

# Gratitude Parade

To help students practice gratitude, enhance their creativity, and engage in social sharing by creating a small parade float or display representing something they are thankful for and walking around sharing it with others. This activity encourages reflection, artistic expression, and communication.

## Learning Intentions

I can practice gratitude by identifying one thing I am thankful for and creating a visual representation of it:

This helps students focus on the positive aspects of their lives and express their gratitude in a creative way.

I can use my creativity to design and make a small parade float or display that represents something I am grateful for:

This encourages artistic expression and allows students to connect their feelings of gratitude with visual creativity.

I can practice social sharing by walking around and sharing my gratitude display with others:

This promotes communication, public speaking, and the joy of sharing positive emotions with peers.

## Success Criteria

I can choose one thing I am grateful for and create a parade float or display that represents it:

This ensures that students are actively reflecting on their gratitude and creatively expressing it.

I can use art supplies to design and decorate my float or display, adding details that show why I am grateful for the chosen thing:

This helps students develop their artistic skills and encourages thoughtful expression of gratitude.

I can walk around the classroom or school, sharing my gratitude and explaining what I created:

This promotes verbal expression and social interaction, allowing students to practice talking about their gratitude with others.



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## **Objective:**

To help students practice gratitude, enhance their creativity, and engage in social sharing by creating a small parade float or display representing something they are thankful for and walking around sharing it with others. This activity encourages reflection, artistic expression, and communication.

**Players:** Ideal for 4-20 students.

## **Materials:**

- Art supplies such as paper, markers, crayons, scissors, glue, cardboard, and any other craft materials to make the parade floats or displays.
- Optional: Small figurines, craft sticks, or other small items to help build the floats.

**Time Required:** 20-30 minutes for creation, with additional time for the parade.

## **Setup:**

• Ensure students have enough space to work comfortably with art supplies. Provide a variety of materials for them to use in creating their floats or displays. If desired, arrange a designated parade route around the classroom or school.

## **Gameplay:**

### **1. Introduce the Activity:**

Explain to students that they will be creating a parade float or display to represent something they are grateful for. Encourage them to think about things in their life that bring them joy, such as family, friends, pets, nature, or a special experience.

### **2. Create the Parade Floats or Displays:**

Provide students with the materials they need to create their floats or displays. They can use cardboard, paper, and any other available art supplies to design a float that represents their chosen thing. Students can draw, cut out shapes, and decorate their floats with details that reflect their gratitude.

### **3. Reflect on Gratitude:**

While creating, encourage students to think about why they are grateful for their chosen thing and how they can represent that visually. They can reflect on what makes them feel thankful and how it contributes to their happiness.

### **4. Gratitude Parade:**

Once the floats are complete, organize the students for the Gratitude Parade. Each student will walk around the classroom or school, sharing their float with the group and explaining why they are grateful for the item or experience they created the float around. Students can take turns speaking, giving them the opportunity to practice public speaking and express their gratitude.



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## 5. Celebrate the Parade:

As the students walk around, encourage the group to listen attentively and celebrate each float and the gratitude shared. You can also encourage students to ask questions or give positive feedback to their peers about their displays, reinforcing a supportive and positive environment.

## Winning the Game:

There is no winner in this activity. The goal is for students to reflect on what they are grateful for, use creativity to express their gratitude, and share their positive emotions with others. Success is measured by participation, creativity, and confidence in sharing.

## Family or Classroom Variation:

In a family or classroom setting, you can extend the Gratitude Parade by inviting family members or other classes to attend and view the parade. This could also be done during a special event or celebration, where students share their floats with a larger audience.

Alternatively, the students could collaborate on creating one large gratitude float or display together as a class.

## Additional Notes:

"Gratitude Parade" is a fun and interactive way to encourage students to reflect on their gratitude while enhancing creativity and communication skills. It provides a platform for students to share positive emotions and celebrate the things they appreciate, helping to create a more supportive and thankful classroom environment.

