

LESSON M-UVII-L3

You Can Do It, Yes You Can!

Unit VII: Building Better Futures: Narrative, Recovery, and
Responsibility

Grade Levels: 6–8

Time: 90 minutes (plus time for a community project)



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Objectives

- Demonstrate comprehension of the power of one.
- Brainstorm ideas for how to memorialize September 11, 2001 through service.

Key Term

- memorialize

Lesson Materials

- “Walking to Remember” (found at <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3750158>)
- Paramus Freedom Walk information and video (found at http://www.schooltube.com/video/e7e3ff2f65f740c8a69d/paramus_freedom_walk)

Lesson Plan

- As a warm-up for the lesson, have the students respond to the following question in a journal entry: “What are some ways that you have honored someone who has been important in your life? (The person should be someone you personally know. It does not matter if the person is not alive today.)” Have volunteers share their responses with the class.
- Ask students if they have knowledge of someone their age (or older/ younger) that has made an impact on her town, state, or country.
- Give the students a copy of the Scholastic News article, “Walking to Remember,” about the town of Paramus, New Jersey, which has an annual Freedom Walk. In 2007, a sixth-grader named Joey Rizzolo initiated this idea to commemorate those who died on 9/11.
- Have the students work with a partner to read the article and answer the five Ws: who, what, where, when, why. Then discuss as a class the impact of this young man and review the five Ws and H (how) of the story.
- Have the students view the video of the Paramus Freedom Walk. Then have them discuss the following questions:
What did you notice about the ages of the participants of the walk?
Master Sergeant George Maurer reported that this was an emotional day. Why do you think he made that comment?
- Next, guide students to discuss some ways that our dreams or goals can become reality. Ask: “Have you ever had a dream come true?”
- Then have the students brainstorm to respond to the question: “Now . . . what can you do (to memorialize 9/11 as an individual, class, or school)?”
- Have class choose a project from the brainstorm and examine the following:
 - What materials, permission, support, and financial backing, would be needed for this “dream” to come true?

- Is this something that can be realistically done? If yes . . . GO FOR IT!
- If not, what modifications need to be made for it to become a reality?
- Can the modifications be made? If yes . . . GO FOR IT! (If no, consider another project.)

Taking Action and Giving Service

- Follow through on the class’s “dream” to make a difference.
- Encourage students to reach beyond the borders of their classrooms and participate in service activities in their community.
- Go to the Points of Light Institute (<http://www.pointsoflight.org>) and learn more about the National Conference on Volunteering and Service.