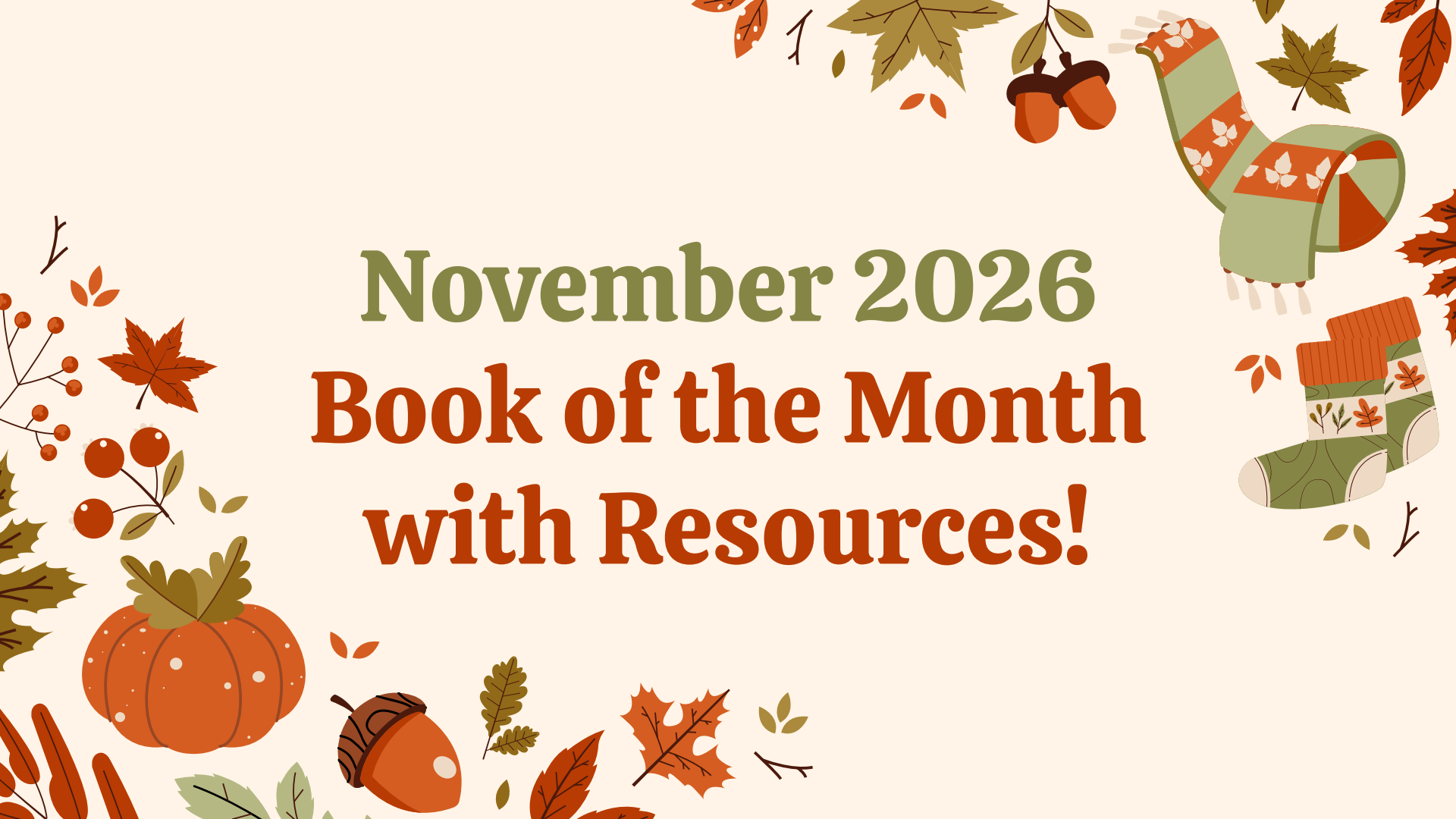
November 2026

Book of the Month with Resources!





Quote of the Month



"The happiest people are those who do the most for others."

-Booker T. Washington





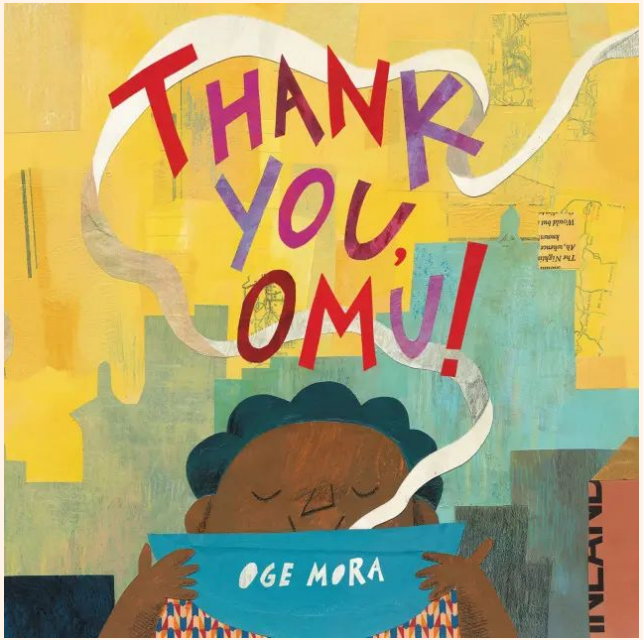
Book of the Month



Thank You, Omu!

By Oge Mora

Summary



In preparation for Thanksgiving, “Thank You, Omu!” centers kindness, generosity, empathy, and gratitude. This heartwarming story reminds us all of the importance of sharing, and celebrates the bonds which unite and strengthen our communities.

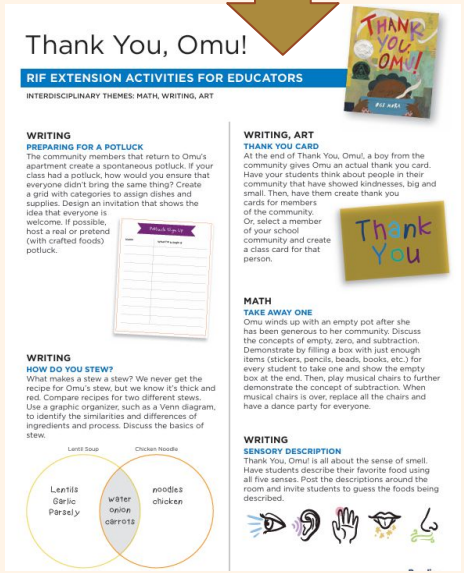
Omu is preparing a delicious stew for dinner when other people in her neighborhood can’t help but smell her fantastic feast- everyone from her neighbors, to police officers, to shop owners and other visitors want a taste! Omu is happy to give some stew to everyone who asks, until it is time for her own dinner, and she realizes that no stew is left. Thankfully, the community comes together to return Omu’s kindness and share, celebrate, and give thanks, creating the best dinner Omu has ever had!

Read-Aloud Video



Click for Related Book Activities!

Extension Activities


Thank You, Omu!

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMES: MATH, WRITING, ART

WRITING
PREPARING FOR A POTLUCK
The community members that return to Omu's apartment create a spontaneous potluck. If your class had a potluck, how would you ensure that everyone didn't bring the same thing? Create a grid with categories to assign dishes and supplies. Design an invitation that shows the idea that everyone is welcome. If possible, host a real or pretend (with crafted foods) potluck.

WRITING, ART
THANK YOU CARD
At the end of Thank You, Omu!, a boy from the community gives Omu an actual thank you card. Have your students think about people in their community that have showed kindnesses, big and small. Then, have them create thank you cards for members of the community. Or, select a member of your school community and create a class card for that person.

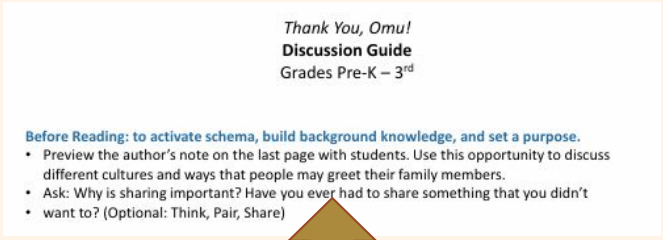
MATH
TAKE AWAY ONE
Omu winds up with an empty pot after she has been generous to her community. Discuss the concepts of empty, zero, and subtraction. Demonstrate by filling a box with just enough items (stickers, pencils, beads, books, etc.) for every student to take one and show the empty box at the end. Then, play musical chairs to further demonstrate the concept of subtraction. When musical chairs is over, replace all the chairs and have a dance party for everyone.

WRITING
HOW DO YOU STEW?
What makes a stew a stew? We never get the recipe for Omu's stew, but we know it's thick and red. Compare recipes for two different stews. Use a graphic organizer, such as a Venn diagram, to identify the similarities and differences of ingredients and process. Discuss the basics of stew.

Lentil Soup: Lentils, Garlic, Parsley
Chicken Noodle: noodles, chicken
Both: water, onion, carrots

WRITING
SENSORY DESCRIPTION
Thank You, Omu! is all about the sense of smell. Have students describe their favorite food using all five senses. Post the descriptions around the room and invite students to guess the foods being described.

Discussion Guide


Thank You, Omu!
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.
- Preview the author's note on the last page with students. Use this opportunity to discuss different cultures and ways that people may greet their family members.
- Ask: Why is sharing important? Have you ever had to share something that you didn't want to? (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)


PK-5

- Literacy Connection
- Creative Enrichment Activity



Pot of Gratitude Activity



SEL Worksheets

Theme of the Month



Caring

Caring is all about showing kindness or love to other people, and to the world around you. We are caring when we help others, and treat things nicely and with respect.



Theme of the Month Activities

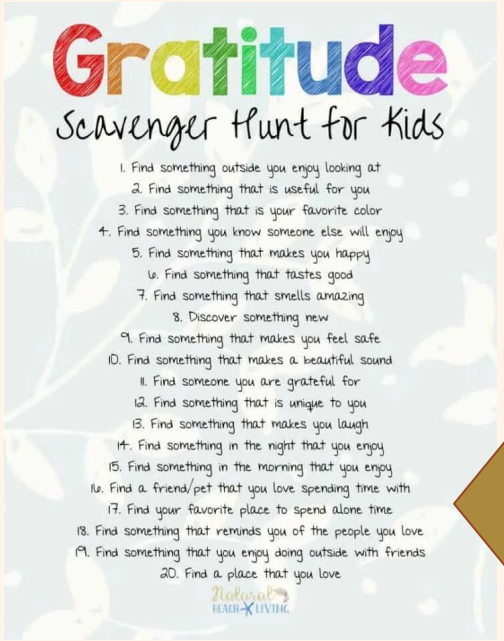








Practice Gratitude for Thanksgiving!



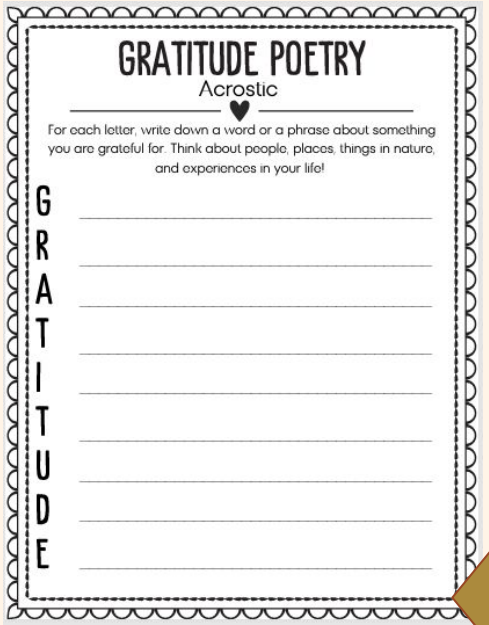


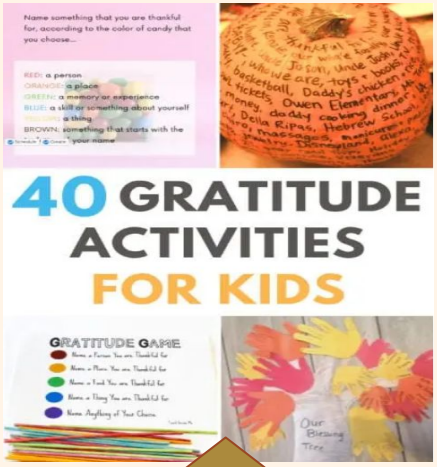
Challenge yourself to complete the Gratitude Scavenger Hunt this month!

Gratitude Jar Activity

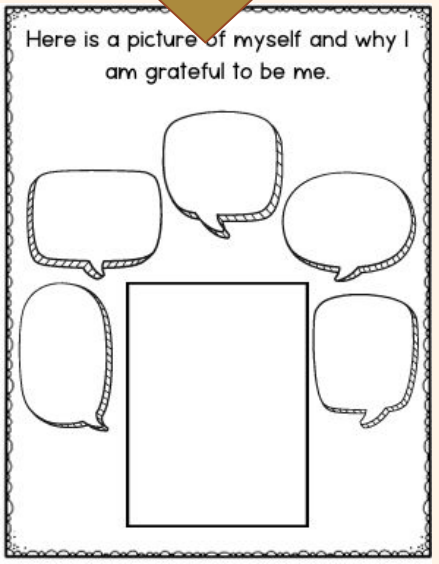


Practice Gratitude before Thanksgiving!



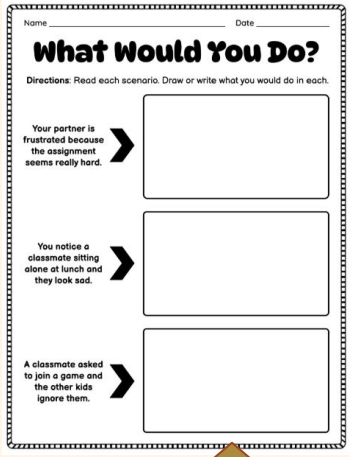


Gratitude Writing Prompts



More Gratitude Activities

Habit of Mind: Listening with Understanding and Empathy


Name _____ Date _____

What Would You Do?

Directions: Read each scenario. Draw or write what you would do in each.

Your partner is frustrated because the assignment seems really hard. ❯

You notice a classmate sitting alone at lunch and they look sad. ❯

A classmate asked to join a game and the other kids ignore them. ❯

Empathy Worksheets

In “Thank You, Omu!”, Omu listened patiently to everyone’s requests for stew, and showed empathy to their hunger by sharing her food. This month, try to show kindness and understanding, by listening to and helping other people!



Listening with Understanding and Empathy

Practical Ways to Build this Habit in the Classroom

Executive Functioning Focus:
Flexible Thinking

Flexible thinking is the ability to think about things in a new or different way. It helps us deal with uncertainty, solve problems, adjust to changes, and incorporate new information into our plans and ideas. This month, try to look at problems a new way and change your thinking too!







Limited print copies of “Thank You, Omu!” are available for checkout in the school library (Room 212). Please visit or reach out to Ms. Keiser at dkeiser@schools.nyc.gov if you would like to borrow a copy.

