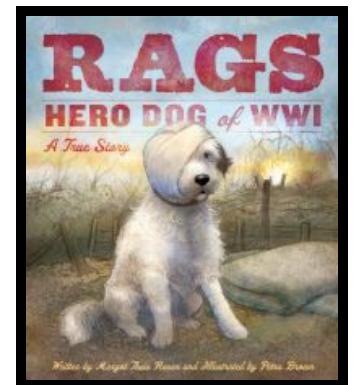
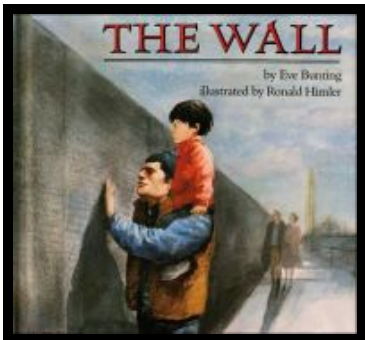
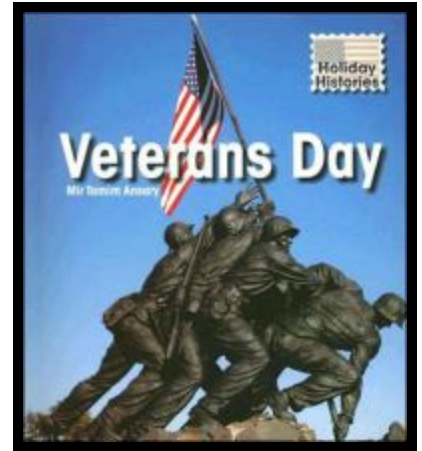
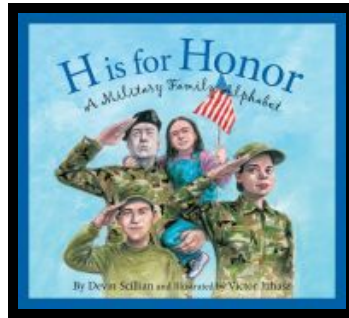
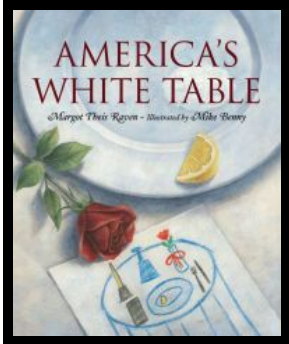
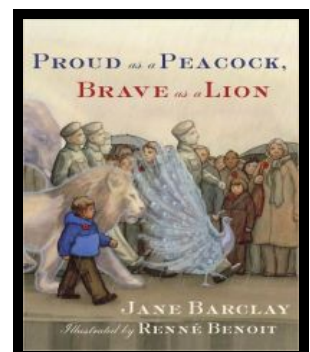


Since becoming a national holiday in 1938, our country has been celebrating and honoring United States veterans each year on November 11. As this day of observance rolls around, your students may wonder why they have no school, or why their parents have the day off from work. These picture books are a great opportunity to share the history of this holiday and why we observe Veterans Day today.



Materials:

- Multiple books on Veterans Day
- Writing Paper/Construction paper for cards and letters
- Chart Paper



This month, enjoy these books in your classroom as you celebrate and teach the history behind Veterans Day. Then, students will use this knowledge to create descriptive language and details about veterans, to use in a letter written to honor today's veterans.

Included is a link to a service-learning project, where you can mail student letters and cards to be included in the care packages that are sent out to veterans across America and troops overseas.

Operation Gratitude:

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks-group/write-letters/>

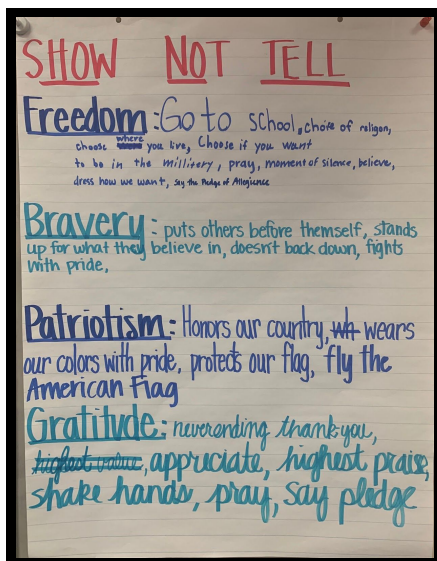
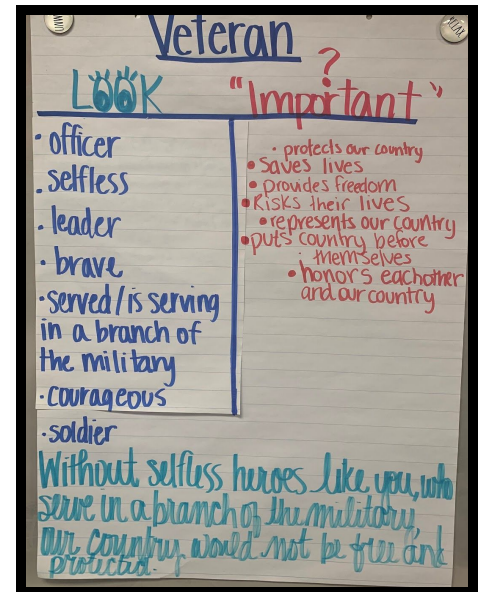
The Lesson:

Empowering Writers' skills can be used to enhance any form of writing that your students do. These resources are to be used as a tool to build vocabulary, description, and variety in the sentences that students create for their writing pieces.

- First, students will create a word referent chart for "Veteran." These newly created referents will then be used in place of the topic "Veteran" each time it is mentioned in their letter.

Word Referent: Veteran	
Adjective	Noun
selfless considerate courageous affectionate noble hardworking persistent patriotic reliable kindhearted loyal spirited gracious	soldier serviceman/woman fighter trooper warrior survivor survivor cavalryman man-at-arms officer private protector hero
FAVORITES	
1. courageous fighter	4. noble hero
2. hardworking soldier	5. loyal protector
3. selfless serviceman	6. patriotic warrior

- Next, using the detail generating questions, “What does it look like” and “Why is it important” help students create well-elaborated details of what a veteran’s service means to Americans all around the country.



- Finally, to showcase the key concepts associated with Veterans Day, students brainstorm what these vocabulary words mean to them. Instead of just stating that we are free because of their commitment, what does it mean to them, as a student, to be free?

- Combine these resources with the sentence starters to create an uplifting letter to a veteran with your class. Then, students can borrow from your sample, and modeled charts to create their own letter. Give to a veteran near you, or send them in the mail as part of the service project.

