

The Characters with Character Lesson

Aim: to integrate creative writing, vocabulary enrichment, literacy, character development, community, geometry, small motor, practical life skills, celebration of everyday heroes.

Materials: Little Miss and Mr. Books by Roger Hargreaves, the geometric cabinet, story web, key experiences for character, setting, plot, problem and solution, lists of adjectives describing characters and settings, book or lists of idioms, paper to create booklets, felt, needle and thread to create 3-D characters.

Key Points:

- Reflection on the various types of heroes in today's media (newspapers, comics and movies) What kind of character traits do they possess? Are these traits positive? Worthy of a hero/heroine?
- Engage in a character design session where the children use a familiar medium. Three – six year old have been creating characters from the geometric cabinet since Children's House.
- Vocabulary enrichment: Describing the shape of the character by the geometric shape and color. Eliciting a name inspired by the Little Miss and Mr. books. Ex. Little Miss Creative and Mr. Underachievement, Little Miss Attentive vs. Mr. Distraction, Little Miss Justice vs. Mr. Corruption, etc.
- Present lessons on the story parts, character, setting, plot, problem, solution.
- Brainstorm on life lessons, morality, and conflict resolution to create a story idea, and invite the children to create a web.
- Share lists to help build vocabulary, ignite the senses and enhance writing.
- Create and illustrate a story that encourages character.
- Children are invited to create a 3-D felt character that can become future characters interacting in a collaborative project with peers.

Extension:

- Carve a linoleum block or reproduce character in several scenarios.
- Create sequels giving the children an opportunity to experiment with a multitude of problems and solutions/conflict resolution.
- Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration! (developmentally appropriate at this stage of development)

Characters with Character

Alertness vs. Carelessness
Attentiveness vs. Distraction
Availability vs. Self-Centeredness
Benevolence vs. Selfishness
Boldness vs. Fearfulness
Cautiousness vs. Rashness
Compassion vs. Indifference
Contentment vs. Covetousness
Creativity vs. Underachievement
Decisiveness vs. Procrastination
Deference vs. Rudeness
Dependability vs. Inconsistency
Determination vs. Faintheartedness
Diligence vs. Slothfulness
Discernment vs. Shortsightedness
Endurance vs. Discouragement
Enthusiasm vs. Apathy
Faith vs. Presumption
Flexibility vs. Resistance
Forgiveness vs. Rejection
Generosity vs. Stinginess
Gentleness vs. Harshness
Gratefulness vs. Unthankfulness
Honor vs. Disrespect
Hospitality vs. Loneliness
Humility vs. Pride
Initiative vs. Idleness
Joyfulness vs. Self-Pity
Justice vs. Corruption
Loyalty vs. Unfaithfulness
Meekness vs. Anger
Obedience vs. Willfulness
Orderliness vs. Confusion
Patience vs. Restlessness
Persuasiveness vs. Contentiousness
Punctuality vs. Tardiness
Resourcefulness vs. Wastefulness
Responsibility vs. Unreliability
Security vs. Anxiety
Self-Control vs. Self-Indulgence
Sensitivity vs. Callousness
Sincerity vs. Hypocrisy
Thoroughness vs. Incompleteness
Thriftiness vs. Extravagance
Tolerance vs. Prejudice
Truthfulness vs. Deception
Virtue vs. Impurity
Wisdom vs. Foolishness