



5 EMPTY BOWL LESSON PLAN IDEAS FOR YOUR ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

Before beginning any of the lessons below, make sure to discuss what the Empty Bowls project is and how it will help your community.

Remember: All money raised under the name “Empty Bowls” must go towards fighting hunger.

For more information, please visit www.emptybowls.net.



1 COMMUNITY TABLECLOTHS

- Discuss what a community is and how students fit into their communities.
- Have students brainstorm different parts of their communities.
- Have students create community buildings out of construction paper, decorating with collaged elements and drawing materials.
- Glue all of the buildings onto long pieces of roll paper to create tablecloths for your Empty Bowls event.



2 COMMUNITY PLACEMATS

- Discuss what a community is and how students fit into their communities.
- Have students brainstorm different parts of their communities.
- Show students Romare Bearden's *The Block*. Examine the shapes in his work. Explain how a collage is made.
- Have students create collages with community buildings, trees, parks, etc. on placemat-sized papers. Then, have students add extra details with drawing materials.
- Use the finished placemats at your Empty Bowls event.



3 CLAY FOOD DECORATIONS

- Discuss Pop Art and look at the work of Claes Oldenburg.
- Have students brainstorm their favorite foods and do some sketching.
- Demonstrate simple clay techniques and show how they can be used together to create food items.
- Have students create their favorite food out of clay. After firing, have them add color with glaze or paint.
- Display the clay food at your Empty Bowls event for decoration.



4 HELPING HANDS ARTWORK

- Discuss what a symbol is and show work from artists that use symbols in their work.
- Discuss different ways we can use our hands to express emotion and different ways we can use our hands to help others.
- Have students trace their hands onto 12" x 18" paper. Then, have them decorate in and around their hand shape with symbols that show how they use their hands.
- When finished drawing, have the students add color with the media of your choice.
- Display the finished works at your Empty Bowls event.



5 EMPTY BOWLS

- Talk about functional art. Explain the Empty Bowls project and tell students they will be creating bowls to be given away at the event.
- Have students roll out slabs of clay. Using an upside-down styrofoam bowl as a template, have them trace and cut out a circle from the clay slab.
- Have students drape their slab into the bowl and press it down gently. Then, have students decorate the bowl.
- After the clay is dried and fired, glaze with a food-safe glaze.
- Use the bowls for soup at the event or give them away to your attendees.