

## International Literacy Day September 8

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Literacy Day and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to a good quality education (CRC Article 28).

### Background Information for Teachers

United Nations International Literacy Day

[un.org/depts/dhl/literacy/index.html](http://un.org/depts/dhl/literacy/index.html)

UNESCO

[unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/](http://unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/)

### Grades

K – 3

### Materials

Book entitled *A School Like Mine* by UNICEF, DK Publishing  
A School Day Like Mine worksheet (printable copy attached)

### Activity One

- Begin by introducing September 8<sup>th</sup> as International Literacy Day; a UN Day celebrated to remember the importance of literacy around the world. Define literacy as the ability to read and write with understanding a simple statement related to one's daily life. It involves a continuum of reading and writing skills, and often also includes basic arithmetic skills. (UNESCO definition for Education for All 2000 Assessment)
- Discuss every child's right to a good quality education (CRC Article 28). It is a basic human right and not a privilege. It is estimated that over 100 million children are not in school today. A good quality basic education gives students the literacy skills they need for life and further learning.
- Present the book entitled *A School Like Mine*, featuring children just like them and the different schools they attend all over the world.
- Turn to page 6, showing the map and the photos of all the children included in the book. For this lesson, the students will get to know five of these children.
- Read aloud the following pages from the book, and engage the students in discussion about the differences and similarities between the children in the book and themselves.
  - Page 22: Lukasi from Canada
  - Page 61: Reena from India
  - Page 62: Xinpei from China
  - Page 66: Hassa from Mongolia
  - Page 76: Gapiirri from Australia

### Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Social Justice

## Activity Two

- Distribute one A School Day Like Mine book template to each student and invite the students to write and design their own school day stories to celebrate International Literacy Day. Similar to the book *A School Like Mine*, they will each create an original version of A School Day Like Mine.

## Extension

Have the students share their books as part of a literacy awareness campaign.

## Additional Resources

*A School Like Mine: A Unique Celebration of Schools around the World Teacher's Guide* by DK Publishing

[kiddk.com/static/html/parentteacher/images/SchoolLikeMineTG.pdf](http://kiddk.com/static/html/parentteacher/images/SchoolLikeMineTG.pdf)

Celebrate International Literacy Day! ReadWriteThink

[readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-international-literacy-20584.html](http://readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/celebrate-international-literacy-20584.html)

Idea Starters: International Literacy Day International Reading Association

[reading.org/Libraries/Association\\_documents/2010\\_IDEA\\_STARTERS.sflb.ashx](http://reading.org/Libraries/Association_documents/2010_IDEA_STARTERS.sflb.ashx)

## A School Day Like Mine

By:

**About Me**

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**Getting Ready for School**

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## Classroom Activities

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### Meals and Playtime

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**Homework and After-School Fun**

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