

Character Education: Grades 3-5

March 2013

Integrity

1. Introduction

- a. If this is your first session, introduce yourself and your family (if your child is in that class).
- b. Bring in a picture or souvenir of your child to share with the class.

2. Character Education – what it’s all about:

- a. Remember, this is about helping you learn to make good choices – even when you’re having a difficult time. This will help you grow into mature, successful and caring adults.
- b. Recap the previous character traits:
 - i. Respect: Everyone deserves respect. When you respect others – you earn their respect too.
 - ii. Kindness: Being kind to others is not just about making someone else happy – it makes you happy too!
 - iii. Courage: Courage is not just about saving a life or putting out a fire. Courage is just as much about standing up for what’s right and trying something new or something difficult that is worthwhile.
- c. Now today, we’re going to talk about one very important character trait – integrity

3. Define Integrity

Ask the students to say some words that define or are the same as integrity (write them on the board)

THEN SHARE THIS DEFINITION

- a. Having the inner strength to be truthful and trustworthy. (do you know what “inner strength” is?)
- b. Being honorable and having the determination to do the right thing even when others don’t

4. Discussion questions:

- a. Have you ever witnessed anyone acting with integrity?
- b. How can you show integrity?
- c. Why is integrity important in your life?

5. Literature Suggestions: (Time will probably only allow for one story)

If you have a book at home that you would like to read to the students then please do so. Before reading, think through what you want the students to learn and make a note of questions you intend to ask them. Below are some recommended books (two with suggested questions). All books are either provided in the lesson or can be borrowed from Greensboro Library.

- a. **The Emperor's New Clothes**, by Hans Christian Anderson (can be found at the end of this lesson).
 - i. Who showed integrity in this story? Who did not?
 - ii. What would you have done if you were in his shoes?

- b. **Saint George and the Dragon** by Margaret Hodges
 - i. Do you think the knight was tempted to go to the palace on the mountaintop? What stopped him? Do you think it was the hermit?
 - ii. Do you think the king was made at the knight when he said he had to serve the Fairy Queen for 6 more years? Why or why not?
 - iii. Who showed integrity in this story?

- c. **A Day's Work**, by Eve Bunting
- d. **Abe's Honest Words**, by Doreen Rappaport
- e. **The Boy who Held back the Sea**, by Thomas Locker

6. ACTIVITIES (Choose one or 2 activities depending on time)

a. Pick your side...

- i. Have all the students stand in the middle of the room. Tell them you are going to ask them some questions. If they think the answer is yes then move to the left of the room. If it is no then move to the right of the room.
- ii. Have the students defend their choice. There may be some disagreement which you can explore.

QUESTIONS

1. You and two of your friends pass an empty old house. In front of it there's a 'No Trespassing' sign but the front door is open. You tell your friends not to go inside but they do anyway. Should you tell your parents or another adult neighbor that you know?
2. You and your best friend Sid are going to the movies. Sid sneaks in the side door without paying. Should you sneak in too?
3. A group of kids who you think are really cool are picking on another kid. They want you to join them, they say you're a nerd if you don't. You don't want to be left out but you think picking on the other kid is unfair. Do you start to pick on the kid too?
4. You find out that your best friend has cheated on a test. She has never done it before and she promises she'll never do it again. Do you tell the teacher?

b. Integrity Match

- i. **PREPARATION:** Print off enough copies of the Integrity Match sheet at the end of this lesson so give one to each student.
- ii. Hand out the sheets in class. Ask the students to circle the correct response.
- iii. When they are done ask the students to volunteer their answers. Start a discussion by asking about real life examples.

c. Act it out

- i. For this activity you will need 35c of either real or pretend money.
- ii. Choose 1 boy and 1 girl volunteer to act out the following scenario. After the scenario have a classroom discussion on the end to determine how the pair did show integrity or could show integrity.
- iii. Scenario: Sandy and John are twins who sit next to each other in class. Both Sandy and John like to buy ice cream at lunch, but their parents only give them enough money to get the treat once a week each. One

morning, while sharpening her pencil, Sandy found 35c on the floor in the classroom. That was just enough for a chocolate ice cream cup, her favorite. John knew she had already bought ice cream this week. Lets see what Sandy and John do next.

7. **Reminder:** Having integrity makes us the best people we can be. People with integrity are relied upon and are given lots of responsibility. They become our leaders and go on to do big things: in work, as a member of the family or as an important person in the community like a mayor, city council person, school teacher or even the President.

The Emperor's New Clothes, by Hans Christian Anderson

Once upon a time there lived a vain Emperor whose only worry in life was to dress in elegant clothes. He changed clothes almost every hour and loved to show them off to his people.

Word of the Emperor's refined habits spread over his kingdom and beyond. Two scoundrels who had heard of the Emperor's vanity decided to take advantage of it. They introduced themselves at the gates of the palace with a scheme in mind.

"We are two very good tailors." The scoundrels told the guards. "After many years of research we have invented an extraordinary method to weave a cloth so light and fine that it looks invisible. As a matter of fact it is invisible to anyone who is too stupid and incompetent to appreciate its quality."

The chief of the guards heard the scoundrels' strange story and sent for the court chamberlain. The chamberlain notified the prime minister, who ran to the Emperor and disclosed the incredible news. The Emperor's curiosity got the better of him and he decided to see the two scoundrels.

"Besides being invisible, your Highness, this cloth will be woven in colors and patterns created especially for you."

The Emperor gave the two men a bag of gold coins in exchange for their promise to begin working on the fabric immediately. "Just tell me what you need to get started and I will give it to you." He declared.

The two scoundrels asked for a loom, silk, gold thread and then pretended to begin working. The Emperor thought he had spent his money quite well. In addition to getting a new extraordinary suit, he would discover which of his subjects were ignorant and incompetent. A few days later, he called the old and wise Prime Minister, who was considered by everyone as a man with common sense.

"Go and see how the work is proceeding," the Emperor told him, "and come back to let me know."

The Prime Minister was welcomed by the two scoundrels. "We're almost finished, but we need a lot more gold thread. Here, Excellency! Admire the colors, feel the softness!"

The old man bent over the loom and tried to see the fabric that was not there. He felt cold sweat on his forehead.

“I can’t see anything,” he thought. “If I see nothing, that means I’m stupid! Or worse, incompetent!” If the Prime Minister admitted that he didn’t see anything, he would be discharged from his office.

“What a marvelous fabric,” he said. “I’ll certainly tell the Emperor.”

The two scoundrels rubbed their hands gleefully. They had almost made it. More thread was requested to finish the work.

Finally, the Emperor received the announcement that the two tailors had come to take all the measurements needed to sew his new suit.

“Come in,” the Emperor ordered. Even as they bowed, the two scoundrels pretended to be holding a large roll of fabric.

“Here it is your Highness, the result of our labor.” The scoundrels said. “We have worked night and day but, at last, the most beautiful fabric in the world is ready for you. Look at the colors and feel how fine it is.”

Of course the Emperor did not see any colors and could not feel any cloth between his fingers. He panicked and felt like fainting. Luckily, the throne was right behind him and he sat down. He realized that no one could know that he did not see the fabric. Nobody could find out he was stupid and incompetent. And the Emperor did not know that everybody else around him thought and did the very same thing!

The farce continued as the two scoundrels had foreseen. Once they had taken the measurements, the two began cutting the air with scissors while sewing with their needles an invisible cloth.

“Your Highness, you will have to take off your clothes to try on your new ones.” The two scoundrels draped the new clothes on him and then held up a mirror. The Emperor was embarrassed but since none of his bystanders were, he felt relieved.

“Yes, this is a beautiful suit and it looks very good on me,” the Emperor said, trying to look comfortable. “You’ve done a fine job.”

“Your Majesty,” the Prime Minister said, “we have a request for you. The people have found out about this extraordinary fabric and they are anxious to see you in your new suit.”

The Emperor was doubtful showing himself naked to the people, but then he abandoned his fears. After all, no one would know about it except the ignorant and the incompetent.

“All right,” he said. “I will grant the people this privilege.” He summoned his carriage and the ceremonial parade was formed. A group of dignitaries walked at the very front of the procession and anxiously scrutinized the faces of the people in the street. All the people had gathered in the main square, pushing and shoving to get a better look. An applause welcomed the regal procession. Everyone wanted to know how stupid or incompetent his or neighbor was but, as the Emperor passed, a strange murmur rose from the crowd.

Everyone said, loud enough for the others to hear: “Look at the Emperor’s new clothes. They’re beautiful!”

“What a marvelous train!”

“And the colors! The colors of that beautiful fabric! I have never seen anything like it in my life!” They all tried to conceal their disappointment at not being able to see the clothes, and since nobody was willing to admit his own stupidity and incompetence, they all behaved as the two scoundrels had predicted.

A child, however, who had no important job and could only see things as his eyes showed them to him, went up to the carriage.

“Why is the Emperor naked?” he asked.

“Fool!” his father reprimanded, running after him. “Don’t talk nonsense!” He grabbed his child and took him away. But the boy’s remark, which had been heard by the bystanders, was repeated over and over again until everyone cried:

“The boy is right! The Emperor is naked! It’s true!”

The Emperor realized that the people were right but could not admit to that. He thought it better to continue the procession under the illusion that anyone who couldn’t see his clothes was either stupid or incompetent. He stood stiffly on his carriage, while behind him a page held his imaginary mantle.

Integrity Match

Circle the phrase which will complete each sentence to show integrity.

When I know something is wrong,	I do it anyway. I do not do it.
When I say I will do something,	I keep my word. I forget about it.
When someone asks me something,	I tell the truth. I tell a lie.
When I know something will hurt another person's feelings,	I do not say it. I say it anyway.
When I see someone stealing,	I steal also. I tell a person who can help.
When I accidentally break something,	I blame someone else. I take responsibility and try to fix it.
When someone tells me to do something that is wrong,	I tell them, "No". I say "OK".
When I see someone cheating on a test,	I do my own work. I cheat too.