

Books To Treasure 2026 - Oge Mora

Lesson starter title:

- Community Consideration
 - “Thank You, Omu!” vs “The Red Hen” (or the story of the Little Red Hen)

Books the lesson starter uses:

- “Thank You, Omu!” by Oge Mora
- “The Red Hen” by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley*
 - *Any other Little Red Hen retelling will work if you have a preferred version. Other book options you could use: “The Little Red Hen” by Jerry Pinkney or “The Little Red Fort” by Brenda Maier. There are two different versions of the worksheet that you can use if you do not choose to use “The Red Hen” by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley

Description:

- Learning Objective: Students will compare/contrast two stories while exploring how generosity, responsibility, and fairness contribute to a healthy community.
 - “Thank You, Omu!” and “The Red Hen” both explore how community is built when people share, help, and show appreciation for one another.
 - In “Thank You, Omu!” Omu's generosity inspires her neighbors to give back, demonstrating how kindness can strengthen a community. In “The Red Hen,” the characters learn that a community cannot benefit from one person's work if others refuse to contribute.
 - Together, the stories encourage readers to consider what makes a community both caring and fair.

What to work on:

Community

- Read both books either back-to-back or, over a course of a couple of days. Review the stories before starting the worksheet(s).
- Ask students:
 - What makes a good community?
 - What responsibilities do we have for one another as a community or classroom?
 - Should everyone share a reward, even if they did not help earn it?
- Some talking points could be:
 - Communities need people who share what they have.

- o Communities need people who contribute time and effort.
- o Strong communities need both generosity and responsibility.

Compare and Contrast

- Start with a general lesson on compare & contrast. You can start with small examples like comparing an apple and an orange or fruits and vegetables in general. Give a general overview of how to compare stories.
- Discuss what kind of similarities and differences these stories have
 - o You might start by asking if these two stories are “opposites” or if they are the “same” story, told in different ways.
 - o There are many surface differences
 - Animals in one story, people in the other
 - Members of the community ask for favours in “Thank You, Omu!” while in “The Red Hen” the members of the community are refusing to help when favours are asked of them.
 - Making food / taking food *or* making food / food is already made
 - o What are the similarities between these two stories? Some possible answers are:
 - Reward (or lack of reward) for behavior
 - Food being shared (or not shared)
 - Our choices affect other people

Use This:

Two "Compare & Contrast" worksheets; One "Community Consideration" multiple choice worksheet

COMPARE & CONTRAST



Directions: Think about the two stories above. What do these stories have in common? What are the differences between them? Write some similarities and differences in the boxes below.

SIMILARITIES

What are some things that these stories have in common?

DIFFERENCES

What are some things that make these stories different?

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Directions: Think about the book "Thank You, Omu!" by Oge Mora and the story of the Little Red Hen. What do these stories have in common? What are the differences between them? Write some similarities and differences in the boxes below.

SIMILARITIES

What are some things that these stories have in common?

DIFFERENCES

What are some things that make these stories different?

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?

- ☐ A group of people who help and care for one another
- ☐ A type of food
- ☐ A place where nobody works together

WHICH LESSON IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR A STRONG COMMUNITY?

- ☐ Sharing what you have
- ☐ Helping with the work
- ☐ Both are equally important

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COMMUNITY? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Sharing
- ☐ Helping
- ☐ Kindness
- ☐ Responsibility
- ☐ Gratitude
- ☐ Listening to others

HOW DO YOU HELP YOUR COMMUNITY? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ I share with others
- ☐ I help with chores or work
- ☐ I am kind to others
- ☐ I say thank you
- ☐ I help solve problems
- ☐ I listen to others