

COUNSELOR LESSON PLAN



Honorees: Bus Drivers

Theme: Victorian Era

Lesson Title: Building Character Through Appreciation

Grade Band: K–5

Time: 25–30 minutes

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Recognize how bus drivers contribute to school safety
- Reflect on how expressing appreciation builds strong character
- Write a structured appreciation note expressing gratitude clearly and respectfully

Teaching Moment: Dependability Then and Now (5 minutes)

During the Victorian Era (1800s), transportation was changing. Horse-drawn carriages and early trains connected people to school, work, and opportunity. Drivers were expected to be dependable, responsible, and steady. Today, bus drivers carry that same responsibility.

Ask students:

- Why is safe transportation important?
- How would your day change without bus drivers?
- What qualities make someone dependable?

Help students identify:

Dependable people show up, follow rules, stay calm, and protect others.

Understanding the Role of a Bus Driver (5–7 minutes)

Discuss together:

Bus drivers:

- Transport students safely
- Follow traffic and safety rules
- Manage behavior calmly
- Work early mornings and afternoons
- Drive in different weather conditions

Ask:

- What do bus drivers do that we might not notice?
- What would a safe bus ride look like?
- Why does calm behavior matter on a bus?

Transition:

- Bus drivers show responsibility and dependability every day. When we show appreciation, we show respect and maturity.

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Character Connection: Growing Through Appreciation (3–5 minutes)

Ask students:

- What kind of person expresses appreciation?
- How does appreciation help you grow as a person?
- What kinds of messages would truly make a difference?
- How do you think your bus driver will feel about your note of appreciation?

Explain:

Gratitude builds character. It teaches us to notice others, respect responsibility, and speak with sincerity.

Reflection (3–5 minutes)

Ask:

- How did it feel to write something thoughtful?
- Do you think appreciation encourages people to keep doing their best?
- What kind of person do you become when you practice gratitude?
- Who needs me to be dependable and what do they need me to be dependable to do?
- Am I dependable about expressing appreciation to others who do things for me?

Close:

Dependable people keep others safe.
Grateful people recognize that effort.
Both are strong character traits.

Writing Activity: Appreciation Notes (12–15 minutes)

Explain:

A meaningful note shows that you truly noticed someone's effort.

Students should include:

1. Say their name

Dear ____,

2. Say something meaningful
What do you genuinely notice?

- You keep us safe.
- You are patient.
- You are calm.
- You greet us kindly.

3. Explain the impact
How do they make a difference?

- You help my day start well.
- You make me feel safe on the bus.
- You help our ride stay peaceful.

4. Express appreciation clearly

- Thank you for being dependable.
- I appreciate how you take care of us.

5. Sign your name

Encourage:

Be specific. Be sincere. Write something that would matter if you were the one reading it.

Counselor Notes

- Keep the historical reference brief.
- Emphasize safety and dependability.
- Focus on character development through gratitude and dependability.