

MANY HELPING HANDS



Characters

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Mr. Foster

Mario
Mom
Aunt Ellen

Setting

This reader's theater takes place in and around Mario's home.



Mom



Mario



Aunt Ellen



Mr. Foster

Act 1

Narrator 1: This is a story of how friends and family helped Mario's family when they needed it most.

Narrator 2: Mario lived with his mother, father, and two younger brothers. His house was on a street where many other kids lived, too.

Mr. Foster: Mario loved his neighborhood because everyone was friendly to each other. It felt like his neighbors were all one big family.

Mario: "Mom, I'm going outside to play baseball with Jason."

Mom: "Okay, but don't be gone too long. Remember, we need to pick up your brothers from soccer practice."

Mario: "Thanks, Mom! I'll be back soon."

Aunt Ellen: After playing for a while, Mario got into the car with his mother.



Family and Friends Lesson Plan

Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will deliver oral presentations and read passages fluently, focusing on the use of voice and tone as they read.
- **Content Area:** Students will make predictions about the story *Many Helping Hands*.

Summary

Many Helping Hands shows the true meaning of friendship and helping others. When a family is confronted with difficult times, the neighbors and extended family are there to help in any way they can.



Materials

- *Many Helping Hands* script booklets
- *Family and Friends Character Masks*

Introduce the Literature

Bring in a large, empty glass jar. Ask students to pretend they are saving money in the jar. What would they buy once the jar is filled? Have students make lists of ideas, then allow them to share their lists, giving reasons for buying each item. Show them the cover of *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams. Ask them to predict, from the cover and title, what this book might be about. Then, read the book aloud to the students. After you have read and discussed the book, explain that students will read a script called *Many Helping Hands*. This script is also about a family who gets help when something bad happens to them. After completing the reader's theater, allow students to compare *Many Helping Hands* to *A Chair for My Mother* using a T-chart.

ELL Support



Instead of ELL students making a list of items to buy, allow them to find pictures in a magazine to create collages of objects. Help students label the pictures with assistance from another classmate or an adult. Students should then present the collages, and the class can chorally read the picture labels.

Involving All Students

Though there are only six roles, it is important to involve all students in the reader's theater experience. For this lesson, assign the same role to three or four students. Each person assigned to a given role will read that characters' lines together with the other students assigned to that same role. This gives every student the opportunity to take part in the reader's theater.