**Subject area/course**: ELA/Social Studies

**Grade level/band**: 2nd

**Task source**: New Hampshire Task Bank; Authors: Eileen Kossakoski, Mary Larson, Barbara MacDonald, Joanne Hamor

**Boxcar Children**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

*Essential question*: What makes a good community member?

1. **Final product**:

After reading The Boxcar Children, choose a main character from the book and list 3 helpful traits. What evidence can you give for choosing each trait? Then, draw a picture that shows that trait.

*See instructional materials (character traits planning sheet) for more details about this task’s activities.*

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

Students will know:

* Story and characters in The Boxcar Children.
* Characters and traits that contribute to a successful community
* Strategies for effective presentations

Students will be able to:

* Listen to The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner.
* Choose a character from The Boxcar Children to discuss further.
* Identify the character trait(s) that help his/her community.
* Give evidence from text to support each character trait.
* Create and share orally a product with classmates that show how one of the Boxcar Children contributed to his/her community.
* Identify the many character traits that contribute to the success of their community. (their family)
* Give evidence from text to support each character trait. Complete a planning character traits worksheet.

1. **Materials needed:**

* Copy of The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
* Character traits planning sheet
* Assorted art materials (paper, crayons, popsicle sticks, scissors, glue, etc.)
* IPads for filming
* Anchor charts

1. **Time requirements:**

This task is designed to take about two weeks. Your teacher will provide you with more information about the timing of each part of the task.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Boxcar Children rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.