

**Candle by Jeron Frame, Illustrations by Stacey Schuett**

Isbn 978-1-939-10-1

Curriculum Guide

Candle is a touching book that explores traditions, holidays, diversity and sharing. One candle makes a journey through the neighbor's homes sharing light and beauty with them all, in many different ways.

Concepts:

- Holidays
- Traditions
- Diversity
- Sharing and Empathy

Common Core Standards First Grade**Key Ideas and Details:**

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1](#) Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.2](#) Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.3](#) Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

Craft and Structure

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.4](#) Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.6](#) Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.7](#) Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.9](#) Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

Discussion Questions:

- What was Nana Clover's problem?
- Who helped her?
- Who else had problems in this book? How did they get help?
- Discuss how you ask for help when you need it. Are there better ways to ask than others? How do you like to be asked for help?

- What holidays that are in this book do you celebrate?
- What is your favorite holiday?
- Discuss the different holidays in the book.
- Does everybody celebrate the same holidays? Why or why not?
- Does your family use candles in their celebrations? When?
- Why do you think people use candles in their celebrations?
- What are some of your holiday traditions?
- Have you ever borrowed something? Loaned something?
- How does it feel when you share something?
- Are there different types of beauty?
- If so, talk about the different ways things can be beautiful.

Writing Prompts:

- Write about the last holiday that you celebrated.
- Write about your favorite holiday. Why is it your favorite holiday?
- Write about your family's traditions.
- Write about a time when you felt different. How did it feel?
- Write about a time when you shared with someone. Tell how it felt for you and the other person.
- Write about a time when someone shared with you. Tell how it felt for you and the other person.
- Write about something that is beautiful to you. Why is it beautiful?

Activities:

- Make a sharing circle: Gather random items and put them in the middle of the circle. Have each child take turns choosing one item and sharing it with someone else. Each child gets one turn to give and one turn to receive. Discuss with the children about how they made their sharing choices, how did it feel to give? To receive?
- Make your own Santa Lucia Crowns. Directions can be found here: <http://kiddley.com/2006/12/13/paper-santa-lucia-crowns-and-hats/>
- Decorate your own candles: You need pillar candles, wax paper, sharpies and a hair dryer. Write on the wax paper with the sharpies then wrap the wax paper with the ink side down facing the candle. Gently heat with hair dryer until the wax paper has adhered to the candle.
- Have the kids bring in their favorite family recipes. Make a classroom cookbook to share with each other.
- Take recycled materials (things that are ugly) and ask the kids to see if they can make something beautiful with the materials.

Author's Note:

Mosswood Connections



Havdalah is a Jewish ceremony to say goodbye to the Sabbath. a special braided candle that has more than one wick so it burns brightly. Havdalah begins when there are three stars in the sky. It ends when the lit candle is dipped in wine and goes out with a sizzle. During Hanukkah, Havdalah is observed before lighting the menorah.

Families light extra-

Saint Lucia Day, December 13, is celebrated by Scandinavians in Europe and America. It honors Saint Lucia, who delivered food to the poor wearing a crown of candles on her head to light the way. Today families choose a daughter to be Saint Lucia and carry a delicious breakfast to share with friends.

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration at the end of December that honors African culture. African-American families gather to light candles in a kinara, a special candle holder. The candles represent unity, determination, responsibility, cooperation, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Visit your library for more information on these and other special holidays!