

KENNEDY

Lesson Plan: Maria Shriver & Advocacy

Objective: Students will be able to define advocacy.
Students will recognize the effectiveness of literature as a means of advocacy.
Students will be able to analyze the effectiveness of Children's books.

Materials: Museum of Disability History Children's Book Bibliography
"What's Wrong with Timmy?" by Maria Shriver
"What's Wrong with Timmy?" Worksheet
Children's Book Analysis Worksheet
Schneider Family Book Awards Bibliography
Schneider Awards Worksheet
Website pages

Vocabulary: advocate

New York State Learning Standards:

ELA Standard 3: Language for Critical Analysis and Evaluation
ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction
SS Standard 1: The History of the United States and New York
The Arts Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

Procedure:

1. The teacher should view the Kennedy section of the Advocacy wing of the website to gain background information.
2. Selections from the website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.
3. Discuss some of the initiatives of the Kennedy family as advocates for people with disabilities.
4. Discuss Maria Shriver and her use of literature as a means of advocating for people with disabilities. Read the book, "What's Wrong with Timmy?" and ask them to complete the corresponding worksheet and critique the book's effectiveness.
5. Ask students to talk about how this book affects society's view of people with disabilities.
6. Read and discuss the Schneider Family Book Awards Bibliography.
7. Pair students and have them complete the Schneider Awards Worksheet. For each book, students should determine what disability is being addressed and record their specific thoughts on the Schneider Award Worksheet.
8. Compare and discuss findings. Ask the students how literature can be used as a means of advocating for people with disabilities.
9. As an extension of this lesson you may want to have students find and review a picture book about people with disabilities and complete the Children's Book Analysis Worksheet. Ask students to share their books with the class. Possible books to use can be found in the Museum of disABILITY History Children's Book Bibliography.

Closure/Ticket out the door: Besides literature, what are some other ways people can advocate for people with disabilities?

For historical accuracy and to illustrate changing views of society, words and language used in different eras are part of the website and lessons. No offense is intended toward people with disabilities, their families or advocates.





Name _____

“What’s Wrong with Timmy?” Worksheet

Title: _____

Author: _____

Disability addressed: _____

Main Characters: _____

How did Kate react when she first saw Timmy?

What fears about Timmy did Kate tell her mom she had?

How did Kate’s mom help her understand?

Kate’s mom said “when each of us looks at someone like Timmy, we should see what he can do not at what he can’t do.” And “you are more alike than different.”

Explain what she means by these comments.

What message do you think the author, Maria Shriver, wants you to take away from this book?

Name _____



SCHNEIDER AWARDS WORKSHEET

Read the summaries provided in the Schneider Family Awards bibliography for each of the books listed below. For each book write the disability being addressed and describe the effectiveness of the book in advocating for that disability.

2007

The Deaf Musicians (What disability is being addressed? What is the effectiveness of this book for advocating for the disability addressed?)

Rules

Small Steps

2006

Dad, Jackie and Me

Tending to Grace

Under the Wolf, Under the Dog

2005

My Pal Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor

Becoming Naomi Leon

LP: Maria Shriver & Advocacy

My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir

2004
Look Out For Sara

A Mango Shaped Space

Things Not Seen

Name _____



CHILDREN'S BOOK ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Illustrator: _____

Disability addressed: _____

Summary:

How does this book influence the reader's thinking about the disability?
