



Iowa National Guard Youth and Teen Program
Family Programs Office
JFHQ A-1 RM 186
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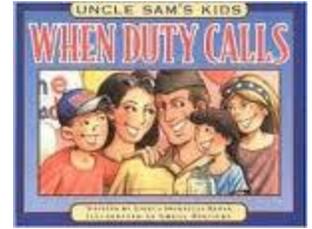


Book: When Duty Calls

Author: Angela Sportelli-Rehak

Ages: 3-10

Lesson:



1. Begin by showing the students the cover of the book. Then read the title of the book to the children. Have the students infer what the book might be about based on the cover and title.
2. How many of you have duties or responsibilities at home? What are some of those duties?
3. How do you feel when you have to do your duties? Why? Do you ever feel proud after you accomplish your duties? Why?
4. Begin reading the story, pausing throughout to ask the following questions:
 - a. Does anyone know who Uncle Sam is?
 - b. How many of you know someone in the military?
 - c. Have they ever had to go away?
 - d. How do you think Nick felt when he found out his dad was going to be gone for 6 months? Why do you think he felt that way?
 - e. What does it mean to 'stand united'? Why do you think we call it the United States of America?
 - f. Nick was excited to share his good news with his family; who are people you share your good news with?
 - g. In the story Nick and his family send a package to their dad filled with his favorite things...why do you think they did that? How do you think their dad felt when he got the package?
 - h. How do you think Nick and his family felt the day their dad came back home?
5. After reading the story, ask the students to draw conclusions as to what the message was. How would they feel if their loved one had to be gone for a very long time?

Activities:

1. Have the class gather together items to assemble a care package for a military family in their community or to send overseas to a deployed unit.
2. Take time to talk about heroes in the community. Write thank you cards to those individuals.
3. In the book, many symbols of patriotism are mentioned, have students color pictures or draw pictures of these symbols to hang in the classroom or share with others (i.e. Uncle Sam, Liberty Bell, American Flag, etc.)
4. Older students might enjoy creating a deployment pack for a student/students in their school, filled with coloring books, activity books, games, etc. to do while their loved one is deployed.

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