
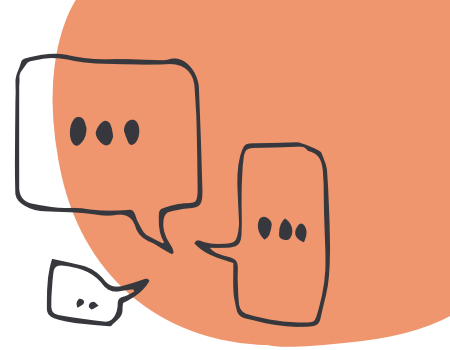


# UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORMS



## My Special Things (Social Studies, Visual Arts, Social Emotional Learning)

A picture is worth a thousand words, but an object can say so much more! Ask students to bring a treasured object into the classroom to share a part of their everyday lives with the class. Kick things off by exhibiting a favorite object from your own personal life and share what makes it special to you. Then, one by one, ask students to go in front of the class in a show and tell. Some questions to ask during the show and tell are: *How did you acquire this object?* *How long have you had it?* and *What emotions does it make you feel?* Let students know that they can also draw an important object or moment if they can't physically bring something into school. Afterward, choose a corner of your classroom and create a class "museum" where each object or drawing is placed. Ask students to create a label for their "museum artifact" that includes their name and what makes their object special. Reflect on all of the different types of objects and stories that you heard with the question: *What makes something special to YOU?*



## Friendship in Action (Theater, Social Emotional Learning)

What does it mean to be a friend? Challenge your class to find out through movement and tableaux. To begin, spark a discussion about what friendship means and how you can foster it. Ask students: *How do you know if someone is a friend?* and *What things do you like to do with your friends?* As students list what friendship looks like, keep track of their responses on a large piece of chart paper. Now, it's time to put things on their feet! Ask students to create frozen pictures with items from the list, like "helping a friend out," "making someone laugh" or "being there when someone is sad." For each tableau, ask students outside of the picture to describe what they see and what feelings it evokes. You can even set these frozen pictures to music that you source from the students to enhance the emotions of the scene. To culminate, have each student choose a gesture or phrase that came up during the activity and share it with a friend after class to let them know that friendship is golden.



## Memory Keepers (Visual Arts, English Language Arts, Social Emotional Learning)

Don't let the good memories fade! Discuss with your students why memories are important and how you can hold onto them as you get older. Then, challenge students to create a simple "memory keeper" where they can store all the memories they'll make this year. This memory keeper may be an envelope, shoebox or a folded sheet of paper, but ask students to decorate the outside with their name and bountiful doodles to add some personal flair. Next, students will load their memory keeper by depositing a drawn or written memory of something special that has happened. As special moments occur in your students' lives, ask them to draw or journal about them and add these artworks to their collection. Towards the end of the year, prompt your class to look back through their year and find all their heartfelt memories. If they feel comfortable, ask each student to share one memory they put in their keeper, so it can live on with the rest of the class!