

Shannon was hanging the homemade sign. José was blowing up the balloons. Frankie was putting the snacks on the table. The other kids were busy, too. They were watching for Mrs. Garcia to come down the hall.

"Here she comes," Andrea whispered. Whew! The kids had finished just in time.

They all ran to their desks and sat quietly. Their hearts were pounding with excitement.

It seemed like a very long time until Mrs. Garcia finally opened the classroom door.

"Good morning, children," she said. Then she saw the decorations and the balloons. She was so surprised! The kids were thrilled that she hadn't guessed about the party.

"My goodness," Mrs. Garcia said. "What is all this?"





"It's a party for you," said Andrea. "We heard you will be done teaching this year. We wanted to thank you for all the things you've done for us."

"And for us, too."

Everyone in the class turned to see who had said that. The kids were just as surprised as Mrs. Garcia when a bunch of grown-ups came into the classroom.

"It's wonderful to see you!" said Mrs. Garcia. Then she told the kids, "They are from the first class I ever taught. That was more than 30 years ago."

"We heard about the party, and we wanted to say 'thank you,' too," said one of the men.

The grown-ups came inside the classroom. Some of them were holding presents.

"Is it all right if we tell your students stories about when you were our teacher?" a woman asked Mrs. Garcia.



Mrs. Garcia still looked surprised. "Of course," she said.

One of the men said, "I had Mrs. Garcia in the first grade. She helped me after school every single day, because I had trouble learning the alphabet."

Another man said, "Mrs. Garcia knew that I wanted to be a doctor when I grew up. She helped me learn about science. Today, I am a doctor. If she hadn't helped me, I might not have become one."

A woman told the class, "The other kids used to tease me because I was different. Mrs. Garcia told me that I was special, not different. She made me feel good about myself."

As other grown-ups told about Mrs. Garcia, the kids realized that she still did the same things to help kids. She made them feel special. She helped them learn. The kids were glad they had shown Mrs. Garcia how much they all appreciated her.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1** What two things did the students do to get ready for the party?
  - a) blew up balloons
  - b) made a cake
  - c) hung a sign
  - d) wrote a card
- 2** True or false? Mrs. Garcia has been a teacher for more than 15 years.
  - a) true
  - b) false
- 3** What is the main idea of the story?
  - a) Mrs. Garcia has been teaching a long time.
  - b) Mrs. Garcia's class throws her a surprise party to show they appreciate her.
  - c) Mrs. Garcia makes people feel special.
  - d) Mrs. Garcia's class was excited to throw her a party.
- 4** What does it mean to "appreciate" someone?
  - a) You think they are exciting.
  - b) You are grateful for things they do.
  - c) You pay them money you owe them.
  - d) You think they are nice.
- 5** Do the students like or dislike Mrs. Garcia? Tell why you think so.

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## Unit 1: Appreciation Writing Activity

**A** Imagine that Mrs. Garcia was your teacher. Write her a letter to thank her for helping you. Include some ways in which she helped.

[illegible]

# Suggested Answers for Reading Comprehension Questions

## Page 9

1. a, c
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. They like her. Reasons will vary.

## Page 17

1. c
2. Answers include fed, clothed, and sheltered people, and helped them when they were sick.
3. b, false—Mother Teresa did not have children of her own.
4. a
5. c

## Page 25

1. b, c
2. b—Answers will vary.
3. Yes—Answers will vary.
4. c
5. b, d, a, c

## Page 33

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. a—The law was changed.

## Page 41

1. d
2. right to vote  
equal pay  
equal jobs  
equal schools

## 3. Possible answers:

had meetings  
made speeches  
talked to family and friends  
marched

## 4. b—Answers will vary.

## 5. Answers will vary. Possible answer:

The women convinced others to see that men and women were both smart and able to work and could choose good people when they voted.

## Page 49

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. Food for the food pantry to help others.
5. c

## Page 57

1. b
2. Answers will vary. Other kids seemed to have listened since they understood the lesson and the safety rules and were able to make and put out small fires.
3. c
4. b, d, c, a
5. a—Fire burns and is dangerous.

## Page 65

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. b
5. Answers will vary. Some answers might include these facts:  
Collier gets upset when Marcus asks if he cheated.  
Marcus debates about seeing the test before he takes it.  
Collier runs away when Marcus asks to speak to Mr. Jessup.