

**Lesson:** Word Gifts

**Grade:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Theme:** Empathy; power of kind words

**Materials:** handout, scissors, markers, pencils, slips of paper for drawing

**Intro:** While students are getting settled, ask them to write their name on a slip of paper and collect them for the drawing later in the lesson. Write "Kind words are gifts we give each other" on the board. Ask students what they think that statement means.

**Lesson:** Ask students to tell you words or phrases that would put a smile on someone's face. Create a long list on the board.

Give each student a Kind Words Are Gift hand out. Explain that we are going to give the gift of kind words. We have 6 gifts—one will be to the name you draw, one to a grown up, and the others can be to anyone—friends, teachers, parents, grandparents.

In order to give someone a gift, you first have to think about what makes them happy... it might be easy for a close friend, but you might have to give it some thought if you're giving a word gift to a teacher. Talk through examples.

**Activity:** Have students draw names of classmate to give a word gift. They should complete this first. Then have them work on the other 5 word gifts.

**Closing:** With 5 minutes remaining, have student clean up and give their word gift to their classmate (decide the best way to distribute other word gifts and give instructions on how that should be done).

Idea for giving out classmate word gifts: turn off the lights, count to 20, while counting students are to put the word gift on their classmate's desk and return to their own desk.

Discuss: Did anyone get a word gift that brought a smile to their face?

On a difficulty scale, how hard was it to think of a word gift?

Imagine the amount of power you have in changing a person's day, just by saying the right words!

