

The Elf on the Shelf®

TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

Lesson Plan – Second Grade

Introduction:

Keep The Elf on the Shelf® tradition alive in your classroom by celebrating class birthdays all year round. By using *The Elf on the Shelf®: A Birthday Tradition* book and the scout elf in conjunction with this language arts lesson, you will provide an engaging and instructional way to celebrate students' birthdays while reinforcing their writing skills. In this lesson students will be introduced to the five parts of a friendly letter and write friendly letters to the scout elf.

Objective:

Students will recognize parts of a friendly letter and write a letter inviting the elf to visit their classroom for upcoming birthday celebrations.

Common Core Standard (Language Arts):

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.2 Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.5 With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

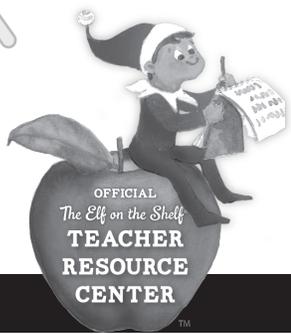
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Materials:

Scout elf (wearing cupcake suit and hat), *The Elf on the Shelf®: A Birthday Tradition* book, activity sheets 1, 2 and 3, pencil, crayons

Getting Started:

- If beginning this lesson mid-school year, start by celebrating birthdays that have already occurred. Continue celebrating individual birthdays throughout the remainder of the school year by having the classroom elf come back to visit. For summer birthdays, you may want to have an end-of-year celebration.
- You are encouraged to decorate each child's desk/chair for their birthday and have a class celebration incorporating the scout elf.
 - Here are a few chair decorating ideas to get you started:
 - Use construction paper and craft supplies to make a special sign for the birthday boy or girl. Use yarn or string to attach the sign to the chair.
 - Using string, attach a paper bag with the child's name on it to the back of his or her seat. Have the other students write a quick note to their classmate wishing him or her a happy birthday.
 - Use tape or string to attach candies, pictures or gifts to the chair. For example, if the birthday boy is a big dinosaur enthusiast, you could attach plastic dinosaurs or dinosaur stickers mounted on paper to the chair.
 - Attach balloons to the chair with string.
 - Visit <http://www.elfontheshelf.com/blog/six-super-ways-build-birthday-chair> for more chair decorating ideas.



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Lesson Procedure:

- Ask students to recall memories with The Elf on the Shelf® and share special stories of the scout elf visiting them during the holidays. If students have not experienced the scout elf, ask students: Have you ever had a special visitor during the holidays or for your birthday? What if an elf came to your birthday party?
- Read *The Elf on the Shelf®: A Birthday Tradition* book to students and then prompt them to imagine what it would be like if the elf came to celebrate their birthday.
 - Ask students: *What would you like to share with the elf about your birthday? How might you invite your friends to your birthday party? Based on the story, how would you invite the elf to your birthday party? Have you ever received a letter? If so, who wrote you a letter? What did the letter say? Have you ever written a letter to someone? Whom did you send it to? What did it say?* Encourage students to share their experiences with sending or receiving a letter.
- Tell students that they will write a friendly letter to the classroom elf. Define a friendly letter as a letter written to people who are your family, friends, babysitter, teacher or anyone with whom you have a relationship.
- Using **Activity Sheet 1**, introduce parts of a friendly letter.
 - Heading – head; Greeting – mouth; Body – body; Closing – leg; Signature – foot
- Ask students to match the parts of a friendly letter to the appropriate body parts. Review parts of a friendly letter using the picture of the elf on **Activity Sheet 1** to reinforce that each has a place in the letter. Please remember not to touch the actual scout elf in front of children (The book *The Elf on the Shelf®: A Christmas Tradition* explains that touching a scout elf will make it lose its Christmas magic).
- Lead students through writing prompts for generating ideas for a friendly letter: *Whom are you writing to? When is your birthday? Why would you like the elf to visit for your birthday? What makes you special? What do you like best about school? How have you changed since your last birthday? Where should the scout elf visit you on your birthday? What is your birthday wish?*
- Using **Activity Sheet 2**, have students write a friendly letter inviting the elf to their classroom for upcoming birthday celebrations. Refer students to the prompts they answered on Activity Sheet 1 for completing the letter.
- Ask students to use the checklist at the bottom of **Activity Sheet 2** below to proof their work.
- Encourage students to draw their birthday wish on **Activity Sheet 3**.

Follow-up/Extension Activities:

- Expand upon the checklist provided as students continue to write letters. Add items such as: *Did you use the correct punctuation and capitalization? Did you use correct spelling? Did you provide 8-10 complete sentences based on the topic? Did you write neatly and legibly?*
- Give each student an envelope for mailing his or her letter. Show students how to address an envelope, place stamp, and mail letter.
- Establish the scout elf as a pen pal to practice letter writing throughout the year. Encourage students to find pen pals in neighboring classrooms and write letters to one another throughout the year.
- For upcoming student birthdays, review parts of a friendly letter and practice letter writing to remind the classroom elf to visit for each student's birthday.
- After each elf visit, encourage students to write thank-you letters or poems about their birthday celebration. Have students retell their birthday experience by creating a digital book or scrapbook using photos.



Birthday Surprise

I want to join in the birthday hullabaloo! Write a friendly letter inviting me to your birthday celebration! First, let me help you identify the parts of a friendly letter. Then I'll dress in my birthday costume and hide in a special place to wish you a happy and magical birthday!

Closing

Body

Greeting

Signature

Heading



Whom are you writing to? _____

When is your birthday? _____

Why would you like the elf to visit for your birthday? _____

What makes you special? _____

What do you like best about school? _____

How have you changed since your last birthday? _____

Where should the scout elf visit you on your birthday? _____

What is your birthday wish? _____



Hip Hip Hooray! A Special Birthday Message

Draw your birthday wish.

