



LESSON PLAN

Storybook

Topic: **Coping with Deployment**
Subject: **Language Arts**

Grade Level: **Elementary (1st–4th)**
Time: **25 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn the difference between a routine and a responsibility, as well as strategies some kids use to cope with a parent's deployment.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Animated Storybook from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- Chalkboard, whiteboard, or flip chart
- Drawing paper and crayons/markers
- Worksheet for students
- *Suggested Lesson Plan Tips* for teachers
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links:
www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (7 minutes)

- Teacher sets up lesson by writing the words "routines" and "responsibilities" on the chalkboard/whiteboard/flip chart.
 - Lead discussion on the difference between a routine and a responsibility (see *Suggested Lesson Plan Tips*).
 - Ask students to identify some routines and responsibilities in their home/school lives.
 - List student answers on chalkboard/whiteboard/flip chart.
 - Lead discussion on why routines are important.

Storybook Video (4 minutes)

- Teacher sets up story about a young girl named Elena and how her family's routines and responsibilities change when her father is deployed.
- Cue animated storybook to the section that directly addresses deployment (pp. 42 - end, 2½ minutes)

Teacher-Led Discussion and Individual Activity (15 minutes)

- Lead classroom discussion about Elena's story (see *Suggested Lesson Plan Tips*).
- Activity
 - Hand out worksheet, paper, and pencil/crayons.
 - Ask students to think about how their family life would change if their mom or dad had to be away for a while because of work.
 - Ask students to write one or two sentences about which routine involving that parent they would miss most and draw a picture about it.
 - Would they do it alone or with another family member?

Suggested Lesson Plan Tips

Start with a brief discussion about the difference between routines and responsibilities. Definitions are:

- Routines – a thing, or a series of things, a person does every day, or most days. Often, these are performed in the same order. There are morning routines, school routines, evening routines – and many others.
- Responsibilities – a thing, like a chore, that a person is expected to do and is in charge of. Often, responsibilities help out the people around you, like family members or classmates.

Discussion points from Elena’s Story

- Elena’s bedtime routine changed while her father was gone.

Who remembers what changed?

What new routine did the family establish?

How did Elena feel about the new routine?

Can you think of another way the family might have established a new bedtime routine?

- In the story, Elena’s father was responsible for a big chore.

What was it? (Hint: are you hungry?)

Who took on the responsibility for cooking?

What part of that chore did Elena do all by herself?

WORKSHEET

Elena's Story

Name: _____

Every family has special routines and responsibilities. How would your family life change if your mom or dad had to be away for a while because of work?

Write one or two sentences about the routine you would miss most and draw a picture about it.


