

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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Presented by The Hartage Foundation Inc. • Orlando, Florida

*This five-day curriculum is a structured, teacher-ready plan built around the picture book "The Memory Box and Charlotte's Big Surprise." It is designed to function as a repeatable tool—not a one-time lesson—supporting literacy (read-aloud comprehension, discussion, writing) and social-emotional learning (emotion vocabulary, empathy, reassurance, safe expression).*

The curriculum is modeled on Florida's B.E.S.T. ELA strand structure (Reading, Communication, Vocabulary), but learning targets are written in universal skills language so districts can align to local standards without rewriting.

## EMOTIONAL SAFETY & CLASSROOM NORMS

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**Read First:** This topic may connect to students' real family experiences.

- Participation in sharing is always optional.
- Avoid asking students to disclose personal family information. Keep prompts story-based (about Charlotte) unless a student chooses to share.
- Use simple, steady reassurance statements: 'You did nothing wrong.' 'Love stays.' 'It is okay to ask again.'
- Offer non-verbal options (emotion cards, drawing, private writing).
- If a student becomes distressed, provide a quiet choice: step out, talk to counselor, or switch to drawing.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

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- The Memory Box and Charlotte's Big Surprise (read-aloud copy)
- Chart paper or whiteboard + markers

- Emotion cards: happy, sad, angry, confused, worried, calm, proud, hopeful
- Student journals, pencils, crayons/colored pencils
- **Memory Box materials:** Shoebox, cigar box, or sturdy container; tape/glue; labels
- Optional: photocopied photos, blank 'memory cards', paper 'souvenir' shapes

## MEMORY BOX

### CONSTRUCT

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One Box Per Student. This is an instructional construct that supports literacy, emotional expression, reassurance, and connection.

#### Acceptable Containers:

- Shoebox or Cigar box
- Small cardboard or sturdy gift box
- Plastic storage container with lid

## DECORATION & PRIVACY

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#### Decoration Options:

- Paint (tempera or acrylic), markers, crayons
- Construction paper, labels/index cards
- Glue sticks, tape, collage materials
- Drawings or printed pictures (real photos not required)

#### Privacy & Choice:

- Students may keep their Memory Box private.
- Sharing is always optional.
- Students may use real, imagined, or story-based memories.