



America's White Table



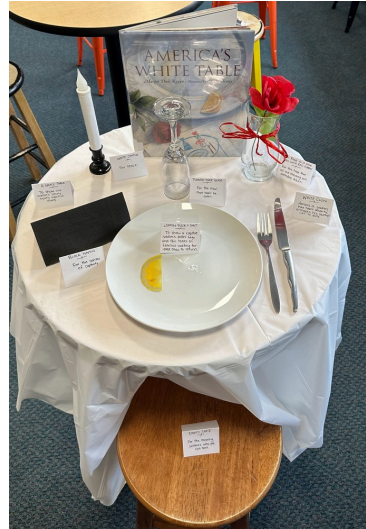
Student Targets:

I can....identify items and what they represent on America's White Table

Materials/Equipment:

- White cloth
- One red rose
- One vase
- A red ribbon
- A white plate
- A slice of lemon
- Salt shaker
- Black napkin
- A glass
- A chair
- Items Cards (Attached Below)

Photo of Lesson/Set Up



Activity Procedures:

1. Explain to students that America's White Table is a veterans remembrance tradition which started during the Vietnam War honoring MIA and POW. Each item set on the table represents something and acts as a reminder to remember veterans and what they gave for their country.
2. If available read *America's White Table* (Use this link for a reading of the story from Medal of Honor Recipient Woody Williams reads "America's White Table," <https://vimeo.com/411465009>)
3. After listening to the story, discuss the items on the table and what they represent (print and use the name cards below).

Debrief Questions:

- **About the table setting:**
 - Why is the table always set with a white tablecloth?
 - What does the empty chair symbolize?
 - What does the upside-down glass represent?
 - What is the significance of the napkin placed on the plate?
- **About the family's story:**
 - What happened to Uncle John during the war?
 - How does the family feel about Uncle John's absence?
 - How does the white table tradition help the family remember Uncle John?
- **About the broader meaning:**
 - What does the "white table" represent in a larger sense?
 - How does this story encourage us to honor veterans and remember sacrifices made during war?
 - What are some ways you could create a similar tradition to remember someone important to you?

<p>THE SMALL TABLE represents one soldier's lonely battle against many.</p>	<p>THE WHITE CLOTH represents a soldier's pure motives when answering the call to duty.</p>
<p>THE RED ROSE represents the life, and the blood that was shed.</p>	<p>THE VASE WITH THE RED RIBBON represents our commitment, and continued determination to account for our missing.</p>
<p>A SLICE OF LEMON represents the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.</p>	<p>THE SALT represents the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.</p>

<p>THE BLACK NAPKIN represents the isolation, deprivation, and cruel fate of our missing.</p>	<p>THE OVERTURNED GLASS represents their inability to share this evening with us.</p>
<p>THE EMPTY & TILTED CHAIR represents those who are not here and will remain so until they return or are accounted for</p>	<p>THE WHITE CANDLE represents peace.</p>