

L.A. youth teacher's guide

Publishing Schedule

L.A. Youth will begin arriving Wednesday Jan. 23

Key to using the January-February 2008 issue:

ARTICLE and PAGE NUMBER

KEY TEACHING POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Building hope p. 5 When Christina went to New Orleans to repair a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina, she realized that helping others strengthened her faith.</p> | <p>What are the benefits of helping others? Where would you like to volunteer?</p> |
| <p>Proud to be here pp. 6-7 As a gay teen, going to a concert celebrating gay pride broke down Paul's stereotypes and opened his eyes to gays' fight for equal rights.</p> | <p>How can you learn more about gay culture? What can be done to prevent discrimination against gays?</p> |
| <p>Giving friendship a chance pp. 8-9 Things Charlotte thought were odd about Darby became why she liked her so much.</p> | <p>What have you learned about your friends that has surprised you? How can we get to know people for who they are?</p> |
| <p>I'm finally in a loving home pp. 12-13 After years in a group home, Raul is happy to be in a foster home where he feels like part of a family.</p> | <p>What is your definition of family? Who are the people you consider your family and why?</p> |
| <p>Where I'm from pp. 18-19 Guianna says her identity is complicated and she's still trying to figure it out. (re-published from 2003 as part of our 20th anniversary)</p> | <p>What defines who you are? Is it your ethnic background? Where you grew up? Are we treated differently depending on where we're from?</p> |
| <p>Making Chile my home pp. 28-29 At first it was hard living in a foreign country, but Katrina grew to love her four years in Santiago.</p> | <p>What's the biggest challenge you've had to face? How did you overcome it? Who helped you?</p> |
| <p>Healthy ... and delicious pp. 30-31 L.A. Youth teen staff members cooked healthy versions of some of their favorite dishes to show that healthy food can taste good.</p> | <p>How can you make your diet healthier? Which of these dishes would you like to try?</p> |
| <p>Family practice pp. 32-33 Lolly used to think acupuncture and herbal medicines were weird, but she's grown to appreciate her family's dedication to these ancient treatments.</p> | <p>See lesson plan on page 2.</p> |
| <p>Essay contest: Hardest part about relationships pp. 34-35 Our winners write about the pressures of having a first girlfriend and fighting.</p> | <p>What are some of the challenges of relationships?</p> |
| <p>Finding the right words pp. 36-37 Four intense weeks at a summer creative writing camp taught Chelsea that pursuing her dream will be hard work.</p> | <p>What have you done to pursue your interests? How do you turn criticism into something constructive?</p> |

Appreciating family traditions

Exploring family traditions to gain a better understanding of yourself

A lesson plan based on “Family practice” from the January-February 2008 issue of L.A. Youth, in which Lolly Lim wrote about learning to appreciate her family’s work and dedication to acupuncture and Eastern medicine.

By Laura Lee, Associate Editor

Grades: 6-12

Subjects: Language Arts, Social Studies, Life Skills

Suggested Time Allowance: 45 minutes-1 hour

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Identify family traditions
2. Analyze where traditions come from
3. Examine the role traditions play in their lives

Resources/Materials:

- copies of the L.A. Youth article “Family practice” (one per student)
- pens/pencils and paper
- white board or black board

Activities:

1. On the board write: “Family traditions.” Ask students to list different traditions that their families hold, especially ones that go back generations. Answers could include holiday and religious celebrations or practices, birthdays, arts and crafts, careers, a special meal, or taking trips to visit family or for vacation.

After making the list, ask students discussion questions. Questions could be: How do they feel about these traditions? Are they useful or relatable to their life? Do they tell them something about their family or help them understand their family. Do they bring their family closer together? Have their opinions changed regarding these traditions? Do they know where they came from or how they began?



2. Reading and discussion:

Ask students to read Lolly Lim’s story “Family practice” about how she’s learned to appreciate acupuncture and Eastern medicine on pages 32-33 of the January-February issue of L.A. Youth, and the sidebar about acupuncture.

3. Discussion:

Talk about the article, addressing these questions. Possible answers are listed.

How did Lolly feel about acupuncture and Eastern medicine when she was younger?

- She tried to avoid it.
- She wasn’t convinced it worked.
- She thought the tonics her father made were gross, but didn’t tell him so she wouldn’t hurt his feelings.

What helped Lolly appreciate her family’s practice of alternative medicine?

- Lolly’s friend Eileen told her she thought acupuncture is cool.
- Her aunt treated her cold by sticking her with needles.
- She talked to her family and found out how important it was to them.

How did Lolly feel about acupuncture after she learned more about it?

- She understood her family’s belief and respect of acupuncture.
- Acupuncture is helpful and can make you feel better.
- She felt connected to her culture because acupuncture has been around for several thousand years.

4. Assignment: After sharing their ideas about family traditions and reading about Lolly’s experience, have students write an essay about what tradition means to them. They should focus on one specific family tradition, describe it and tell why it’s important to them. Is it something they’ve tried to hide or do they share it with friends? How has interacting with other people influenced their view of this tradition? How has their view changed? How has the tradition influenced who they are?

5. Extension activity:

Ask students to interview a family member about a particular family tradition that has been passed down through generations. They should find out how the tradition began and how it’s changed over the years.



Would you like a speaker from L.A. Youth?

Editors Laura Lee and Mike Francano speak about journalism, current events, working as a reporter, how to be a better writer and how students can get involved in L.A. Youth.

Call Laura or Mike at (323) 938-9194 or e-mail llee@layouth.com or mfricano@layouth.com.

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**Next Newcomer's Orientation: Saturday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m.-noon at
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