

Submitted by: GENERATION CURES

TITLE: WRITING CARDS TO PATIENTS

SUBJECT: All

GRADE: All

RECOMMENDED TIME: 15 minutes

GENERATION CURES CONTENT: Zebrafish Webisode 8-Dis-Dress Rehearsal

LEARNING GOALS:

Students will learn about the groundbreaking medical research conducted at Children's Hospital Boston that affects patients, children, and families around the world. At the end of this lesson, students should be able to write an encouraging card to a patient at Children's Hospital, connecting students to an important way they can help make a difference.

RESOURCES/MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Computer / Internet / Projector
- Pen / Pencil / Paper
- Zebrafish Webisode #8 "DIS-DRESS REHEARSAL"
- Printed Generation Cures cards (downloadable PDF from www.kids.generationcures.org)

BACKGROUND:

Tanya's in the hospital. Rehearsal's a disaster. And Walt canned his application to art school. What else could go wrong? Excuse me, have you seen Plinko?

LESSON STEPS:

- As the students watch the webisode, ask them if they know anyone in the hospital. Have they ever visited a hospital? Have they ever known a close kid-friend in the hospital? Have they ever written a card to someone visiting the hospital?
- Allow students a chance to say aloud the name and/or relationship of someone they know who has been in the hospital with an illness.
- After students watch the webisode, they should be aware that one of our main characters, Tanya, is sick with Leukemia, and that is why she has been absent from band practice. This is also the reason the students want to help by raising money for medical research.
- Ask students to go online to www.generationcures.org or www.childrenshospital.org and to read about various illnesses. Alternatively, you could assign groups of two or more students a specific illnesses to research.

Illnesses covered at www.childrenshospital.org and www.generationcures.org:

- H1N1 “Swine Flu”
- Epilepsy
- Asthma
- Leukemia
- Anemia

(Note: Diseases are searchable at <http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices.cfm> in the “Health Topics or Treatment” box)

- Ask students to write letters, imagining they were writing to a close friend, perhaps even a friend they mentioned earlier who has been in the hospital.
- Instruct students to avoid from saying things like, “I feel sorry for you,” “It must be bad/hard/terrible,” or “I hope I am never in the hospital.”
- Instead, encourage them to communicate in a way they would with a friend. Suggest that they draw pictures of their favorite things—an outdoor landscape, a comic book or cartoon hero, or a family member.
Make sure they ask questions such as, “What is your favorite food?” And make sure they tell their new friend at Children’s Hospital to “Get well soon.”

EXTENSIONS:

- Arrange a time for students to visit Generation Cures, Children’s Hospital, or another web site associated with the hospital. Generation Cures is also available to provide in-class conversations and demonstrations of our online media content.