Command & Cuddles

TEACHER CORNER • FREE CLASSROOM RESOURCE

Give from the Heart: A Christmas Lesson

Use with **Sarge and Arwen's Great Santa Stakeout** by R. L. Sarwen (book release: November 27, 2026). No copy yet? The lesson works with any read-aloud about friendship or giving.

Ages 7-10 · Grades 2-4



At a glance

Time: About 25 minutes
Materials: The book, crayons, scissors, pencils
Goal: Celebrate giving without spending a cent.
Today's Choice: Choose to give from the heart.

What's inside

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TEACHER NOTES

Teacher Notes

Read aloud (about 10 minutes), talk (5 minutes), then make and give (10 minutes).

Before reading

- Make a two-column chart: **"Gifts you can buy"** and **"Gifts from the heart."** Fill in a few ideas together.
- Ask: **"Which kind of gift lasts longer? Why?"** Tell students to listen for gifts from the heart in the story.

During reading: stopping points

1. **Pause when the friends make their Christmas Eve plan.** "How do Sarge and Arwen use their different strengths to plan together?"
2. **Pause at a moment when Sarge is tempted by the treats.** "What choice did Sarge make? What else could he have chosen? How might that affect his friend?"
3. **Pause when the friends wait and watch.** "What helps a team keep going when something is hard or takes a long time?"
4. **Pause near the end.** "What matters more to the pups than catching Santa? What gift did they give each other?"

After reading: make and give

- **Kindness Coupon Book** (p. 3): students fill in the blank coupons, cut, staple, and give them away.
- **The Great Kindness Stakeout** (p. 4): for one week, students secretly notice kind acts and record them. Share a few each Friday.
- **My Gift From the Heart** (p. 5): students plan one gift from the heart and reflect in writing.

Good to know

- Not every family celebrates Christmas. A **Winter Giving** version with no holiday references is also free in the Teacher Corner.
- Keep gifts no-cost and no-touch if you prefer: high-fives, kind words, and help all count.
- **Extra support:** offer starters such as "I can help by ___" and let students draw first.
- **Stretch:** ask students to plan a gift for someone at school they don't usually talk to, like a custodian or librarian.

Today's Choice: Choose to give from the heart.

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Kindness Coupon Book



Name _____ Ages 7-10 · Grades 2-4

Fill in the two blank coupons. Cut them out, stack them, and staple the corner. Give your coupon book away!

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: helping you with a job
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: going first in line or a game
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: reading a story together
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: a kind note from me
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: playing the game you choose
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: helping clean up
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: _____
To: _____
From: _____

KINDNESS COUPON
Good for: _____
To: _____
From: _____

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The Great Kindness Stakeout



Name _____ Ages 7-10 · Grades 2-4

Be a kindness detective all week. Notice kind acts, and do some too. No names needed: "a friend" works!

Day	A kind act I noticed	How it helped	A kind act I did
Mon			
Tue			
Wed			
Thu			
Fri			

Friday report: The kindest thing I saw this week was

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My Gift From the Heart



Name _____ Ages 7-10 · Grades 2-4

Plan one gift that doesn't cost a cent. Then write about why it matters.

Who will I give to? (for example: a classmate, our bus driver, my family)

What will I give? (help, a kind note, my time, sharing)

When will I give it?

The best gift I can give that doesn't cost a cent is _____ because ...

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