Express Yourself

CARMEN SANDIEGO

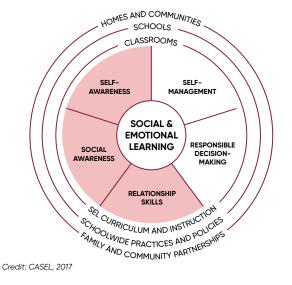**Teacher's Edition • Grades:** 4–8 • **Length:** 45 minutes

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OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, students will:

- Participate in a project to develop relationship skills, self-awareness, and social awareness
- Each write a poem about their personality traits
- Share out their poems with the class

Featured Social-Emotional Learning Competencies:
Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness

Credit: CASEL, 2017

VOCABULARY

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING TERMS

Self-Perception: the idea that you have about the kind of person that you are

Self-Confidence: a feeling of trust in one's abilities

Empathy: ability to understand and share the feelings of others

Respect: a feeling of deep admiration for someone because of their abilities or qualities

Communication: a two-way process of reaching mutual understanding

Social Engagement: how one participates in a community or society

WORDS TO KNOW

Task Force: a group that forms with the idea of reaching a common goal

Mandatory: required

Discrimination: treating people differently because of who they are, including their gender, skin color, or age

Imparting: sharing information

SET-UP

Introduce and watch "Fearless Kids Around the World | Devin Moore" video.

Today, Carmen Sandiego™ introduces us to this episode's fearless kid, Devin Moore, from the United States. The U.S. is home to more than 325 million people, many of whom speak different languages and practice different traditions and customs. The diversity in this country gives people many reasons to celebrate the things that make them unique, which is what one fearless kid is trying to do. Devin is from Long Island, New York, and he loves to write poetry. But when he was 14, kids started to bully him, taunting him online and at school.

Devin decided to stand up to his bullies and started a campaign called #racetospeakup to help other kids dealing with bullies. Then, he took his message on the road, speaking about bullying to others around the country. He also supports kids dealing with bullies online and is a part of a task force working to get anti-bullying information out to schools. Can you think of something you can do to stop bullying at your school?

MISSION:
Speaking Out Against Bullying

Talk through the video as a group, gradually introducing social-emotional learning concepts and terms the video explores. Consider asking the following questions:

- **Why is the United States different from other countries in the world?**
  E.g., There are many immigrants living there; it has a large economy; there are many languages and cultures.

- **What are some ways that people celebrate differences in your school or community?**
  E.g., We celebrate culture weeks; we eat food from all over the world; we talk about what we have in common and what makes us different; we create art that says something about ourselves or the world.

- **What is something about Devin that he celebrates?**
  E.g., He writes poetry; he was in a national competition for his poem.

- **What did Devin do after he was bullied?**
  E.g., He stood up for himself; he started a group designed to help others; he's working to get anti-bullying lessons into schools.

- **What are some other ways that people celebrate themselves?**
  E.g., Writing, singing, fashion, creating art, etc.

WORKING PERIOD

Now students will work on creating their poem.

- Students will apply what they have learned about self-awareness, social awareness and build relationship skills.
- Have students jot down ideas and write their poem using the graphic organizer.

Introduce project.

You've learned about someone who used poetry to express his individuality. Today, you are going to do the same. Think of something that makes you unique. It could be personality traits, your culture, a hobby, or more. Then write a poem about it.

A poem is a type of writing that tries to make a reader feel an emotion or understand an experience. The words of a poem are arranged in verse. Sometimes, the words rhyme. They may also repeat. Working with a partner, brainstorm about something that makes each of you unique to help you decide on an idea for your poem. Then, work alone to write your poem. It can be any style you'd like. When you're finished, share your work with a partner and get feedback for improvements. Then, the class can host a reading, or share the finished poems by hanging them in the classroom or school.

SHARE-OUT

Close the lesson by bringing the class back together as a group to share their work and celebrate their ideas.

- Students will share their poems with the class.

- Provide feedback about their completed poems.

SUPPORT

Provide a Template
Use the graphic organizer included with this lesson to help students organize their thoughts around themselves and writing a poem.

Provide a Model
Share samples of poetry students might have encountered in an ELA classroom to provide inspiration to students as they write. Poetry lessons can also be found at Poets.org.

EXTEND

Host a Poetry Slam
Talk about the idea of a poetry slam and what kind of poems work best for this event. Have students adapt their poems to be read during a slam, and host a special class session or afterschool event to hear the poems.

Get Involved with #racetospeakup
Part of Devin's campaign is online at Change.org. With your class, sign the petition and find out more about how Devin started his campaign. Find out more from Devin using the hashtag #racetospeakup on Instagram™.

To access more classroom resources, visit **carmensandiego.com.**

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NAME(S): _____

Fill out the labels below with things about yourself that are unique. Use it to help you write a poem about something about yourself that makes you feel proud.

NAME	
LIKES	FEELS
SUPPORTS	FEARS

POEM