the importance of philanthropy during the holiday season. Include your community service ideas as supporting details.

“Christmas Presents” (pp. 116–125)

The last chapter focuses on the kindness of the Rodriguez family members towards each other. It is kindness that does not require spending money and that honors the tastes and talents of each family member. Write a paragraph about the different ways people can show kindness. Use examples from this chapter as supporting details.

Character-Based Literacy Program Independent Study Lesson Plan, *Any Small Goodness*, Final Assignment



Your final writing product will be titled, *Random Acts of Kindness*. The essay will persuade the reader to become more proactive in doing random acts of kindness as well as recognizing others' kindness.

Begin your essay with a well-defined thesis statement or the key idea you will discuss. Use the paragraphs you have completed over the last two weeks to support your claims. Maintain academic language. Avoid sentimental or poetic style. The essay should be concise – avoid repetition and redundancy in statements. Ensure you have a clear topic sentence in every paragraph and there is a clear logical flow from one paragraph to another.

You may have to re-write some sentences or paragraphs from your daily projects and writings. You may also need to add leading or unifying sentences at the beginning or end of paragraphs to aid your reader in following the direction of your essay.

Build a timeline to organize your work schedule:

What	When
Create a thesis statement	
Create an outline	
Organize your ideas using the paragraphs from the last two weeks	
Write an introductory paragraph	
Write the body paragraphs	
Write a conclusion paragraph	
Read through and edit	
Submit your first draft	
Revise based on feedback	
Complete final draft	