

CHARACTER EDUCATION

"Respect" Grades 5-8

DEFINITION:

Respect means to honor and to show consideration and value to people, property, the environment, and yourself. It means to treat others well even if they look, act, or believe differently than you do.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Have students discuss the word respect (where it is shown, how it is shown, to whom it is shown, etc.) as well as how important the behavior is.
- Have students' journal about the word respect. Have students write a story about a situation that involves respect.
- Consider the following thinking maps:
 - a circle map to describe the word respect
 - a double bubble map (respect vs. disrespect)
 - a bubble map (draw self in the middle and write how he/she shows respect in the bubbles)
 - a tree map (title it with "We Respect Each Other" to show differences as a whole class or as an individual)
- Read a story that involves respect issues. Create a dramatic play based on the story.
- Have students role play a situation that helps students internalize the lesson; set up scenes for students to act out such as borrowing a friend's bike, seeing a disabled person trying to open a door, talking to Mom when she is on the phone. Students may need coaching. Reinforce positive behaviors.
- Explore what it feels like to walk in someone else's shoes. Discuss how sometimes people misunderstand what it feels like to do something if they haven't tried it for themselves. Have students think about a time they may have been misunderstood. Have students write a paragraph to explain how it feels to walk in someone else's shoes.
- Study other cultures and talk about respect for differences.
- Discuss respect in different cultures. Have students' interview family members to discover their cultural heritage. Ask students to report their findings.
- Ask students how they like to be treated. Discuss the importance of treating others with respect. Use examples such as being polite, letting people be different, and giving others personal space.

- Have students talk with family members and ask the following question, "How do you want to be treated?" Ask students to share responses.
- Bring to class appropriate news articles that illustrate a lack of respect or pride such as vandalism, theft, etc. Ask students to reflect on the articles. Discuss what causes people to respect others?
- Ask students, "How does it feel to be respected?" "What do people say or do that makes you feel respected"?
- Assist student groups in developing a "People I Respect" list. Students should consider the key components of the Golden Rule, tolerance and acceptance, nonviolence, and courtesy.
- Have students select a public figure (historical or current) whom they respect and write a 50 word description telling why. Post on an "Our Class Respects..." bulletin board.
- Have students create a story for younger children about respect (work independently or in groups). Share stories with younger students.
- Discuss and practice respectful communication. Have a debate about a topic. Before the debate discuss the appropriate ways to listen and talk when not everyone is in agreement. Write the rules for "disagreeing appropriately".
- Have students write poems about respect.
- Discuss how important it is to respect ourselves. Brainstorm a list of words and phrases we might say to ourselves. Change the disrespectful words and phrases into respectful ones. For example, "I'll never get this math". Help students change this to "With practice and help, I will eventually get this math".
- Discuss different careers. Do people stereotype people who have certain types of jobs?
- Create cartoon strips showing respectful actions.
- Discuss respect in sports. What types of actions and behaviors make someone a "good sport"? How do these actions and behaviors compare to the rules of family and community respect?
- Create a bulletin board using the theme "Respect: Learn it, Know it, Show it!" Use any type of design you wish to convey different ways to show respect, such as being polite, respecting your elders, not interrupting, taking care of your and other's belongings, etc.
- Read stories about respect (see book suggestions or ask the campus librarian).

- Share and analyze different quotes about respect. Break the quotes apart and discuss the meaning (see quotes page).
- Reinforce Terrific Tales, a variety of character-building traits, with a Terrific Tales board (for younger students). Title a sheet of poster board "Terrific Tales About ." Laminate the resulting poster for durability. Display the poster in an easily accessible location. Near the poster, place a pad of self-adhesive notes and a container of pencils. At the start of each month, use a wipe-off marker to program the poster with that month's character trait. After confirming that students understand the meaning of the spotlighted trait, invite them to be on the lookout for examples of it. When a youngster realizes that a classmate has exhibited the featured behavior toward him/her, he/she goes to the poster, describes the incident on a self-adhesive note and signs and attaches the note to the poster. During the week, read some of the posted notes aloud. At the end of the week, read each note aloud and present it to the student who demonstrated the featured behavior. To reprogram the poster, wipe off and replace the featured trait. Your students' self-esteems are sure to soar.
- Convey to students that respect means treating others the way they would want to be treated—regardless of their differences. To begin, have each youngster name something he/she likes. Then ask students if they all had the same response. Explain that sometimes people tend to like different things; yet, they should all be treated with the same respect. Then ask students to name other ways they may be different from one another. For instance, students may have different cultural backgrounds, abilities, and appearances. Next have students work together to create a mural that honors the differences among people.
- Have students write an "Appreciation Letter" to grandparent(s) or someone special to them. Ask students to tell that person how they feel about them and note some of their special qualities.
- Contact a local senior citizen group or nursing home. Match students with a senior citizen pen pal. Have the students write the initial letter to the senior and include their name, age, school name, and several things they like to do. Also, have the students ask their pen pal how he or she would advise them on how to prepare for their future, advice on how to be a good student and family member, and what they value most in life? Discuss respect for elders and their life experiences.
- Have students brainstorm 5-10 ways they practice respect at home and 5-10 ways that they practice respect at school. Write the titles, "Respect at Home" and "Respect in School" on the board. Write down the students' comments on the board and discuss the results of the activity.
- Have students find partners (for younger students). Distribute butcher paper and markers to each student. Have partners lie on the floor and trace each other's outlines to form silhouettes. Ask students to cut out their silhouettes and decorate them to show their backs (back of head and clothing). Distribute a hand pattern to each student. Have each student write five things he or she can do well, one on each finger of the hand. Ask students to glue the hands to their silhouettes. Display the silhouettes on a wall under the heading "Give Yourself a Pat on the Back!"

- Discuss the importance of creating an atmosphere of acceptance where all people feel welcomed and valued. For example, if a child in the class speaks another language, help students learn to say some words in his/her home language. Make an effort to help other students correctly pronounce and spell his/her name.
- Decorate with materials from other cultures, such as wall hangings, rugs, baskets, and artwork.
- Help children understand the feelings of others by connecting them to their own experiences.
- Ask the children to consider the feelings of others as they make choices for themselves.
- Point out how one child's behavior affects another. Encourage students to understand the perspectives of others.

BOOKS TO USE IN TEACHING “RESPECT”
(Don't forget your campus librarian as a resource.)

I Show Respect by David Parker

Are You Asleep, Rabbit? Barton and Campbell

Jim's Dog Muffins by Miriam Cohen

Now One Foot by Tomie de Paola

What's Claude Doing? by Dick Gackenbach

What Do You Say Dear? by Sesyle Joslin

Just For You by Mercer Mayer

Badger's Bring Something Party by Hiawyn Oram

Big, Bad Bruce by Bill Peet

I Like Me! By Nancy Carlson

Kylie's Song by Patty Sheehan

My Way Sally by Paine & Bingham

The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson

Free To Be You and Me by Marlo Thomas

Cleversticks by Bernard Ashley

Arnie and the New Kid by Nancy Carlson

All the Colors We Are by Katie Kissinger

Shoes, Shoes, Shoes by Ann Morris

Families are Different by Nina Pellegrini

Drummon Makes a Difference by Stephen Covey

The Lotus Seed by Kiuchi Tatsuro

Amazing Grace by Mary and Binch Hoffman

If the World Were Blind by Karen Burnett

Gila Monsters Meet You at the Airport by Marjorie Sharmat

The Crayon Box That Talked by Shane de Rolf

You Are Special by Max Lucado

The Upside Down Boy by Juan Herrera

Liliana's Grandmothers by Leyla Toress

The Best Bug to Be by Dolores Johnson

All Kinds of Children by Norma Simon

The Colors of Us by Karen Katz

Why am I Different? By Norma Simon

Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

Dealing with Racism by Jen Green

Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss

How Do I Feel About Dealing with Racism by Jen Green

I'm A Girl by Lila Jukes

The Land of Many Colors by The Klamath County YMCA Family Pre School

The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

The Sissy Duckling by Harvey Fierstein

I Miss Franklin P. Shuckles by Snihura Buddy by Berube

It's Ok to be Different by Todd Parr

Mr. Fine Porcupine by Fanny Jolly

One Light, One Sun by Eugenie Fernandes

A Porcupine Named Fluffy by Helen Lester

People by Peter Spier

Something Else by Cathryn Cave

Feather and Fur by Audrey Penn

Not Better, Not Worse, Just Different by Sharon Scott

Bein' With You This Way by W. Nikola Lisa

Hopscotch Around the World by Mary Lankford

Going Home by Eve Bunting

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting

Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

Dear Willie Rudd by Libba More Gray

So Far From the Sea by Eve Bunting

We Are Alike, We Are Different by Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarten

Different Just Like Me by Lori Mitchell

I'm Like You, You're Like Me by Cindy Gainer

Spookly, the Square Pumpkin by Joe Troiano

All Kinds of Kids by Christina Mia Gardeski

Bright Eyes, Brown Eyes by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Bernette G. Ford

How to Lose All Your Friends by Nancy Carlson

Jamaica's Find by Juanita Havill

Make Someone Smile and 40 More Ways to Be A Peaceful Person by Judy Lalli

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe

The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney

The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting

QUOTES TO USE IN TEACHING "RESPECT"

"Every action in the company of others ought to be done with some sign of respect to those present." - George Washington

"Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself." - Abraham Heschel

"Respect is love in plain clothes." -Frankie Byrne

"I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them." - Herbert Henry Lehman

"Respect commands itself and it can neither be given nor withheld when it is due." - Eldridge Cleaver

"Respect is learned, earned and returned." -Anonymous

"The soul that is within me no man can degrade". -Frederick Douglas

"This above all; to thine own self be true." -William Shakespeare

"My honor is my loyalty." -Heinrich Himmler

"Respect-not tolerance-must be our goal if we would diminish prejudice in our time." -Selma G. Hirsch

"Where talent is a dwarf, self-esteem is a giant." -J. Petit-Senn

"Our own heart, and not other men's opinion, forms our true honor." -Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Respect is the reward for what you give to others." - Anonymous

"You know what's right. Respect yourself and others, and do what's right." - Anonymous

"Respect involves an appraisal of ourselves first, and then others." - Anonymous

"Make someone feel accepted." - Anonymous

"Never underestimate the power of a smile. Even if you don't know someone, it doesn't hurt to smile, and it can brighten someone's day. Your teachers love to see you smiling." - Anonymous

"Empathy is the ability to sense and understand the feelings of another person. It is not the same thing as feeling sorry for someone, because sometimes when we do that we are looking down on that person. Try to work on your ability to feel empathy: nothing makes another person feel better than to know someone else understands." -Anonymous

"Love, respect, and enjoy other people!" - Anonymous

"The only people you should try to get even with are those who have helped you" -Anonymous

"If you witness an act of disrespect toward another person, don't be silent! You have an obligation to ask the disrespectful person to stop, or to tell an adult. It will make you feel better about yourself." - Anonymous

"You can become a better, more caring person if you begin to show respect for everyone, even those who can't do anything special for you." -Anonymous

"Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." –Abraham Lincoln

"A sense of humor is important. Be the kind of person who can laugh at yourself if you make a silly mistake. Studies have proven that laughter can be a very strong medicine and actually makes people healthier." - Anonymous

"If you come at me with your fists doubled, I think I can promise you that mine will double as fast as yours; but if you come to me and say, "Let us sit down and take counsel together, and, if we differ from each other, understand why it is that we differ, just what the points at issue are; we will presently find that we are not so far apart after all, that the points on which we differ are few and the point on which we agree are many, and that if we only have the patience and the candor and the desire together, we will get together." -Woodrow Wilson

"Respect is the moral conscience of the great." -Anonymous

"Respect is the thread that weaves throughout all human encounters."- Anonymous

"Treat men greatly and they will show themselves to be great."- Anonymous

"Respect yourself, if you would have others respect you." - Baltassi Gracian

"Respect for oneself and others is the precondition of any ethical action." – Oscar Arias

"Do right. Do the best you can. Treat others the way you would want to be treated." - Lou Holtz

"Respect and honor are the best memorial for a mighty man."- Beowulf

"Respect is the ultimate compliment."- Anonymous

"Respect is purchased by the deeds we do."- Christopher Marlowe

"I would rather man should ask why no statue has been erected in my honor, than why one has."- Marcus Cato

"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not." - Andre Gide

"Respect does not come from possessing honors but in deserving them." - Aristotle

"Be respectful yourself, if you wish to associate with respectful people." – Welsh Proverb

"To be capable of respect is almost as rare as to be worthy of it." - John Joubert

"Character is the formation stone upon which one must build to earn respect." - R.C. Samsel

"If you expect respect, be the first to show it." - Anonymous "When we do good things, our self-respect grows." - Heschel

"Be the change you want to see." - Ghandi

"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." - Maya Angelou

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