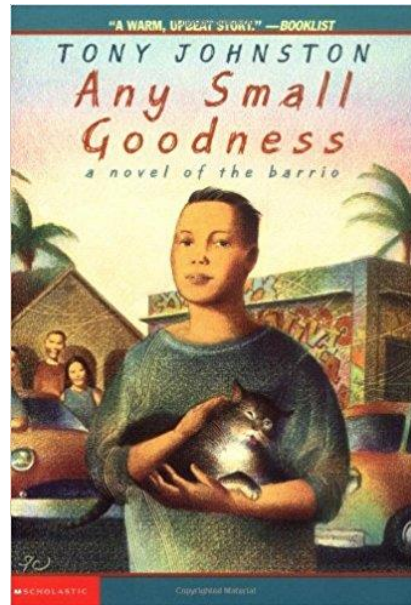


Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio



ISBN-13	978-0439233842
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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 Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 1



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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?

EXTEND

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

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?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 2



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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?’

EXTEND

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

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.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 3



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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?

EXTEND

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

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

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 4



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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.”

Question: In this paragraph, what does the word ‘this’ refer to?

EXTEND

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

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?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 5



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 77

"To myself I say, I hope this very minute she's in some other barrio—in full twinkle—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.

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 Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 6



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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?

EXTEND

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

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?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 7



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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?

EXTEND

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

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.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 8



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 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.”

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

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.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Day 9



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, 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.”

Discuss how the goodness of people can help people live a joyful life.

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

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 Writing Prompts

Any Small Goodness, Final Assignment



Persuasive Essay

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	