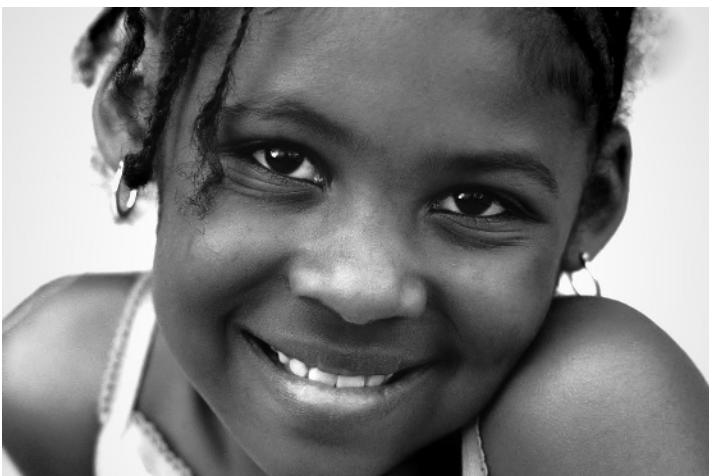


Your Natural Learner



Third Grade Curriculum
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INTRODUCTION

Your Natural Learner Third Grade - Courage Theme

In this theme, your child will explore what it means to have courage and be brave, even in the face of adversity or fear.

5 Tenets of Courage

1. Be Brave
2. Do What's Right
3. Have Pride
4. Be Yourself
5. Stand Up for What is Right

Focus Words

universal, gravity, solar system, matter, energy, elements, homophone

Subject Area Guide

Look for these symbols on each activity page to let you know which subject areas your child will be learning about while doing the activity!



= Literacy



= Social
Connections



= Math



= Art and
Expression



= Science

What Is Courage? Intro Lesson

The purpose of fear is to protect us from danger.

Intention

This theme will allow your child to discover universal laws and dive into learning about space and time through a remarkably fun story about a fictional part of the universe that controls all of the planetary systems. Your child will explore the solar system, matter and energy, cause and effect, and much more through this Sci-Fi Theme.

Note to Parents

Science Fiction is such a fun way to begin introducing real science concepts to your budding reader and scientist! The books and activities in this theme will help your child grasp a foundational understanding of scientific concepts, while also allowing space for their imagination to take flight. This is, after all, how new discoveries are made in our world - imaginative and creative scientists and inventors! Embrace this blend of reality and imagination in this theme.

Opening Question

Ask your child this question before you begin reading or exploring through this theme:

"What if Earth suddenly disappeared, as if it never existed?"

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

This information will help you get a clearer, overall picture of the learning concepts that will be covered in this Courage theme. This is especially helpful if you have to track specific concepts for assessment and progress with your state regulations. Please note that the concepts listed here are academic-focused, and are NOT the most important things that you should focus on as your child learns and grows throughout this year of exploration. Character development, empathy skills, connections with others, communication skills, etc. are priorities in natural, lifelong learning!

Overall, in this theme, your child will learn about bravery and courage - what it looks like, feels like, and means to have this character trait. They will discover the importance of trying new things, meeting new people from different walks of life, adventuring to new places, and trying hard things even if it takes several times to master it. Your child will explore resiliency through their own work, through journal practice, and through exploration of brave characters, real and imagined.

Specifically, you will find the following skills presented and covered in this theme:

Subject Area	Skills Covered in This Theme
Mathematics	fractions, number lines, working with common denominators, comparing fractions with numerators of one, unit fractions
Science	weather hazards, dangerous weather, preparedness, pendulums, STEM challenges, physics, weight distribution
Art/Creativity	using art to foster emotional strength, processing emotions through art/music, creative ways to explore literacy/math
Literacy	journaling, character motivation, character development, parts of speech: NOUNS, writing personal narratives
Social Studies	character study, non-fiction, experiencing fear and courage
Other	problem solving, cultural studies, communication skills

RECOMMENDED READING

This is a list of additional suggested books for this theme. They are not necessary for the activities, and anything you can find similar to this list will be a great supplement/addition should you have trouble finding these texts. These are simply ideas to help support your “Courage” learning journey! Pick them up at your local library, bookstore, or order through an online retailer like Amazon.com (the texts listed below are all clickable links to the Amazon store). In this list you will find a variety of levels of text, allowing for a balance of read-alouds, read togethers, and independent readers. All are important for a meaningful literacy experience.

The Bravest of Us All by Marsha Diane Arnold

The Dandelion Seed by Joseph P. Anthony

Thundercake by Patricia Polacco

Nasreen's Secret School by Jeanette Winter

My Diary From Here to There by Amada Irma Perez

The Wishing Club by Donna Jo Napoli

Fractions in Disguise by Edward Einhorn

The Lion's Share by Matthew McElligott

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Emmanuel's Dream by Laurie Ann Thompson

The Boy and the Whale by Mordicai Gerstein

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun by Maria Dismondy

Merry-Go-Round by Ruth Heller

An Ambush of Tigers by Betsy R Rosenthal

MATH EXPLORATIONS

Microbravery - Fractions Number Line



Key Learning: Number lines are one of the most helpful tools for giving a child a visual understanding of the order and value of fractions. Understanding numbers that make up less than 1 can be tricky! In this activity, your child will explore a variety of small courageous acts that happen every day and use them to "count up" to bigger acts of courage using a number line and fractions.

Need: blank paper (larger is better to give your child space to write/draw), markers/crayons/colored pencils

Directions: *Note: At this level, your child only needs to be able to compare fractions with a common denominator (i.e. $1/5$ to $2/5$ to $3/5$, etc). Your child will use the numerators to order the fractions. It is important that your child understands the difference between the numerator and denominator when they work on this activity. Refresh their understanding with the information in the Name Fractions activity if needed.*

To begin, have your child pick any number to represent your denominator for this activity. Keep in mind -the higher the number, the more courage ideas they have to come up with! I recommend going with around six or seven.

Draw a number line on the paper, with a 0 on the far left and a 1 on the far right. Have your child space out the fractions on the space in the middle of the number line, including all of the unit fractions for the common denominator they chose (for example, if they chose 5, you'd have $1/5$ closest to the zero, then $2/5$, etc. until $4/5$ next to the 1).

After you have created the number line, bring in a discussion about courage and bravery and ask your child what they think *microbravery* might mean. Microbravery is a small task that might not be a huge act of courage, but that still required some bravery to accomplish. Like a fraction that is smaller than a whole number, an act of microbravery still isn't nothing!

Ask your child to come up with an idea of microbravery for each unit fraction and write or draw them on the number line, adjacent to the fractions. Some ideas might be: apologizing to someone, saying thank you to a stranger, ordering for yourself at a restaurant, asking to pet someone's dog, etc.

Come up with a big act of courage to add to the 1 spot on the number line. Discuss the comparison of how a microbravery feels vs a bigger act of courage. Do they feel the same? Share your thoughts.

Extension idea: This is a great activity to practice other character traits as well. What is a microkindness? Or microgenerosity? Explore this concept with other traits you've already studied.

Suggested Reading:

The Wishing Club by
Donna Jo Napoli
Jabari Jumps by Gaia
Cornwall

MATH EXPLORATIONS

Fraction War Card Game



Key Learning: This simple twist on the classic War card game helps your child explore comparing fractions. Depending on your child's fraction skills and understanding, there is an easy and challenging way to play this game.

Need: deck of cards, paper, pencil, calculator (optional for challenging version)

Directions: This game is played like the traditional War card game, only using fractions instead of whole numbers. It is least challenging played with two players, but can be played with any number of players.

To prepare the game, first, remove all face cards from the deck. Aces will be worth 1. Shuffle the deck and evenly deal the cards between the players, keeping the piles face down.

On a piece of paper, draw a line across the middle - this will be the fraction line, dividing numerators and denominators.

To Play:

EASY Version

For children who are still new to the concept or have a basic level of understanding of fractions, comparisons with only numerators is easiest, so you will want to keep a common denominator at all times. Choose any number to act as your denominator and write that number under the fraction line, once for each player. To play, each person flips a card and places it on the paper as the numerator. The person with the largest fraction wins and takes both cards. In case of a tie, flip a second card. Winner of that flip takes all cards. When the dealt cards have all been played, the person with the most won cards wins.

CHALLENGING Version

Play is the same, only with each turn, players flip two cards - first the numerator, then the denominator. They must then work together to determine which fraction is largest.

Tips for comparing fractions:

For common denominators, the fraction with the largest numerator is the largest fraction.

For common numerators, the fraction with the smallest denominator is the largest fraction.

For mixed number fractions, you will need to calculate the difference. The easiest way to do this is by converting the fractions to decimals, using a calculator. Divide the numerator by the denominator to get the decimal, then compare.

Example: $5/8 = 0.625$ and $3/12 = 0.25$, so $5/8$ is a larger fraction.

Extension idea: Add to the challenge by adding one or more players! The more fractions to compare, the more challenging the game becomes!

Suggested Reading:

The Lion's Share by
Matthew McElligott

The Wishing Club by
Donna Jo Napoli

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Fraction Art



Key Learning: This creative art activity is a fun way for your child to explore and visualize fractions making up a whole. They will create a design in a hundreds square and calculate the fraction of each color that they used.

Need: blank hundreds square grid (you can easily find this to print online for free or simply draw one out on a piece of paper with a marker and ruler - you just need a 10x10 square, so 100 small squares total), markers, pencil

Directions: Ask your child to calculate how many squares are on the paper - they might be able to figure out the answer by counting the 10x10 edges or start counting a square at a time. Either is fine!

Next, invite your child to create a design or pattern with the markers on the grid, asking them to fill in every square. They can use as many colors as they'd like for the full design, but each square can only be one color.

When they've finished, have your child calculate the fraction of each color that they used on the grid design. Write the name of each color that your child used at the bottom of the paper (or on the back if there's no space). Ask your child what the denominator should be for each of the colors - if necessary, remind them that the denominator represents the whole, so it should be 100. Then, have your child count the total number of squares for each color that they used to calculate the fraction of each (example: if your child colored three squares in red, the fraction for red would be $3/100$). To check their work, have your child add up all of the numerators together - these should equal the same amount as the whole - 100!

Note: At this grade level, reducing fractions is not a necessary skill. Your child only needs to understand the fraction of the whole that they filled in, so all denominators can be 100.

Extension idea: If your child is very advanced in mathematics and understanding of fractions, you could explore reducing any of the fractions as necessary. Again, this is not a requirement at this age and grade level, so don't stress about it if it's too tough.

Suggested Reading:

Fractions in Disguise by Edward Einhorn

The Lion's Share by Matthew McElligott