

Meals on Wheels
By Sheila Stone Dill

Last week I learned about Meals on Wheels first hand. I went along with my mom on her weekly Meals on Wheel route. No, it's not Domino's delivering pizza to someone who phones in an order. And it's not a van going through the neighborhood like the ice cream man.

Meals on Wheels are delicious, hot dinners prepared in the Senior Center kitchen and taken to people who can't cook for themselves. Volunteers like my mom deliver the meals around lunchtime Monday through Friday. She carried the food in insulated chests so the dinners would stay hot or cold.

People who want the meals can sign up for this service if they need it and pay a small amount for the food.

Meals on Wheels is for elderly or disabled people who aren't able to prepare their dinner themselves. They may not be strong enough or have a kitchen equipped to cook. They may be recovering from surgery or illness. Some don't have any children or family to look after them.

We picked up twenty-four hot dinners and set off in the car. The dinners had fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, salad, a piece of pie, and milk. The car smelled as good as a restaurant.

Besides delivering a hot dinner, my mother checks on each person to make sure they're doing okay. Mom says the Meals on Wheels volunteer could be the only visitor who comes to their house for days. If someone isn't feeling well she can call 911 or notify the Senior Center.

Mom let me carry the food up to the door. She introduced me to each person. Then I put the food down in the kitchen and opened the cartons. Some people were in wheelchairs. Some used walkers. Some could answer the door but not walk very well.

Every single person was friendly and sweet. They wanted us to sit and visit but Mom said we couldn't stay for long because other people were waiting for their food. One lady had the same name as me, Katrina. She asked my mom if she could give me a rosebud from her garden. Mom said yes.

I told Mom I'd like to help some other time. I really enjoy older people.

She smiled and said the next time I had a day off from school I could.

Passage: Meals on Wheels
Grade: 4

Constructed Response Question:

Explain 2 reasons why the Meals on Wheels program is important to the elderly or disabled people. Use details from the passage to support your answer

Teacher-Created Rubric:

Score Point	Expectation
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response provides a complete explanation with 2 related reasons why the Meals on Wheels program is important to the elderly or disabled.• The response included enough related details to support your answer
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response provides a limited explanation with 1 reason why the Meals on Wheels program is important to the elderly or disabled.• The response includes some details to support your answer.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response gives no clear explanation as to why the Meals on Wheels program is important to the elderly or disabled.• The response does not include details supported by the passage.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response is incorrect.

Here are eight students' samples. With a partner, look closely at the question and the rubric, and decide how each of these samples should be scored.

1. Two reasons why the meals on wheels Program is important to the elderly for there care of there heath. The senors cant cook because maybe they might barly hade surgery or they might be on wheels or they don't have any body to take care of them or they might be ill and might be getting better the meals on wheels need help to cook hot meals.
2. they cud call the the ambiunles. And some tims the are not to much strong. Or they dont have children to protect them. The cant cook for their selfs because they are in surgery...they cud call all when its imporent.
3. The Meals On Wheels! 2 reasons why the meals on wheels is important to the elderly or disabled peoples are: 1) Hot meals prepared in the Senior Center are taken to people who can't cook for themselves maybe because they are recovering from surgery are unabel to cook for them selves. 2) They don't have anyone to look after them and the meals on wheels volentirs look at them every day. If they are not okay, they call 911 or the Senior Center to come check what's wrong with them.
4. the meals on wheels are inportant because they cun not cook And People are not Strong and Because recove From Surgery or illness.
5. Meals on Wheels were important for the elderly or disabled people becuse 1) Some were still recovering from sergery or illness. They are not strong either So that's why they can't cook for themselves. 2) Volinteers would check on them if their doing okay. If their not they would call 911 or Notify the Senior Center. The Meal on Weells Volinteers come in every day to check on them. If something is wrong they call 911.
6. They Did not have Family to look after them the can Fall and senior center helps them. The Senior center Check's on them every day.
7. Meals on wheels 1) hot dinner are prepared to the Senior center to People who can't cook at a kichten 2) Some People can Cook but Surgery People can't cook for themselves because they just had surgury from the hospital. 3) If Something is wrong the People can call 911 for help. 4) People who are elderly can't just cook or eat messy. 5) They have to tell the people who work at the Senior center.
8. They go on wheelchairs There prepared for injurees so the can call 911. Then they can check on them.