

## Character Education: Grades 3-5

October 2013

### Respect

#### 1. Introduction

- a. If this is your first session, introduce yourself and your family (if your child is in that class).
- b. If you have taught this class before, bring in a picture or souvenir of your child to share with the class.
- c. At the start of the class tell the students that you are switching off your cell phone to show them that you respect them and their time.

#### 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 responsibility: Being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties; reliable and consistent in words and conduct; Being accountable for your own actions; being committed to active involvement in your school and your community.
- c. Now today, we’re going to talk about one very important character trait – respect

#### 3. Define Respect

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

##### **THEN SHARE THIS DEFINITION**

- a. Showing regard for other people, for yourself, for property, the environment, your country
- b. Understanding that all people have value as human beings
- c. Showing that you value other people’s possessions, your home, your own body, the world we live in and our country by the way we act!
- d. Like all traits, it’s about your ACTIONS not your thoughts

#### 4. Discussion questions:

- a. How can you show respect to other people?
- b. Who deserves your respect
- c. REMEMBER: EVERYONE DESERVES YOUR RESPECT!

**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 3 recommended books. Time will probably only allow for one story.

- a. **The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry** (can be borrowed from Greensboro Library.)
  - i. Why do you think the man was trying to cut down the Kapok Tree?
  - ii. What were some of the reasons that the animals and the child did not want him to cut down the tree?
  - iii. Why do you think the man chose not to cut down the tree?
  - iv. How does this story demonstrate respect?
  
- b. **The Lorax by Dr Seuss** (can be borrowed from Greensboro Library.)
  - i. Why did the Onceler start cutting down the Truffula trees? When he started did he intend to cut down all the trees?
  - ii. What reasons did the Lorax give when he asked the Onceler to stop cutting down the Truffula tree? Why didn't the Onceler listen to him?
  - iii. Did the Onceler respect the Lorax? Did he respect the trees or the animals in the forest? Why not?
  - iv. At the end of the story, do you think the Onceler is sorry for what he did? Do you think he wishes he had not cut down the trees?
  - v. How can the little boy fix what the Onceler did? How will he be showing respect if he does this?
  
- c. **The Rerun, by Barry Brook** (Printed on the last page)
  - i. Why did Samantha call Matt "Mr. Butterfingers"?
  - ii. How does Matt feel about Samantha at the beginning of the story? At the end of the story? What changed?
  - iii. People show respect by using good manners. What are some other ways people show respect?
  - iv. If someone hurts you, how should you act in return?
  - v. What are some ways that you show respect in school?
  
- d. **Mrs. Katz and Tush, by Patricia Polacco** (can be borrowed from Greensboro Library).

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

### a. Match the PICTURE:

- i. **PREPARATION:** Cut out the pictures at the end of this lesson. Make sure there will be a projector available to show the pictures in the class. **You will need tape for this activity.**
- ii. Draw a grid on the board with 4 sections labeled:
  1. Yourself
  2. Others
  3. The Environment
  4. Your Country
- iii. Project each picture onto the board.
- iv. Ask the students where each picture should be placed in the grid. Have students come up and stick the picture in the right place.
- v. Talk about why it is important to show respect in all these areas.

### b. Respect Situation Cards: Cut out the cards at the end of this lesson and have the students give responses to each situation. For each situation, have the student say who / what they are showing respect to when they respond. This can be done in pairs, small groups or as a whole class.

- ### c. Respect Skits: Get 3 volunteers. Tell them to act out a skit as follows:
- i. Two kids are playing nicely and one come in and rudely takes a toy away.
  - ii. When one kid complains, the new kid says "Too Bad!"

*Ask the students for feedback – what could they have done differently?*

- iii. Ask for 3 different volunteers and repeat the skit except this time have the new kid ask to play with the toys respectfully.

*Ask the students to say what was better this time.*

## 7. Closing

Reminder: Everyone deserves respect. When you respect others – you earn their respect too!

## The Rerun by Barry Brook

Matt and Cliff walked home from school. It was Friday afternoon.

"Let's get our bikes and go to the comic book store," said Matt.

Cliff liked the idea. "I get my allowance today. We'll see if anything new came in."

The boys turned the corner onto Lake Street. They saw brightly colored signs on the telephone poles. They ran to the first pole. The signs were for the county fair.

"Remember how great the rides were?" asked Matt.

"The Ferris wheel was the best," answered Cliff.

"I liked the whip," Matt added.

"Remember the relay race?" asked Cliff.

Matt's smile seemed to vanish. "I remember we came in last. And it was my fault," said Matt. "I dropped the baton!"

"I didn't even think about that," said Cliff. "I just remember how much fun it was. Let's ask Samantha and Susan if they'll be on our team again."

Matt wasn't at all sure he wanted to be in another relay race. Matt couldn't forget what had happened last year. "We were leading," he said. "Samantha put the baton right in my hand..."

"And you dropped it," said Cliff. "It happens."

"I was so busy looking at the finish line that I didn't concentrate on the baton," Matt remembered.

"Then other runners came along. Someone kicked the baton. You couldn't even find it for a while," Cliff replied, grinning.

Matt didn't smile. "We came in last," he said.

"Matt, everyone makes mistakes. My dad says that's why they put erasers on pencils. So what do you think? Should we ask the girls?" asked Cliff.

"Okay," said Matt. He hoped the girls had forgotten his mistake. But he was afraid that Samantha would remember it and laugh at him.

"I like Samantha," said Matt. "But sometimes she is scary."

"What do you mean?" asked Cliff.

"Well, we both got an A in math," said Matt. "But my grade was a 95 and hers was a 98. She was so happy she beat me. That bothered me."

"Susan's not like that," said Cliff.

"I know," said Matt. "Okay, you ask Samantha. I'll ask Susan."

When the boys arrived at Susan's house, both girls were sitting on the front steps.

"Are you going to the fair next week?" asked Matt.

"Of course," Samantha answered. "Isn't everyone?"

Cliff looked at Matt. Then he asked slowly, "Do you want to be on the relay team with us again?"

The two girls looked at each other. "Only if Mr. Butterfingers puts glue all over his hand," Samantha said.

Matt knew he could depend on Samantha to say something like that. And, most likely, she had more to say.

"Come on, Sam. We had fun last year," said Susan.

"Oh sure," replied Samantha. "It's really fun to be on a last-place team. Maybe we'll get a loser's medal."

Matt couldn't take any more. "We're going to win this time!" he shouted.

"Oh really? How's that going to happen?" Samantha asked in a sharp voice.

"Because this time we're going to practice," Matt said. His voice was strong.

The other kids looked at each other. Ten Cliff said, "No more jokes. No teasing. We're a team!"

The girls joined in. "You can depend on us. Let's start tomorrow!"

Matt was too excited to go to the comic book store now. "See you in the morning," he said.

The next day the team started early. They ran up and down the street. They passed the baton back and forth. When they dropped it, they tried again.

Samantha didn't tease. Mat didn't moan. Their team was good!

Saturday came. People crowded into the fair. There were dog and cat shows, farm animals and lots of food. And, of course, there was the relay race.

As the runners were called to the starting line, Cliff shouted, "We're good!"

The team huddled together and joined hands.

"Ready, team?" yelled Susan.

"Ready to win!" shouted Matt, Samantha and Cliff.

And they did!

## Respect Situation Cards

You would like to have a drink of water.	You accidentally step on your friend's foot.
Your aunt brings you a present.	You see someone who looks different from you.
Your mother is talking on the phone and you want to ask her a question.	You sneeze.
You are standing in line for lunch.	Your teacher asks the class a question and you know the answer.
You would like the mashed potatoes but the bowl is on the other side of the table.	You finish your work before the other students in the class.
You are angry because your father will not let you buy a candy bar.	Your new classmate has to use a wheelchair.
You are finished with your picnic, but the trash can is at the other side of the park.	You and your sister want to watch different TV channels.
Your dog's water dish is empty, but your favorite TV show is about to come on.	Your grandmother calls to you from another room.

MATCH THE PICTURES



