

The Elf on the Shelf®

TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

Lesson Plan – Kindergarten

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 a 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 dictate a class letter to the scout elf.

Objective:

Students will recognize parts of a friendly letter and together as a class dictate a friendly letter inviting the scout elf to visit their classroom for upcoming birthday celebrations.

Common Core Standard (Language Arts):

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.K.2 Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

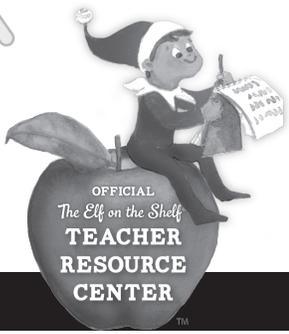
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.K.8 With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Materials:

Scout elf (wearing cupcake suit and hat), *The Elf on the Shelf®: A Birthday Tradition* book, activity sheets 1 and 2, scissors, glue, chart paper, marker, crayons

Getting Started:

- Prepare chart paper by drawing lines to represent each part of a friendly letter. Chart paper will be used to write a class letter to the scout elf. In the letter, students will invite the classroom elf to return from the North Pole to celebrate the birthday of each student in the class.
- 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 his or her 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 inviting the elf to celebrate their birthdays.
 - 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?* Encourage students to share their experiences with sending or receiving a letter.
- Tell students that they will write a friendly letter to the scout 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 cut and glue parts of a friendly letter in appropriate boxes. 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).
- Using chart paper, marker and **Activity Sheet 1**, label and review the parts of a friendly letter. Explain to students that they will use the chart paper as a map to help them write their friendly letter to the elf.
- Lead students through writing prompts for generating ideas for a friendly letter: *Whom are you writing to? Why should the elf visit for your birthday? What makes you special? What is your birthday wish?*
- Have students dictate a class letter to the elf inviting the elf to their classroom for upcoming birthday celebrations. Write the letter on the chart paper as students are dictating their thoughts.
- Read the finished letter to students. Refer students to **Activity Sheet 2**. Ask students to draw their special birthday wishes in the indicated box.

Follow-up/Extension Activities:

- Assemble students' birthday wishes (**Activity Sheet 2**) to the class letter (chart paper) and mail to the scout elf. 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.
- For upcoming student birthdays, review parts of a friendly letter and write a class letter reminding the classroom elf to visit for each student's birthday.
- After each elf visit, write class thank-you letters or poems about the birthday celebration. Have students retell their birthday experience with the elf by drawing pictures or dictating a class story.
- Allow individual students show-and-tell time to share details of their at-home birthday celebrations with the class. Specifically, encourage students to retell and share pictures of their experience with the elf.



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!



1. Cut each box along the dotted line.



2. Glue the box to the matching body part.

Heading

Greeting

Body

Closing

Signature

What makes you special?

Why should the elf visit for your birthday?

What is your birthday wish?

Whom are you writing to?

Heading **Greeting** **Body** **Closing** **Signature**



Hip Hip Hooray! A Special Birthday Message

I can't wait to cheer and shout, "Hip Hip Hooray Happy Birthday!" In the present below, draw your special birthday wish.

