

## Core Skills Analysis

### Language Arts / Social Studies

- The student is likely grappling with understanding the impact of words, particularly offensive language, which opens pathways to critical discussions about language, respect, and societal norms.
- This activity introduces them to the concept of sensitive and derogatory terms, prompting reflection on historical and contemporary contexts where such language is used and why it matters.
- It fosters empathy by encouraging the student to consider how language affects others emotionally and socially.
- Additionally, the activity may stimulate awareness of cultural and racial issues, highlighting the importance of respectful communication.

### Tips

To deepen understanding, start by exploring the history and context of offensive language, especially racial slurs, and why they are harmful. Engage the student in reading stories or biographies of individuals affected by such language to foster empathy. Include role-playing exercises to practice respectful speech and conflict resolution strategies. Encourage journaling personal reflections about how words can empower or hurt to develop emotional intelligence and responsible communication skills.

### Book Recommendations

- [Words That Hurt, Words That Heal](#) by Byron Bland: A child-friendly exploration of how words can impact feelings and relationships, emphasizing thoughtful and caring communication.
- [Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice](#) by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, Ann Hazzard: This picture book helps children understand racial injustice and the importance of empathy and respect.
- [I Am Enough](#) by Grace Byers: A celebratory story promoting self-respect and kindness to others, perfect for developing a positive sense of self and others.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3: Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced and developed in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.9: Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

### Try This Next

- Create a reflection worksheet where the student identifies words that can hurt and write about alternative respectful phrases.
- Develop a short role-play script demonstrating how to respond kindly when hearing offensive language.