

STEM Activities

Extension Activity

Directions: Provide one of the following STEM activities for your students to complete. After they have participated in the activity, distribute copies of the Reflection Questions for the students to answer. These questions encourage students to compare and contrast their STEM experience with the experience of the girl in *The Most Magnificent Thing*.

Marshmallow Structures

Activity: Assemble a structure using marshmallows and pretzel sticks (or mini marshmallows and toothpicks).

Materials Needed: marshmallows and pretzel sticks or mini marshmallows and toothpicks

Recycle Boats

Activity: Build a boat that can float out of recyclable materials.

Materials Needed: collection of clean recyclables, duct tape, scissors, kiddie pool or other container for testing each boat's ability to float

Straw Towers

Activity: Build a tower out of straws. (Note: As an added challenge, you could ask that the tower is able to hold a certain weight or remain standing when placed in front of a fan on high speed, etc.)

Materials Needed: plastic straws, tape (weight, fan if using a challenge task)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions by comparing and contrasting your experience during the STEM activity and what you know about the girl in **The Most Magnificent Thing**.

Reflection Questions

1. The girl created detailed plans and was full of confidence as she started her creation. Describe how you felt as you began your activity. Did you make a plan before you began creating?

How did you feel about the task?

1. The girl's first few tries didn't turn out to be magnificent, so she kept starting over. Did you have to start your creation over? Why or why not?

If you did start over, how did it make you feel?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Reflection Questions (continued)

3. The girl became frustrated and angry because she just "couldn't get it right". Did you feel frustrated or angry as you were building your creation?

What caused you to feel frustrated or angry?

4. When the girl became angry, her friend suggested taking a walk to help her calm down. If you felt frustrated during your activity, what did you do to calm down? Did it help?

If you didn't feel frustrated, write down some ideas you could give to a friend if they needed help calming down.
