

Roane County Special Education Department's Traveling Trunks Project

Oftentimes, teachers do not have the ability and/or monies to research and collect quality materials for a wide variety of issues and subject areas. This is especially true for students with disabilities in small schools in isolated communities such as in Roane County. Traveling Trunks have been developed across the country to help with this problem.

The purpose of the Traveling Trunks project is to develop materials that can be utilized by all of the special educators across the county to address issues and teach skills to children receiving special education services. A traveling trunk is assembled with a collection of materials that provides the teacher with everything needed to teach a complete unit on a given topic. The traveling trunks can then be checked out for a period of time and move about the county according to need. To date, 41 trunks have been developed and are in circulation.

The Research and Development (RAD) Team developed the first set of traveling trunks over the last two summers. These usually are based on a theme or a book. All of the materials needed for the unit are included in the trunk. The trunk may include bulletin boards, games, book sets, lesson plans, arts and crafts activities, etc. Some examples of the traveling trunks' subjects are: Grandfather's Journey (immigration to America, Japanese culture), Moon Phases (science, moon), Money (coins, counting, change) and Coast to Coast with Alice (first females to drive across the US, states studies). There are trunks for all ages and ability levels.

The next set of trunks was developed through a grant we received from the state for helping students with transitions throughout their lives. Each of these trunks is about a specific transition need our students have, such as banking and budgeting, getting a driver's license, transitioning from elementary to middle school, and food, nutrition and cooking. All of these trunks contain everything needed to teach a unit on a particular subject.

This school year, traveling trunks are being developed by gifted students in some schools, as a way to do a novel study and then create materials based on that book. Some of the materials being developing by the students include games and other activities to teach vocabulary and comprehension skills. This also gives these students the chance to learn organization, communication, and collaboration skills while working together on a project that will also benefit other students.

The table below gives an overview of the different trunks currently in circulation.

Trunks	#	Book or Materials	Interest Levels	Reading Level	Themes		
Transition Toolkit	1	Variety of books and materials	HS	N/A	Self-Advocacy	Employment/ Learning Styles	Vocational Assessment
Your Job, Your Future	2	Notebook Only	9-12	N/A	Employment Skills	Vocational planning	Resume writing
You know you're getting older when... You have bills to pay!	3	Various titles	9-12	N/A	Budgeting	Banking	Credit reports
Health Insurance	4	Various titles	9-12	N/A	Insurance	CoverTN	AccessTN
Travel and Transportation	5	TN Driver Handbook/ Behind the Wheel	9-12	N/A	Automobile safety	Driver's License Information	Other transportation alternatives
Transitioning to High school	6	I Wish I Knew What To Do?!	7-8	N/A	High school graduation requirements	Social and emotional issues	Academic challenges of high school
Food, Nutrition, and Cooking	7	Kids Cook	6-8	3-4	Cooking safety	Menu planning	Cooking terms
Careers	8	The Giver	6-12	5-6	Career awareness	Social Issues	Government
Career Awareness	9	Notebook Only	6-8	N/A	Career exploration	---	---
Character Education	10	Crash, Loser, Touching Spirit Bear, Stepping on the Cracks	6-8	4-6	Bullying	Self-Esteem/ Friendship	Respect/ Setting Goals
Parenting and Child Care	11	Various materials	9-12	N/A	Parenting	---	----
Diversity Awareness and Acceptance	12	Various materials	6-12	N/A	Diversity	---	---
Anger Management	13	Where the Wild Things Are Joey Pigza Loses Control, Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key	6-12	2-3	Anger Management	Emotions	----
When I grow UP... Career Awareness	14	(Assorted A to Z Books)	K-5	N/A			
Transition from Elementary to Middle	15	Jerry Spinelli Report to the Principal's Office	5	N/A	Suggested field trips	Puzzles	Learning style inventories
Zoo (Two Trunks)	16	Hug & Rumble in the Jungle & Zipping Around The Zoo	Pre-5	N/A	Units, games	Field trip form	Vocabulary word strips
Under Development	17	Under Development					
Understanding disabilities*	18	Building Wings: How I Made It Through School	5th & up		Self-esteem	Understanding disabilities	Self-Advocacy

Understanding disabilities*	19	Building Wings: How I Made It Through School	5 th & up		Self-esteem	Understanding disabilities	Self-Advocacy
Water Biomes	20	N/A	6-12	N/A	Science	Water Biomes	---
Honey, Honey...Lion	21	Honey, Honey... Lion	K-5	2-4	Africa Animals	Folk Tales	Biomes
Stellaluna (Bats)	22	Stellaluna	K-5	2-3	Science	Bats	Nocturnal Animals
Rainforests (Two Trunks)	23	The Great Kapok Tree & Life in the Rainforests	K-5	2-3	Science	Rainforests	Folk Tales
Managing Your Banking	24	Various titles	9-12	N/A	Banking	Math	Life skills
Holes (Novel Study)	25	Holes	5-12	5-6	Friendship	Novel Study	-----
Moon Phases (Two Trunks)	26	Various materials	K-5	N/A	Science	Moon	-----
Grandfather's Journey	27	Grandfather's Journey, & Tea with Milk	3-5	3-5	Social Studies	Japan	Immigration
Down on the Farm	28	Mini Books	K-3	N/A	Alphabet	Science	Animals
Social Studies-States/Travel	29	Coast to Coast with Alice	4-8+	4-5	Social Studies-States Study	Early U.S. travel/autos	Journaling
Money	30	Something About Hensley's & Trouble with Money	1-5	2-3	Math	Money	Counting coins
Understanding Relationships*	31	Simply Alice	6 th -8 th	5.2	Families	Friendships	Social Structures
Self-esteem, "Fitting in"*	32	The Schwa was Here; Stick Up for Yourself!	5 th - 6 th	5.0	Self-esteem	Peer pressure	
Character & Values*	33	Handbook for Boys	6 th - 8 th	4.9	Diversity	Character & Values	Friends/Friendship
Handling Peer Pressure *	34	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	5 th & Up	5.2	Bullying	Friendships	Peer pressure
Self-Advocacy -II* (Volunteerism)	35	Vet Volunteers: Homeless	6 th - 8 th	4 th - 5 th	Job Exploration	Volunteerism	Animal Care
Self-Advocacy- I*	36	Tangerine	6 th & up	4.3	Friendship	Loyalty	Sports
Transition to Middle School (Friendships)*	37	How I Survived Middle School Series Can You Get an F in Lunch? Madame President I Heard a Rumor The New Girl Cheat Sheet P.S. I Really Like You Who's Got Spirit?	4 th - 8 th	3.6	Friendship	Characters	Honesty; Values
Self-Advocacy- III*	38	Freak the Mighty	5 th - 6 th	5.5	Self-Advocacy	"Fitting In"	Friendship

Voting Rights & Responsibilities*	39	Class President; Vote!; The Boy Who Ran for President	5 th & up	4.3	Voting	Electoral Process	
Social Studies-Child Labor	40	Counting on Grace & TIKVAH Children's Book Creators Reflect On Human Rights	5 th & up	5-6	Social Studies	Child Labor Reform	Novel Study
Individuality and Acceptance	41	Star Girl	6 th - 8 th	4.2	Fears	Friendships	Individuality