

LESSON PLANS

The following collection of read-aloud books is designed to help pageant titleholders teach students about food insecurity through meaningful, age-appropriate literature. Each text was carefully selected to connect with one of the five steps of the DRIVE Out Hunger framework—Donate, Resources, Inspire, Volunteer, and Educate—helping students build empathy while also developing awareness of real-world challenges and solutions.

These read-alouds are organized to help students move from awareness to action through the DRIVE Out Hunger framework. Titleholders may choose to read the books aloud themselves during classroom visits or use the hyperlinked prerecorded read-aloud versions provided for easy implementation. Following each story, students can participate in an engaging activity that reinforces the featured DRIVE Out Hunger value through discussion, reflection, creativity, or service-centered learning experiences.

If You Plant a Seed – Kadir Nelson

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Small acts of kindness can grow into big community change.

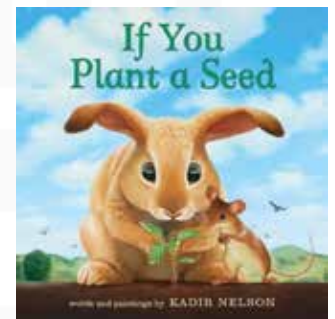
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students create a “Kindness Garden.” Give each student a flower cutout to write or draw one act of kindness that could help someone in the community. Attach flowers to a bulletin board garden and discuss how kindness grows when shared.

Materials Needed:

Flower cutouts, scissors, markers, glue, bulletin board paper

Grade Level: K–2



[Youtube Link](#)

Growing Vegetable Soup – Lois Ehlert

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Food takes teamwork, time, and care to grow.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students design a paper class garden. Each student decorates a vegetable or fruit template and labels how that food helps families stay healthy. Combine all pieces into one classroom garden display.

Materials Needed:

Vegetable templates, crayons, glue sticks, construction paper

Grade Level: K–2



[Youtube Link](#)

The Invisible String – Patrice Karst

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Communities are connected through kindness and support.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Sit students in a circle and create a classroom “Connection Web.” One student holds yarn, shares one way to help others, then tosses the yarn to another student while holding onto part of the string. Continue until a web is formed to show how everyone is connected.

Materials Needed:

Yarn

Grade Level: K–2



[Youtube Link](#)

The Sandwich Swap – Queen Rania Al Abdullah

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Respecting different cultures and food traditions builds understanding.

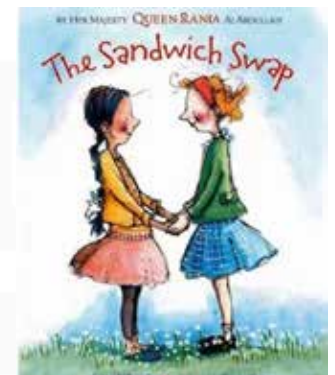
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students complete a “Foods Around the World” coloring sheet featuring foods from different cultures. Students color the foods, choose one food they would like to try, and write or discuss why they chose it. Students can share how food helps people learn about different cultures and traditions.

Materials Needed:

Printable “Foods Around the World” coloring sheet, crayons or colored pencils, pencils

Grade Level: K–3



[Youtube Link](#)

Last Stop on Market Street – Matt de la Peña

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Gratitude helps us recognize ways we can support others.

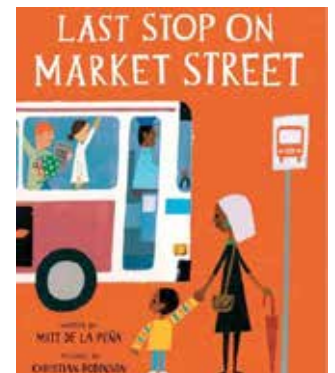
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students write thank-you cards to food pantry volunteers, cafeteria workers, or community helpers. Encourage students to include specific ways these helpers make a difference for families.

Materials Needed:

Cardstock or folded paper, markers, crayons, stickers

Grade Level: 2-4



[Youtube Link](#)

Those Shoes – Maribeth Boelts

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Understanding the difference between wants and needs.

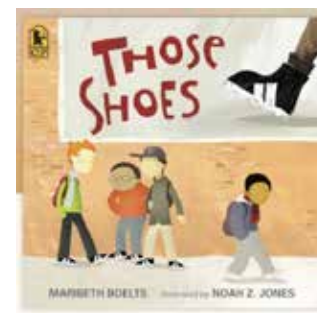
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students sort teacher-provided printed pictures into “needs” and “wants.” Create a large class T-chart and discuss why food is a need for every family.

Materials Needed:

Chart paper, printed pictures, scissors, glue, markers

Grade Level: 2-4



[Youtube Link](#)

Just a Dream – Chris Van Allsburg

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Waste impacts the future and communities around us.

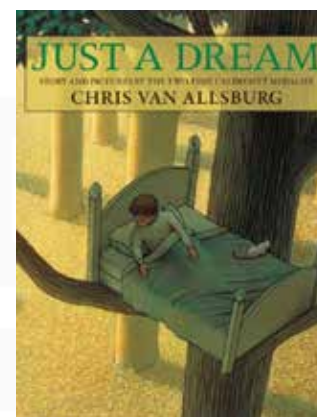
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students work in small groups to design posters encouraging students to reduce food waste in the cafeteria. Encourage slogans, drawings, and practical tips for saving food.

Materials Needed:

Poster paper, colored pencils, markers

Grade Level: 2-5



[Youtube Link](#)

The Big Umbrella – Amy June Bates

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Everyone deserves inclusion, kindness, and support.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Create a classroom umbrella mural. Students write kind or inclusive actions on raindrop cutouts and glue them around a large umbrella shape to show how everyone belongs.

Materials Needed:

Bulletin board paper, raindrop templates, glue, markers

Grade Level: K–3



[Youtube Link](#)

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear – Don Wood

Grade Level: K–2

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Hunger can create worry and uncertainty.

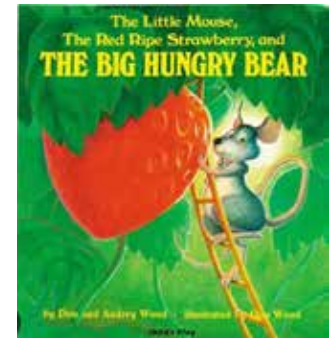
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students draw a “Food Journey Map” showing how food travels from a farm to a grocery store or family table.

Students label each step in the journey.

Materials Needed:

Drawing paper, pencils, crayons



[Youtube Link](#)

Those Darn Squirrels! – Adam Rubin

Grade Level: K–2

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

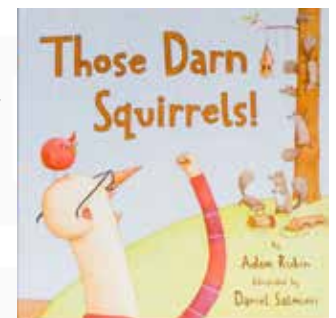
Sharing resources helps everyone.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students complete a themed word search using vocabulary from the story, including words connected to sharing, nature, and community. After finishing the puzzle, students choose 2–3 words from the word search and discuss or draw how those words connect to helping others and sharing resources in their community.

Materials Needed:

Printed food cards, sorting mats, glue



[Youtube Link](#)

The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle

Grade Level: K–2

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

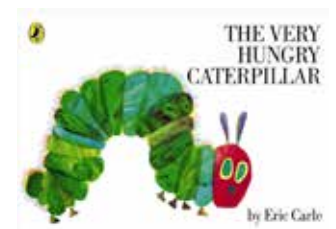
Hunger is a basic need everyone experiences.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students sequence pictures of foods from the story in order, then complete a simple class graph showing favorite healthy foods. Discuss why healthy food is important for growth.

Materials Needed:

Food cutouts, graph paper, glue sticks



[Youtube Link](#)

Maddi's Fridge – Lois Brandt

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Food insecurity can affect families quietly and kindness matters.

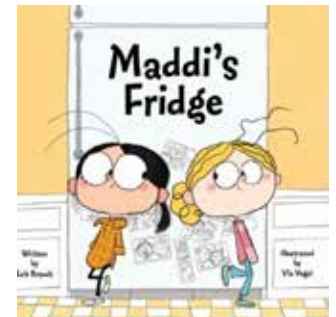
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students write or draw one way they could help a friend or neighbor in need. Create a class kindness booklet by combining all student pages together.

Materials Needed:

Drawing paper, crayons, pencils, stapler

Grade Level: 2-4



[Youtube Link](#)

What Does It Mean to Be Kind? – Rana DiOrio

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Kindness can help people feel cared for and supported.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students complete a Kindness Bingo card featuring simple acts such as giving a compliment, helping a classmate, sharing supplies, saying thank you, or inviting someone to play. As students complete acts of kindness, they mark their bingo squares. Celebrate completed rows or full cards and discuss how kindness can make a positive difference in someone's day.

Materials Needed:

Paper slips, markers, small container

Grade Level: K-5



[Youtube Link](#)

The Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza) – Philomen Sturges

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Communities work best when everyone helps.

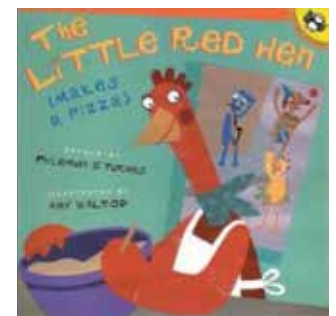
30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students create a paper pizza collage. Each pizza slice includes one way students can help their family, classroom, or community. Assemble slices into one large classroom pizza.

Materials Needed:

Construction paper, scissors, glue, markers

Grade Level: 1-3



[Youtube Link](#)

Stone Soup - Jon J Muth

Grade Level: 2-5

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Small contributions together can meet big needs.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students decorate vegetable cutouts with foods they would contribute to help feed a community. Combine all vegetables into a large "Stone Soup" class poster and discuss how teamwork helps others.

Materials Needed:

Poster board, vegetable templates, crayons, glue



[Youtube Link](#)

A Chair for My Mother – Vera B. Williams

Grade Level: 3-5

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

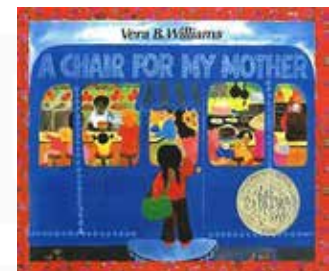
Communities can support families during difficult times.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students brainstorm ways classrooms can help families in need, then create a class goal chart for collecting pantry items or completing acts of service.

Materials Needed:

Chart paper, markers, stickers



[Youtube Link](#)

Saturday at the Food Pantry – Diane O'Neill

Grade Level: 2-4

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

Food pantries help families and strengthen communities.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students decorate paper grocery bags with positive messages and drawings that encourage kindness and hope. Discuss how these bags could brighten someone's day during a food drive.

Materials Needed:

Paper grocery bags, markers, crayons, stickers



[Youtube Link](#)

Don't Waste Your Food - Deborah Chancellor

Grade Level: 1-4

DRIVE Out Hunger Discussion Focus:

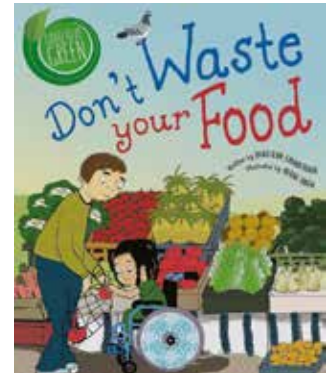
Reducing food waste helps families and the environment.

30-Minute Classroom Extension Activity:

Students complete a food waste-themed crossword puzzle using vocabulary related to saving food, recycling, composting, sharing, and reducing waste. After completing the crossword, students discuss simple ways families, schools, and communities can waste less food.

Materials Needed:

Printed food pictures, sorting mats, glue, chart paper



[Youtube Link](#)

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