

# GIDEON'S GIFT

**19 activities**

**chapter  
questions**



*Special Needs for Special Kids*



These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.

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This novel unit has **19 different activities**. These activities are NOT comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

# Leukemia



Cancer is a disease that can make a person very sick. It happens when the body makes a mistake when it is making a new cell. Leukemia is when these mistakes are made making blood cells, often in the bone marrow.

The body makes millions of cells every day. Most of the time, nothing goes wrong. Or, if something does go wrong, the mistake is so small no one would ever notice.

But, sometimes when a mistake is made it is more serious. These are known as cancer cells. These cancer cells will continue to multiply and create a tumor. A tumor is a large enough clump of cancer cells that it can be seen or felt.

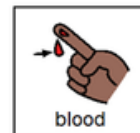
With leukemia, instead of a tumor, these cancer cells travel throughout the body in the blood stream.

There are many successful treatments for cancer that doctors can use. When the cancer cells are successfully killed, then the person is said to be in remission. No cancer cells can be found. This remission can last a short time, a long time, or forever.

Cancer can be serious, but many people are able to overcome cancer with the help of a doctor and medications.

## Leukemia

1. Cancer cells happen the body makes a
2. Cancer can make a person very
3. Leukemia is cancer of the .
4. There are  to treat cancer.
5. When no cancer cells can be found, the person is in



For example, Gideon has leukemia. In this activity, students will read or listen to a short passage about leukemia and answer some simple questions.

# Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *Gideon's Gift* by Karen Kingsbury.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1 chapter per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 6) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
  - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
  - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
  - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
- It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way. For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find activity for most chapters. You will still have plenty to choose from and find those that fit best with your students.
- Differentiation:
  - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
  - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
  - Becomes a matching task.
- There are comprehension questions to accompany this unit. There are 5 questions for every chapter with 3 picture answer choices. You will find these (in color and BW) in a separate file.

Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

# Gideon's Gift

## Novel Unit

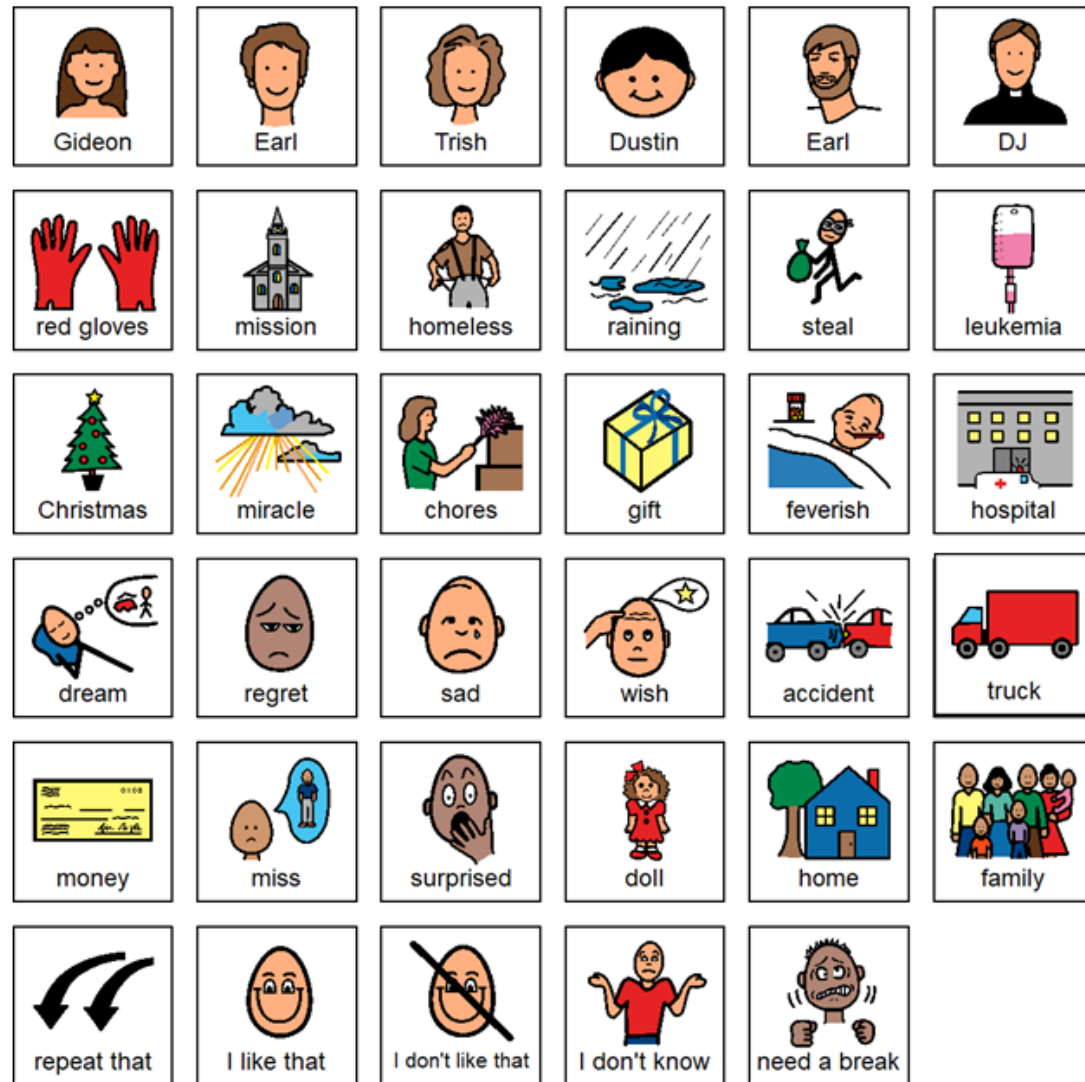
### for Special Education

By  
Christa Joy  
Special Needs for Special Kids



*This entire novel unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.*

Story Board : to use while reading and for class discussions. Laminate and make 1 copy for each student.



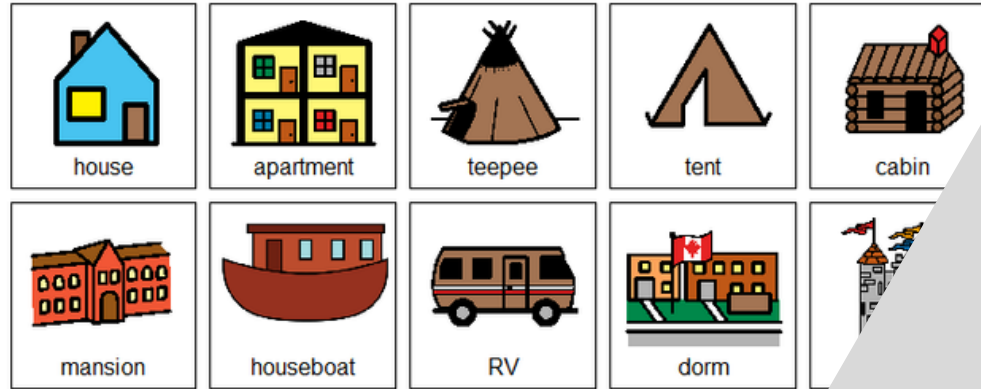
This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

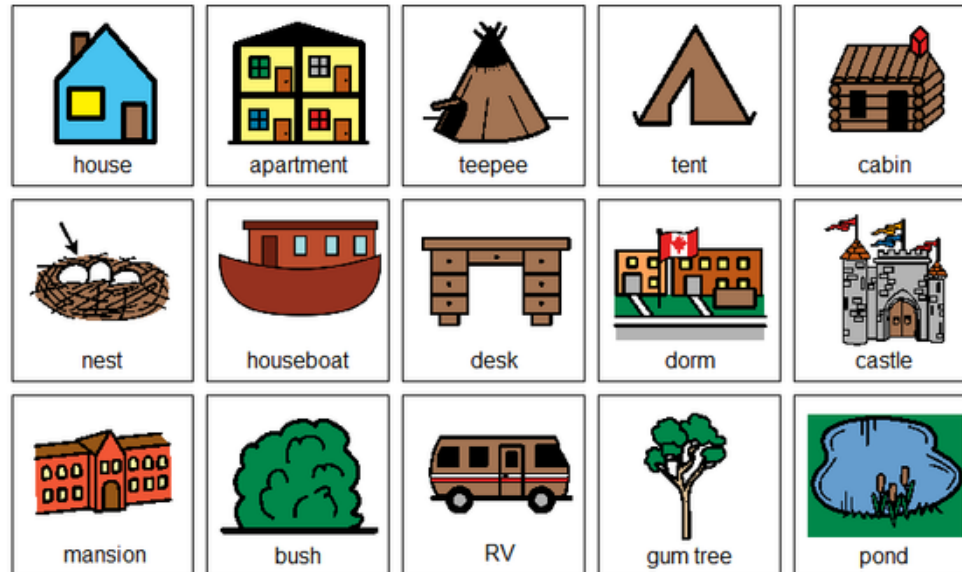
Tips on how to use in the unit!!

People live in all different types of homes. What are some types of homes people live in?

Cut out pictures and glue in circle map on previous page showing places people live.



Cut out pictures and glue in circle map on previous page **ONLY** IF they are places people might live.



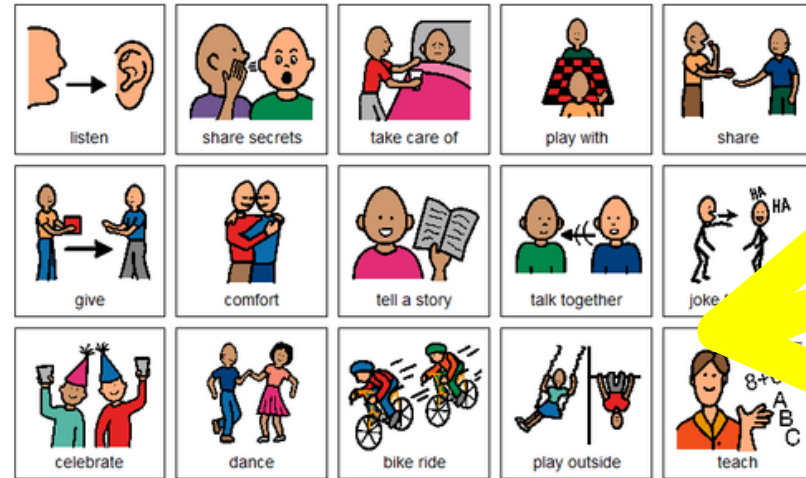
There are circle maps in this unit.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the big idea.



What are some ways you can help someone?

Place the following in the circle map on the previous page about helping someone.



Place the following in the circle map on the previous page **ONLY IF** they relate to helping someone.



Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

An option that has wrong answers mixed in students will need to set aside.

We all have memories about the past. Sort the following into whether you think they would be good memories or bad memories.



Sort the pictures into the correct column on the previous page. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.



There are sorting activities.

Directions on how to add differentiation are included.

# What is a regret?

I regret is something you  you had done.

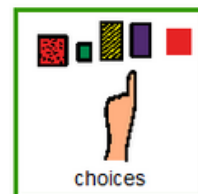
A regret can make you feel .

A regret can help you makes better .

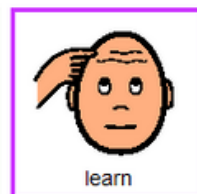
has regrets.

But, we can all  from them.

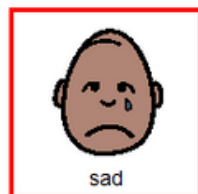
Matching, the colors, complete the sentences about regrets on the previous page.



choices



learn



sad



wish



everybody

*There are matching activities.  
Directions on how to add  
differentiation are included.*

# The Best Gift Ever

Sometimes, on special occasions, I get .

The best gift I ever got was a .

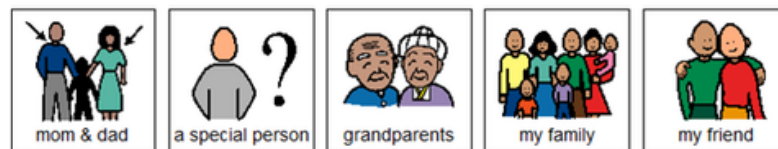
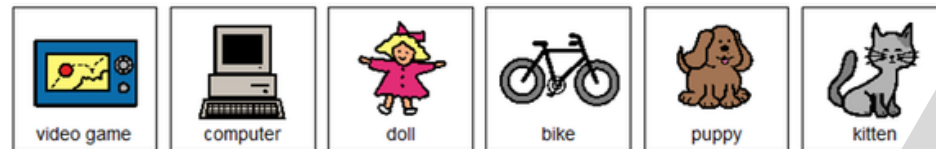
It came from .

I kept it in a safe place, in my .

It made me so .





You may need to help students fill in their answer if the picture choice is not here.



There are writing prompts. These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.

Title and Author. Cut out the boxes at the bottom and paste in the correct location.

Title 	Author 
--	---

Gideon's Gift 	By Karen Kingsbury 
--	---

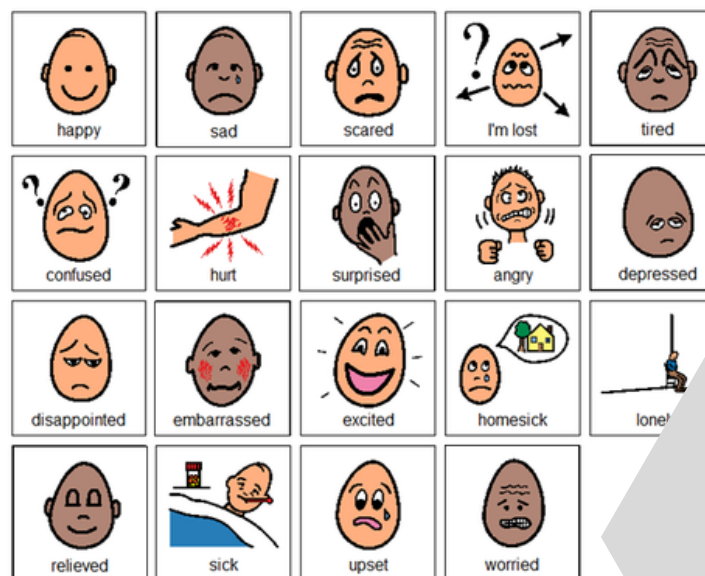
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
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There are a lot of reasons people cry. Put **some** pictures in the box below to show some of these reasons.



Reasons people cry

Place **some** of the pictures below on the previous page.



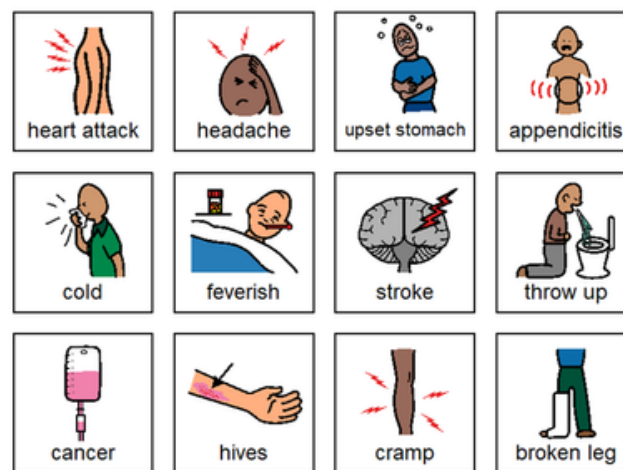
What are some illness that are serious or not that serious?



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Decide if each picture shows an example of being generous or being greedy. If you are not sure, put it on the middle line.



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CH 8

Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

1. What was the key to survival for Earl?



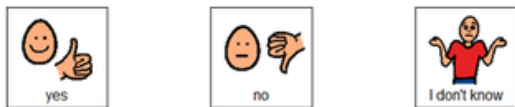
2. Where did Earl live?



3. Why does Earl go to the mission?



4. Does Earl talk and eat with other people at the mission?



5. What was Earl missing in the morning?



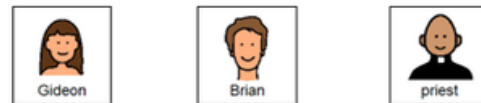
What is Earl wishing for since losing his gloves?



What does Gideon bring Earl?



Who sits with Earl as he eats his dinner?



What does Earl do when Gideon sits with him?



What does Gideon pray for?



This unit does come with comprehension questions.

There are 5 questions for every chapter. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!