

The Mystery of the "Invisible" Superhero

National Day Classroom

The Setup: Ask the students to look around the room. Ask them if they see any superheroes. Usually, they'll say "No." Then, begin the story.

The Story: Once upon a time, there was a giant named **Ag**. Ag wasn't like the giants in fairy tales who lived in clouds; Ag lived right under everyone's feet. Ag was so big and so quiet that most people forgot he was there.

One morning, a student named Leo woke up. He reached for his favorite soft, cotton T-shirt. *"Thanks, Ag,"* the shirt whispered. Leo didn't hear it. The cotton had been grown in a sunny field months ago, harvested by a farmer, and spun into cloth.

Leo went to the kitchen and poured a bowl of cereal with cold milk. *"You're welcome,"* the milk carton seemed to hum. That milk came from a cow that ate grass grown by Ag. The wheat in the cereal had danced in the wind on a farm far away before landing in Leo's bowl.

Leo hopped on the school bus. As the big rubber tires hit the road, they gripped the pavement. *"I've got you,"* the tires signaled. (Did you know some rubber and oils in tires come from soybeans and trees?)

The Twist: Halfway through the day, Leo realized something. Everything he touched—from the wooden pencil in his hand to the leather in his sneakers and the apple in his lunchbox—was a gift from the "Invisible Superhero."

Leo looked out the classroom window and saw a tractor in a distant field. He realized Ag wasn't a giant monster; **Ag was Agriculture**. It was the farmers, the soil, the water, and the sun all working together to make sure Leo had everything he needed to grow up strong.

Interactive Classroom Discussion

After the story, keep the momentum going with these quick "Ag-tivities":

- **The "Trace it Back" Game:** Pick an object in the room (like a wool sweater or a sandwich) and have the students "trace" it back to the farm.
- **The Pizza Farm:** Ask students to list the ingredients of a pizza. Then, explain how every single part—the crust (wheat), the sauce (tomatoes), the cheese (cows), and the pepperoni (livestock)—starts on a farm.
- **Career Match:** Remind them that Ag isn't just farming! It's also scientists who study seeds, pilots who fly drones over crops, and chefs who turn plants into delicious meals.

Fun Fact for the Class

"One U.S. farm produces enough food and fiber to feed about **166 people** annually. That's enough to feed several whole classrooms just from one farm!"

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