



Lesson Plan

Lace-Up and Serve

Created: 04/2023 by the National FFA Organization

Description of Lesson: *Every person walks in a different pair of shoes every day. During each walk, we are faced with opportunities to serve and be served. Through his retiring address, 2021-22 National FFA Secretary Jackson Sylvester shares how choosing to serve may require us to disregard our own needs, but it is necessary to live a fulfilling life.*

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing these activities, students will ...

1. Explain how service requires sacrifice.
2. Identify ways they can serve others.
3. Describe times they have been served by others.

Suggested Grade Level:

Grades 9 and 10 (This lesson is written so instructors can scale up or down based on class needs.)

Suggested Time: 60 minutes (*Time requirements may vary based upon student understanding and class schedule.)

Resources/References:

1. Video: "Lace-Up and Serve" | Jackson Sylvester 2022 Retiring Address, <https://vimeo.com/777048021>

Related Resources:

1. Retiring Addresses and Keynote Speeches, [FFA.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/](https://ffa.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/)
2. Spanish version: <https://ffa.box.com/s/riq1zlug9nnhh6tyr9g946m4a8pgk9rz>

Equipment and Supplies Needed:

1. A copy of the "In These Boots" worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the video in real time or embed it in a PowerPoint ahead of time

Vocabulary:

1. Service
2. Perspective

Cross-Curricular Connections:

English/Language Arts
• Students compose an acrostic poem on service. • Students create a SMART goal to use in their lives.

Virtual Instruction Ideas:

Have students download and watch the video on a device of their choice and complete the worksheet.

Student Activity Sheets:

PDF: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218327684505>

Word: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218333708778>

Non-Design Word: <https://ffa.app.box.com/file/1218332247452>

Google Doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APKayddizPOjG6pKJTHzLDD5mUtXUgAKiOzMTQA7P2I/copy>

These Activities Are Aligned to the Following Standards:

FFA Precept

- FFA.PL-A.Action: Assume responsibility and take the necessary steps to achieve the desired results, no matter what the goal or task at hand.
- FFA.PL-B.Relationship: Build relationships, work as a team player, and appreciate the talents of others.
- FFA.PL-C.Vision: Visualize the future and how to get there.
- FFA.PL-D.Character: Conduct oneself appropriately in relation to others regardless of the situation.
- FFA.PG-J.Mental Growth: Embrace cognitive and intellectual development relative to reasoning, thinking and coping.
- FFA.CS-M.Communication: Effectively interact with others in personal and professional settings.
- FFA.CS-O.Flexibility/Adaptability: Be flexible in various situations and adapt to change.

Common Core – Writing

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- CRP.04. Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods.
- CRP.09. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Implement Innovations
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Think Creatively
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills

Lesson Plan:

1. **Bell Ringer:** Describe a time when you had to give something up to help someone else.
2. **Introduction:** Hand out the “In These Boots” worksheet to each student. *Today, we are going to watch a retiring address from the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo. This retiring address was given by 2021-22 National FFA Secretary Jackson Sylvester. In his speech, we will learn what it means to serve others. As we are watching the video, look over the questions on the worksheet “In These Boots” and be ready for the answers as you view the video.*
3. **Activity:** Each student needs a copy of the worksheet “In These Boots.”
 - a. **Part 1:** Have students watch the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Secretary Jackson Sylvester. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/777048021>. While students view the video, have them complete the questions.
 - b. **Part 2:** Students will analyze service in their lives through creating an acrostic poem, listing examples of service and creating a SMART goal on service. This activity will help them recognize different ways to serve others and create a plan to follow through with action. For more help on creating a service plan, see this resource: [Service Planning Guide](#).
 - c. **Part 3:** Students will be decorating a shoe print that includes either their poem or SMART goal from Part 2.
4. **Follow-up:** Students can present their shoe prints, or the shoe prints can be hung and used as a gallery walk.
5. **Exit Ticket:** How do you think serving others will add value to your everyday life?

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-B; FFA.PL-C; FFA.PL-D; FFA.PG-J; FFA.CS-M; FFA.CS-O; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.4; CRP.04; CRP.09

In These Boots

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching “Lace-Up and Serve,” the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Secretary Jackson Sylvester. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/777048021>.

- 1) What was Jackson’s first “big boy” job?
- 2) What television show did Jackson and his brother watch over winter break?
- 3) Why do you think Carter jumped into action and gave Jackson his dry clothes?

You’ve Been Served.

Think of a time when someone disregarded their needs to ensure your needs were met and share it below:

Who was this person? Why do you think this person met your needs?

- 4) Fill in the blanks from the following quote:

“Serving others is directly _____ with our
ability to make minor personal _____.”
—Jackson Sylvester

- 5) In his retiring address, Jackson mentions that acts of service can be simple, such as helping unload groceries or letting someone that is in a rush cut in line. Name two examples of service that are simple — one you have done before and one you hope to do.

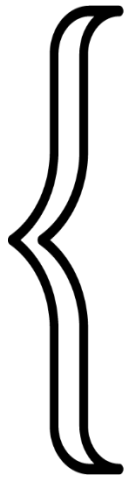
Name: _____

This one time, in 2007 ...

6) What happened every Wednesday night in Jackson's family?

7) What was special about this particular Wednesday night in 2007?

8) What happened to Ethan in 2011?



Time Stands Still.

Think of an experience you've had when it felt as though time stood still and write it below.

How did this experience impact you?



9) Where did Jackson see Ethan again a few years after he moved?

10) What is "the largest lesson" of Jackson's life?

11) What does Jackson say we are "called for"?

12) How does Jackson say we can gain a fulfilling life?

13) Fill in the blanks from the following quote:

**"It really doesn't matter our _____; it's time to lace up
and _____."**

—Jackson Sylvester

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Below are the letters that make up the base word “SERVE.” Think of five examples or facts about what it means to serve others. These examples or facts can be actual things you or a team you’re on (FFA, other clubs/organizations, sports, etc.) have completed, or they can be ideas that you come up with. When you write these examples or facts, make sure they cover one letter in the base word. An example is below using FFA as a base word.

- Creating **F**uture agriculturists
- Teaching **F**arming methods
- Bringing **A**gricultural awareness

S
E
R
V
E

Take a moment to think about all the times that you have served others and all the times that you have been served. These can be big actions of service or simple, small actions. Fill in the chart below.

How have others served me?	How have I served others?
1)	1)
2)	2)

Now create a service goal that you can use to serve someone else. Be sure to make your goal SMART — specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound. (This PowerPoint will give you more information on creating a SMART goal, if needed: [Setting Goals](#).)

Example of a SMART goal: I will attend four new FFA events above the chapter level and connect with two new FFA members outside of my chapter by the end of the current school year.

Write your SMART goal below:

Name: _____

Part 3

Directions:

Using the acrostic poem or the SMART goal that you created in Part 2, you will now create a shoe to highlight service. Use the space below to trace your shoe print. If your foot is too big, draw an outline of a shoe print. Then decorate your shoe print however you please. Be sure to include either your acrostic poem on service or your SMART goal about service. Your teacher may have you present your shoe print to the class or hang it for others to see.

Name: _____

KEY: In These Boots

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-B; FFA.PL-C; FFA.PL-D; FFA.PG-J; FFA.CS-M; FFA.CS-O; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.4; CRP.04; CRP.09

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching “Lace-Up and Serve,” the retiring address of 2021-22 National FFA Secretary Jackson Sylvester. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/777048021>.

1) What was Jackson’s first “big boy” job?

Welder and fabricator

2) What television show did Jackson and his brother watch over winter break?

“Survivor Man”

3) Why do you think Carter jumped into action and gave Jackson his dry clothes?

He used the survivor instincts from the show to save Jackson and prevent him from freezing.

You’ve Been Served.

Think of a time when someone disregarded their needs to ensure your needs were met and share it below:

Answers will vary.

Who was this person? Why do you think this person met your needs?

Answers will vary.

4) Fill in the blanks from the following quote:

“Serving others is directly **correlated** with our ability to make minor personal **sacrifices**.”

—Jackson Sylvester

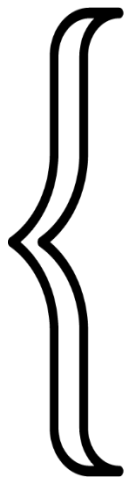
5) In his retiring address, Jackson mentions that acts of service can be simple, such as helping unload groceries or letting someone that is in a rush cut in line. Name two examples of service that are simple — one you have done before and one you hope to do.

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

This one time, in 2007 ...

- 6) What happened every Wednesday night in Jackson's family?
His family would go to his aunt and uncle's house for family dinner.
- 7) What was special about this particular Wednesday night in 2007?
His aunt and uncle adopted three new kids, and Jackson met Ethan.
- 8) What happened to Ethan in 2011?
He was put up for re-adoption.



Time Stands Still.

Think of an experience you've had when it felt as though time stood still and write it below.

Answers will vary.

How did this experience impact you?

Answers will vary.



- 9) Where did Jackson see Ethan again a few years after he moved?
Delaware State Fair
- 10) What is "the largest lesson" of Jackson's life?
His own pain was a byproduct of what Ethan needed to get the life he deserved.
- 11) What does Jackson say we are "called for"?
To learn to serve others before fully comprehending their situations
- 12) How does Jackson say we can gain a fulfilling life?
By choosing a life of investing in other people

- 13) Fill in the blanks from the following quote:

"It really doesn't matter our shoes; it's time to lace up and
serve."

—Jackson Sylvester

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Below are the letters that make up the base word “SERVE.” Think of five examples or facts about what it means to serve others. These examples or facts can be actual things you or a team you’re on (FFA, other clubs/organizations, sports, etc.) have completed, or they can be ideas that you come up with. When you write these examples or facts, make sure they cover one letter in the base word. An example is below using FFA as a base word.

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- Bringing **A**gricultural awareness

S Answers will vary.

E

R

V

E

Take a moment to think about all the times that you have served others and all the times that you have been served. These can be big actions of service or simple, small actions. Fill in the chart below.

How have others served me?	How have I served others?
1) Answers will vary.	1) Answers will vary.
2) Answers will vary.	2) Answers will vary.

Now create a service goal that you can use to serve someone else. Be sure to make your goal SMART — specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound. (This PowerPoint will give you more information on creating a SMART goal, if needed: [Setting Goals.](#))

Example of a SMART goal: I will attend four new FFA events above the chapter level and connect with two new FFA members outside of my chapter by the end of the current school year.

Write your SMART goal below:

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Part 3

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Answers will vary.