# White Cane Day Story and Activity

White Cane Day Lesson Plan

Elementary

## Objective:

Students will learn about White Cane Day and review parts of a white cane by reading the book “White Cane Day” by Kristin Grender and engaging in a simple arts and craft activity to identify three parts of a cane: the tip, shaft, and grip.

## Materials for lesson:

Students will need access to the book “White Cane Day” by Kristen Grender. This book is available on Bookshare for students who are enrolled.

If your student does not have a bookshare account, you can sign them up by visiting the Bookshare website at <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/get-started/sign>.

For students who access print and pictures visually, it is recommended that this book be downloaded as an ePub file.

## Materials for activity:

* Straws
* Marshmallows
* Tape

## Lesson:

### Pre-teaching, discussion

1. What is a holiday?
2. What is your favorite holiday
3. Why do we celebrate holidays?
4. Did you know there is a holiday made JUST for celebrating white canes and the achievements of people with visual impairments?
5. What kinds of things do you think people celebrate on this day?

### Reading

Read “White Cane Day” by Kristin Grender

### Follow up questions

1. The book stated that White Cane Day has been celebrated since 1964! How long have we been celebrating White Cane Day?
2. What do we celebrate on White Cane Day?
3. What are some things about your white cane that you think we should celebrate?
4. Do you know any white cane users who have achieved something you admire? If so, who and what did they achieve?
5. How many feet away should a car stop from someone holding a white cane?
6. What are the two main purposes of a white cane?

Suggested follow up activities from the book

*“****Step One****: Learn about someone who has vision impairment, talk with them, read about them, watch a video about them and their achievements!*

***Step Two****: Educate people about the White Cane Law. Pass out flyers in town, read about it over the school’s announcements, talk with driver’s education students. Let’s get the word out!*

*and*

***Step Three****: Have fun! Make white cane day cookies (so yummy!), get your entire school up dancing to celebrate, display art created by individuals who have a vision impairment, listen to a song performed by someone with vision impairme*nt, *learn and play goalball in physical education classes.”*

Excerpt from “White Cane Day” by Kristin Grender, Copyright 2015

## Activity:

1. Take a straw and place a mini marshmallow on one end of the straw. Push the marshmallow onto the cane so it becomes stuck there. This will be the tip of the cane. There are many types of tips for a cane but, today, we will be using a marshmallow tip!
2. On the other end of the straw, wrap the first ½ inch with some tape, this will function as the grip!
3. Now, let's look at all the parts! Can you show me the grip? The shaft? The tip?
4. Find your favorite stuffed animal and give them a cane. Now you’ve got a white cane buddy!