

CHARACTER EDUCATION

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2011



HONESTY

CHARACTER — THE CORE OF OUR LIVES

HONESTY: Being truthful, trustworthy and sincere.

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“The truth is mightier than the sword.”

- Anonymous

“No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true.”

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Honesty is the chapter in the book of wisdom.”

- Thomas Jefferson

“Do not do what you would undo if caught.”

- Leah Arendt

“Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise.”

- Sigmund Freud

“The most important person to be honest with is yourself.”

- Anonymous

“Honesty is the best policy.”

- Miguel de Cervantes

“Truth is not a matter of personal viewpoint.”

- Vernon Howard

“Dishonesty is like a boomerang. About the time you think all is well, it hits you in the back of the head.”

- Anonymous

“I would rather have you truthful and brave than to have a whole orchard of cherry trees.”

- George Washington's father

“To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education.”

- John Ruskin

“If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.”

- Mark Twain



**Broward County
Public Schools**



READ / WRITE / DISCUSS



- Discuss the value of honesty and have students answer the following questions: What is honesty? What is dishonesty? What is honor? How is it achieved? How does honesty relate to trust? How does honesty create a positive relationship between people? Why is honesty necessary? What are the possible consequences of lack of honesty?
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Discuss with the class the meaning of “white lie.” Ask students if white lies are ever appropriate.
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Discuss the concern for stealing in the workplace, such as employees removing items, being on time, taking supplies, employees not charging friends and keeping change due a customer. Ask students if they have heard or read about these concerns. Discuss who really ends up paying when someone cheats or steals from a company.
ELEMENTARY: MA.2.A.2.4, MA.3.A.1.1, LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Have the class write about why it is important to be honest with adults/teachers when a person witnesses anyone being cruel to animals or to other humans, or when a person hears about people threatening harm to themselves or others. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.3.3, LA.7.3.3.3, LA.8.3.2.2
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Read and discuss biographies of President Barack Obama and President Abraham Lincoln. Discuss how they demonstrate (d) honesty and good character.
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.2, LA.7.5.2.3, LA.8.5.2.4
HIGH: LA.910.1.7.1, LA.1112.1.7.1
- Have students learn the definition of the word “honesty.” Ask them to discuss how honesty and trust are related. Ask them to identify people in their lives who they trust and use a Venn diagram or other organizer to chart the characteristics that lead us to trust others. **
ELEMENTARY: MA.5.A.1.4, MA.5.A.6.3, LA.1.3.1.3, LA.2.3.1.3, LA.3.3.1.3, LA.4.3.1.3, LA.5.3.1.3
MIDDLE: LA.6.1.6.1, LA.7.1.6.1, LA.8.1.6.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1

**** These items can be used as homework assignments.**



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

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READ / WRITE / DISCUSS



- Honesty can be expressed in our commitment to a cause or belief. Ask the class to identify and discuss individuals in their community that have shown honesty through their commitment to a cause.
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.C.1.4.1
- Have students read and discuss a daily quotation as it relates to honesty. (See the list of quotes on the front page for suggestions.) The response could be written in journal form and related to an incident in the student's life. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.1.1, LA.1.4.1.1, LA.2.4.1.1, LA.3.4.1.1, LA.4.4.1.1, LA.5.4.1.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.1.7.3, LA.7.1.7.3, LA.8.1.7.3
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1, LA.910.1.7.1, LA.1112.1.7.1, LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Assign the class homework to compare the writings of patriots José Martí and Abraham Lincoln, both known to be paradigms of honesty. **
ELEMENTARY: MA.2.A.2.4, MA.3.A.1.1, LA.K.1.7.3, LA.1.1.7.3, LA.2.1.7.3, LA.3.1.7.3, LA.4.1.7.3, LA.5.1.7.3
MIDDLE: LA.6.1.7.7, LA.7.1.7.7, LA.8.1.7.6
HIGH: LA.910.1.7.1, LA.1112.1.7.1
- Ask students to write or tell about a time they found something they really liked and wanted to keep but returned it to its rightful owner. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.1.2, LA.7.3.1.2, LA.8.3.1.2
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1, LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Have the class write about someone they know whom they consider to be an honest person. Ask them to tell why they consider that person to be honest. If possible, they should include an incident where the person did an honest act. Ask them to explain what about that person they most admire. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.3.3, LA.7.3.3.3, LA.8.3.2.2
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Ask students to write a paper telling why we need to take a closer look at what commercials are trying to sell us. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.1.1, LA.7.3.1.1, LA.8.3.1.1
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Sometimes we think it's okay to be dishonest in order to spare a person's feelings or to avoid an uncomfortable situation. Open a discussion with the class about the possible negative consequences of dishonesty (e.g., loss of trust and respect, etc.).
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1

**** These items can be used as homework assignments.**



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS



- Play the game "Truth, Truth, Lie." To play the game, each student must tell three things about himself/herself – two of them must be true and one must be a lie. Other students must guess which is the lie.
ELEMENTARY: MA.3.S.7.1; MA.5.A.4.2, LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Have students find examples of advertising that purposely mislead the public. Discuss how the truth can be misleading (e.g., products that claim they are sugar-free but contain other high calorie sweeteners such as molasses or corn syrup). **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.4.3.1, LA.7.4.3.1, LA.8.4.3.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Role-play situations involving truthful and dishonest characters.
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.4.1.2, LA.7.4.1.2, LA.8.4.1.2
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Have students reenact George Washington's chopping down of the cherry tree. Consider serving cherry pie afterward as "food for thought".
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.5.2.6, LA.1.5.2.6, LA.2.5.2.2, LA.3.5.2.2, LA.4.5.2.2, LA.5.5.2.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.4.1.2, LA.7.4.1.2, LA.8.4.1.2
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1
- Ask students to conduct the following survey, create a bar graph showing the results, write a conclusion, and explain why it is important to be honest. **
 1. If you found a wallet on the street, what would you do?
 - A. Keep it
 - B. Try to find out to whom it belonged and return it
 2. What would you do if your hypothesis on your science project was not correct?
 - A. Change the hypothesis
 - B. Explain why the hypothesis was not correct
 3. A friend asks you for an answer while you are taking the FCAT test. What will you do?
 - A. Cover your paper
 - B. Show your friend your paper so he/she can copy
 4. You are at a store and you see a toy that you have wanted for a long time. No one is around. What will you do?
 - A. Think of a plan to save money to buy the toy
 - B. Pick up the toy and put it in your pocket
ELEMENTARY: MA.3.S.7.1; MA.5.A.4.2, LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.5.2, LA.7.3.5.2, LA.8.3.5.2, MA.6.S.6.1, MA.6.A.3.6, MA.7.A.1.4, MA.8.A.1.1
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS



- There are many commercials on TV trying to sell people different things. Ask students to select their favorite commercial and tell why they think it is telling the truth about the product it is selling. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.5.2.1, LA.7.5.2.1, LA.8.5.2.1
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Commercials about antacids all claim their products are the best. Test three antacids by following the procedure below:
 1. Pour 1/2 cup of vinegar in a container. (If you do not have vinegar, use orange or lemon juice.)
 2. Place an antacid tablet in the liquid.
 3. Wait for it to dissolve.
 4. Use a litmus strip to determine if the antacid removed the acidity the way the commercial explained it would.
 5. Follow the same procedure to test all three tablets.
 6. Collect and record the data.
 7. Write a conclusion telling which commercial is the most accurate. **ELEMENTARY: MA.3.S.7.1; MA.5.A.4.2, LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: SC.6.N.1.5, SC.7.N.1.4, SC.8.N.1.6
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1, MA.912.A.2.1
- Have students write an essay responding to, "Why is honesty so important?" or "Describe a person who exemplifies the character education trait of honesty." **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.2.1, LA.1.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.3.4.2.1, LA.4.4.2.1, LA.5.4.2.1
MIDDLE: LA.6.1.3.2, LA.7.1.3.2, LA.8.1.3.2
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Ask students to create a comic strip that portrays the motto: "Honesty is the best policy." The comic strip should be at least four panels. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.1.2, LA.1.4.1.2, LA.2.4.1.2, LA.3.4.1.2, LA.4.4.1.2, LA.5.4.1.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.3.2.2, LA.7.3.2.2, LA.8.3.2.2
HIGH: LA.910.4.1.1, LA.1112.4.1.1
- Ask students to write the letters for HONESTY horizontally on the left side of their paper. Then, using each letter of the word, use it as a first letter for another word that would describe an honest person. For example, H might be for Happy, O for Outgoing and so on. **
ELEMENTARY: LA.K.4.1.2, LA.1.4.1.2, LA.2.4.1.2, LA.3.4.1.2, LA.4.4.1.2, LA.5.4.1.2
MIDDLE: LA.6.4.2.2, LA.7.4.2.2, LA.8.4.2.2
HIGH: LA.910.5.2.1

**** These items can be used as homework assignments.**

SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS & BEST PRACTICES

If you have feedback regarding any of these activities or have successfully implemented an activity that is not listed and you would like to have it included, e-mail a one- to two-paragraph overview of the activity to Renee Brown @ CAB or renee.m.brown@browardschools.com.



KIDS OF CHARACTER Award

Cooperation • Responsibility • Citizenship • Kindness • Respect • Honesty • Self-control • Tolerance



CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITY SHEET UPDATE



Access to all monthly activity sheets with curriculum and Sunshine State Standards will now be available in **electronic version only via BEEP** (through Learning Village).



EDCO'S FREE CERTIFICATES & PLAQUES



Here is the process for how to receive **free** certificates and plaques:
(*website correction for EDCO is below*)

- Each month, each teacher may choose one "Kid of Character" from his/her classroom. (Middle and high schools may decide if they want to do this by teams, departments or other methods.) Those students should receive a certificate at the end of the month at an awards assembly or on your school's morning/afternoon announcements.
- From the group of students who receive the certificates, schools may choose ONE of these students to receive a FREE plaque from EDCO. You may order your plaque from EDCO Awards and Specialties by logging onto www.edcoawards.com/kidsofcharacter. ALL CERTIFICATES AND PLAQUES ARE FREE. ONLY ONE PLAQUE PER SCHOOL PER MONTH IS PROVIDED FREE. Schools may order additional plaques at a reduced rate from EDCO.
- Certificates may be ordered through the Character Education Department, courtesy of the Sun-Sentinel, or through EDCO. The ones from the Sun-Sentinel must be filled in at the school site. The certificates from EDCO may be entered on-line and will be printed by them. This takes an advance time of 1-2 weeks. Please call Renee Brown at 754-321-2568 ext.2476 or email via CAB or at Renee.M.Brown@Browardschools.com if you have any additional questions about this process.

****ATTENTION TEACHERS... KIDS OF CHARACTER STORY SUBMISSION PROCESS****

- John Chace is working to collect **on-going** KOC stories from teachers. You may send these directly to him along with any questions to jchace@communitycc.com. He will then evaluate these stories and let you know if that student has been selected.
- Stories should be those from students who are **EXCEPTIONAL** in demonstrating **any** of the character traits. He is not concerned about the order of a particular month's trait.
- Be very specific and clear providing key details about the act or continued deeds. Two to three quotes are needed from the person making the nomination for an actual article. The suggested format for submission should be in Microsoft Word, not Adobe, please.
- Remember, this is **not** based on academic performance; those students will be rewarded through honor roll or other academic honors. These are **EXCEPTIONAL** students in other unique areas.



CHARACTER: THE CORE OF OUR LIVES PATRIOTISM: THE CORE OF OUR NATION'S STRENGTH



To weave Patriotism throughout our Character Education Program, this month's suggested activities that can be integrated into the honesty trait are related to courage – courage of one's convictions, courage of patriots, and courage to speak out.

Patriotic Quotes

"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."

- Former President George Washington

"No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar."

- Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America

Patriotic Activities

- Have students write anonymously about a time that they did not stand up for someone when they knew they should have. Collect the writings and discuss each one as a class, looking for options of how they could have handled it better. **
- Ask students to write a story of a character who was dishonest and what happened because of the dishonesty. Ask them to include how the character learned the value of being honest. Allow any students who volunteer to read their stories to the class. **
- Many celebrities speak out about issues concerning our government. Recently, individuals such as Susan Sarandon and groups such as The Dixie Chicks have spoken out against policies of the United States government. Do celebrities have the right to use their status as a forum to speak out against our government? Organize members of the class to debate this issue.
- Conduct a class discussion about honesty in which the students provide examples from their own experiences of when they were honest to another person. Hide a dollar bill in the classroom somewhere. As you are monitoring the movement of the students in class throughout the day, attempt to keep track of who finds the dollar bill. Observe as to whether the student who found the dollar bill makes you aware of his/her discovery. Discuss as a large group what happened and whether the individual(s) in the class was/were honest when he/she/they found the dollar bill. If the student(s) was/were honest, you may choose to reward the class and/or the student(s) involved.
- Discuss with the class the First Amendment and Freedom of Speech. Ask students to align the First Amendment to the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Since 9/11, the bumper sticker "These colors don't run" has become popular. What does it mean in reference to the flag and to American citizens? Ask students to create their own patriotic bumper sticker.
- Ask students to create a Venn diagram for honesty. In one circle they should describe what honesty is and in the other circle they should describe what honesty is not. **
- President Abraham Lincoln was called "Honest Abe." There is a famous story about George Washington admitting that he chopped down a cherry tree. Have students read a story or book and/or research these two men and write an essay on why they are considered to be honest men. **

HONESTY

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Primary



Junie B., First Grader: Cheater Pants

Park, Barbara. Random House, 2003. 96p.
9780375823015 Primary

When her father will not let her stay up late to do her homework, first grader Junie B. copies a classmate's paper.



Owen Foote, Super Spy

Greene, Stephanie. Clarion, 2001. 96p.
9780618117529 Primary/Intermediate

Owen and his friends decide that spying on the school principal at his own house will be a fun challenge. Is it better to be kind or honest??



Sparkle Thing, The (Rookie Choices)

Brimner, Larry Dane. Children's Press, 2001. 31p.
9780516221595 Primary

Gabby takes a pretty sparkle thing from the market without paying for it and must face the consequences.

Intermediate



Bird Lake Moon

Henkes, Kevin. Greenwillow, 2008. 192p.
9780061470769 Intermediate/Middle

Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends with Spencer, who has returned with his family to the lake where his little brother drowned years earlier. As the boys spend time together and their friendship grows, each of them begins to heal. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee)



Cicada Summer

Beaty, Andrea. Amulet Books, 2008. 176p.
9780810994720 Intermediate

Twelve-year-old Lily, believing she could have prevented the accident that caused her brother's death, has quit speaking, leaving everyone to think that she is brain damaged, but in her silence she sees everything, and when sly newcomer Tinny comes to town, Lily suddenly has a lot to talk about--if only she can make herself speak the words. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee)



Seer of Shadows, The

Avi. HarperCollins, 2008. 208p.
9780060000158 Intermediate/Middle

In New York City in 1872, 14-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee - Grades 3-5)

Values: Making Choices for Life (ThinkQuest)

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001709/>

Primary/Intermediate (accessed 1/19/11)

This site was created to help students appreciate values that are important in life. Explore definitions and read folktales for several values.

Middle



Cheat, The

Koss, Amy Goldman. Dial, 2003. 176p.
9780803727946 Middle

When Sarah gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.



Secret Identity of Devon Delaney, The

Barnholdt, Lauren. Aladdin, 2007. 263p.
9781439594520 Intermediate/Middle

A lie she fabricated during summer vacation comes back to haunt Devon when the girl she told it to is now standing at the front of her class.



Seer of Shadows, The

Avi. HarperCollins, 2008. 208p.
9780060000158 Intermediate/Middle

In New York City in 1872, 14-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. (*Sunshine State Young Readers Award* nominee - Grades 6-8)

High



After

Efaw, Amy. Viking, 2009. 350p.
9780670011834 High

Devon Davenport is a straight-A student and prominent player on her school's soccer team, but when she is linked to an abandoned baby found in the trash she is accused of attempted murder. (*Florida Teens Read* nominee)



Compound, The

Bodeen, S. A. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. 248p.
9780312370152 Middle/High

Fifteen-year-old Eli, locked inside a radiation-proof compound built by his father to keep them safe following a nuclear attack, begins to question his future, as well as his father's grip on sanity, as the family's situation steadily disintegrates over the course of six years. (*Florida Teens Read* nominee)



Scribbler of Dreams

Pearson, Mary. Harcourt, 2001. 240p.
9780152023201 High

Despite her family's long feud with the Crutchfields, seventeen-year-old Kaitlin falls in love with Bram Crutchfield and weaves a tangled web of deception to conceal her identity from him.

Honesty: How Prevalent Is It?

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas/HumBeh_p040.shtml
Middle/High (accessed 1/19/2011)

Students will investigate the question by researching how well the honor system works for donations to a worthy cause. Does someone watching affect a person's honesty?