



Session 19: Lollipop Moments

TIME NEEDED

- 30 minutes

ASSET CATEGORIES

- Positive Identity
- Support
- Social Competencies
- Positive Values

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Everyday Leadership* TED Talk by Drew Dudley found at www.ted.com/talks or *The Thank You Letter* by Jane Cabrera read-aloud video found on YouTube
- Computer, LCD projector, and screen
- Lollipops, minimum of one per participant
- Lollipop Thank-You Card handout 
- Pens or pencils, one per participant
- Markers or crayons to decorate cards, enough to share
- Blank envelopes, one per participant
- *Optional:* Postage stamps, if needed

Preparation Needed appears on the next page.

Purpose

- To help participants recognize that simple interactions can affect others
- To demonstrate that compliments and appreciation help grow a relationship

Video Summary

Everyday Leadership

Drew Dudley

— 6 MINUTES —

Drew Dudley opens his talk by asking how many people comfortably call themselves “leaders”—very few people raise their hands. Dudley believes we have devalued the moments when we or others act as leaders while doing everyday things.

To illustrate, he tells a story from his last day at college. A young woman approached him to thank him for being “an incredibly important person in her life.” They had encountered each other on her first day at college four years earlier but had not spoken since.

She was standing in the registration line with her parents, and she was scared about starting college. Drew was giving away lollipops to promote a charity event. He handed one to a guy standing next to her, telling him, “You need to give a lollipop to the woman next to you.” Everyone around them laughed, and in that moment she decided not to quit but to go ahead with college. She also told Drew that she went on to date the guy who gave her the lollipop. (They eventually married.)

Drew Dudley did not remember meeting her that first day. Most of us, he says, have had a “lollipop moment” where someone affects us profoundly and the person does not even know it. By redefining leadership to mean “lollipop moments”—positively impacting one person’s experience at a time—he believes we have the power to change the world. The website provides the six-minute video and a full transcript of the talk.

Instructions

1. Show participants the *Everyday Leadership* TED Talk by Drew Dudley. Alternatively, show the *The Thank You Letter* read-aloud video.
2. As a group, discuss the video using the following questions:
 - **What part of the video created an “aha” moment for you?**
 - **Has someone affected your life through a positive interaction? What was that interaction, and how did it make a difference for you?**
 - **Does that person know how that interaction made you feel?**
3. Say:

Think of a person who has given you a “lollipop moment” or, in other words, a person who has greatly affected you and likely does not know it.
4. Give each participant a copy of the Lollipop Thank-You Card handout, a pen or pencil, crayons or markers, a lollipop, and an envelope. Have participants fold the paper in half and use it to write a thank-you card to a person who has made an impact on their lives, who has given them a “lollipop moment.” Stress the point that this person will likely not realize the impact they have had on the participant. Encourage participants to think of someone at school, if they can, but let them write the thank-you card to someone outside of school, if they strongly prefer to. Have participants decorate their cards using the crayons and markers.
5. Explain that, along with the lollipops, you will hand-deliver the letters to the people within your school community and mail the letters to people outside your school community. Have participants help locate addresses, if needed.

PREPARATION NEEDED

- Gather the materials needed.
- Preview the two video options, and decide which is more developmentally appropriate for your class.
- Set up the computer, LCD projector, and screen.
- Photocopy/print out the language-appropriate Lollipop Thank-You Card handout and fold it in half, one per participant.

Optional Follow-Up

- Bring lollipops periodically during the year to remind participants of lollipop moments.
- Have extra copies of the handout and envelopes available for participants who wish to make more than one Lollipop Thank-You Card.
- Have a “mailbox” in your classroom for participants to place their Lollipop Thank-You Cards for you to deliver for them to others in the school.

Literacy Extension

- Select a book or book chapter from the recommended reading list at right or a similarly themed book of your choosing.
- Preread the selected book or chapter.

Data-Gathering Ideas

- Who struggled to write a letter? Was the struggle due to the concept or because of the writing skills needed (or both)?
- Who in the class seemed excited about the opportunity to show thanks to someone in their life and put extra effort into the activity? What is the relationship between that participant and their lollipop person?
- Who struggled to have a person to write to?

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TITLES

The Wednesday Surprise
(Eve Bunting)

Attaboy, Sam! (Lois Lowry)

All the World (Liz Garton Scanlon)

An Awesome Book of Thanks
(Dallas Clayton)

The Secret of Saying Thanks
(Douglas Wood)

SPANISH-LANGUAGE TITLES

El violín de Ada
(Susan Hood)

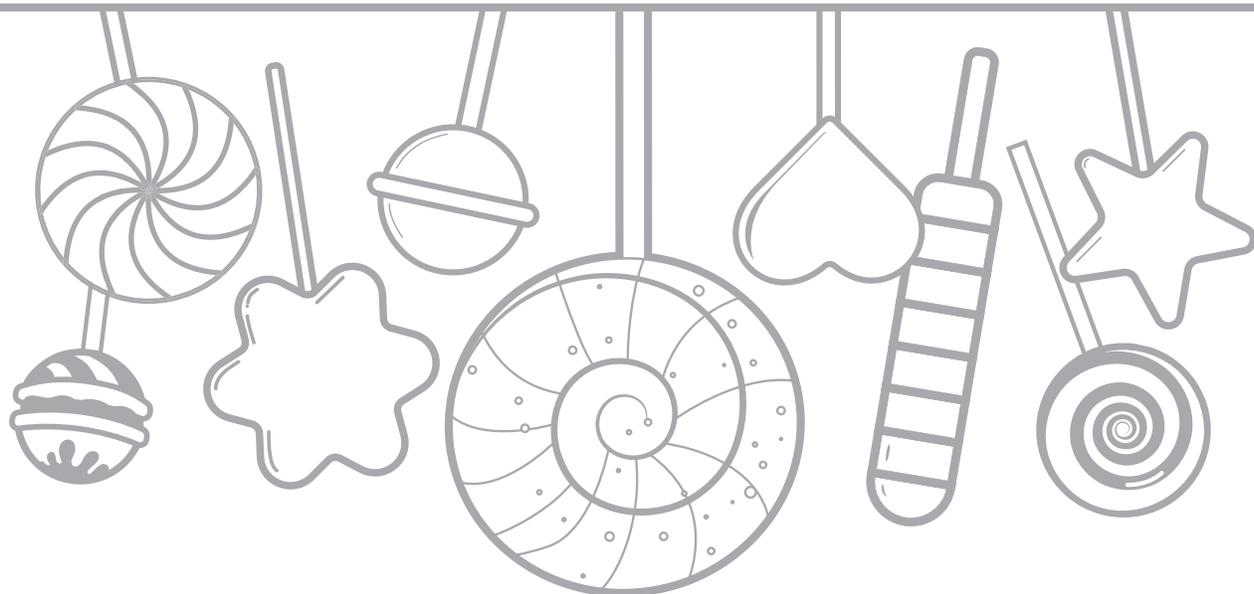
Gracias a Winn-Dixie
(Kate DiCamillo)

Siempre contestaré tus cartas
(Caitlin Alifrenka y
Martin Ganda)

Todo el mundo
(Liz Garton Scanlon)

La casa de algún día
(Julia Durango)

Cometas y deseos (Paul Mosier)



¡SÉ! SÉ!