



## **Kids Without Homes: A School District Responds**

### **Homeless Awareness Lessons For School Kids**

**Grades K – 2:** *Prince's Unwelcome Disguise –  
The Trials of a Pup Without a Home*

**Grades 3 – 5:** *No Place Like Homelessness*

**Grades 6 – 8:** *Running Away – Not an Option to Die For*

**Grades 9 – 12:** *Homelessness – A Bottom Line Issue*



## Acknowledgments

*This project is dedicated to the thousands of children, youth, and families in the United States who experience homelessness each year.*

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Additional acknowledgments, specific to each lesson, are included in the individual lesson plans.

## Homeless Awareness Lessons for School Kids

### Overview

The activities in the four *Kids Without Homes* lessons for school kids are intended to raise awareness about homeless issues. In addition to providing factual information, the lessons seek to arouse students' compassion and empathy for classmates and others in their community who are experiencing poverty and/or homelessness.

The lessons are designed for classroom delivery primarily by teachers. Each lesson plan incorporates **Social Studies** TEKS Objectives and can be used in a variety of classes.

Homeless education liaisons, social workers, and school counselors are among other school staff who may also deliver the lessons, using the *Lesson Plan Overview*, *Teacher Notes*, and *Handout Masters* that comprise the **Teacher Package** for each lesson.

Pages 3-4 explain exactly how to prepare the **Teacher Packages**, which you will give to the schools and/or teachers in your district.

The four lessons are as follows:

<b>Grades</b>	<b>Lesson Title</b>	<b>Teacher Package Components</b>	<b>Classroom Time</b>
<b>K – 2</b>	<b><i>Prince's Unwelcome Disguise – The Trials of a Pup Without a Home</i></b>	One six-segment activity	2 hours
<b>3 – 5</b>	<b><i>No Place Like Homelessness</i></b>	Five activities including one homework assignment	4 hours
<b>6 – 8</b>	<b><i>Running Away – Not an Option to Die For</i></b>	Eight activities including three homework assignments	5 hours
<b>9 – 12</b>	<b><i>Homelessness – A Bottom Line Issue</i></b>	Eight activities including four homework assignments	5 hours

The *Lesson Plan Overview* for each lesson is adapted from examples on The University of Texas' **Utopia for Teachers** at <http://utopia.utexas.edu/educators/index.html>

The ***Teacher Notes*** for each lesson include:

- Activity times for reading and writing tasks and classroom discussion
- Activity objectives
- A list of activity handouts
- An activity synopsis
- Guidelines for lesson delivery and class discussions
- Answer keys
- Name of next activity

The ***Handout Masters*** for each lesson include all materials that will be copied and given to students.

## Preparing Teacher Packages

### Supplies

To prepare a teacher package, you'll need:

- Your CD (open to the **Teacher Packages** subdirectory within the **Lessons for Kids** directory)
- three-hole punch paper for the *Lesson Plan Overview* and *Teacher Notes*
- a three-ring binder with a clear vinyl cover pocket under which you can slip the cover page for the whole package
- a 9" X 12" envelope or file pocket for the teacher's *Handout Masters*
- A glue stick

### Preparing a Teacher Package

- **The Lesson Plan Overview and Teacher Notes**
  1. Open the subdirectory for the lesson materials you are going to prepare.
  2. Open the *Lsn\_Plan\_&\_Teacher\_Notes* file and print **your** masters on plain white paper.
  3. Run **single-sided** copies for the teacher on **three-hole punch paper**.
  4. Put the teacher's copies in a three-ring binder.
- **The Handout Masters**
  1. Open the *Handout\_Masters* file and print **your** masters.
  2. Open the *Handout\_Master\_Fact\_Sheet* file and print your masters.  
**Note:** Lesson for Grades K-2 does not have a Fact Sheet.
  3. Place the **Fact Sheets** masters right before the **Certificates of Appreciation**, which are the last page of the handouts file.
  4. Run **single-sided** copies on **plain white paper**.
  5. Open the **Handout\_Masters\_Env\_Cover** file and print the cover page for the envelope or file pocket, etc. Use the glue stick to affix the page to a 9" x 12" envelope or a file pocket.
  6. Insert the handout masters in the envelope.
  7. Place the envelope in the binder's back pocket.

- **The Binder Cover**

1. Open the **Teacher\_Binder\_Cover** file for the selected lesson and print it, preferably on heavy white card stock.
2. Slip the cover page under the clear vinyl pocket on the binder cover.

- **Cover Letter – Optional but Highly Recommended**

The binder's front inside pocket is an ideal place for a cover letter and any other materials you may wish to include to familiarize the school district/teacher with your program services.

- **The Final Touch**

To make it easy for the teacher to contact you, clip a business card to the binder's inside pocket.