

Integrity

Knowing
what's right and
acting
accordingly

"Honesty is
telling the truth.

Integrity is
doing what we
say we will do."

~Covey~



April 2007 Character Connection Theme: Integrity

Definitions

Integrity is moral soundness, especially as it is revealed in dealings that test steadfastness to truth, purpose, responsibility, or trust.

*Be honest.

*Don't deceive, cheat, or steal.

*Do what you say you'll do.

*Have courage to do the right thing.

*Build a good reputation.

*Be loyal—stand by your family, friends and country.

Information

Not all children taught in classrooms will know the importance of living honestly. We need to spell out what honesty is and show them how much teachers and members of the community value honesty so that honesty can take on real meaning and become an integral part of their own lives.

"Researchers have attempted to investigate why some children cheat and why others do not when they are given the same opportunity. Children who did not cheat reported that they knew cheating was wrong, that their parents would disapprove, and that they would feel guilty if they did it. That tells us that we should spell out for our children exactly what cheating is and be very clear about its being wrong. We can also tell our children. . .about our happiness when they act honestly and about our disappointment when they cheat."¹

Quotes

"Honesty is telling the truth. Integrity is doing what we say we will do." –Covey

"There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity." –Samuel Johnson

"To be trusted is greater than to be loved" –David O. McKay

"Truth leads to virtue. A person continues to speak the truth until he becomes thoroughly truthful." –Mohammed

"In our lives, it is impossible for us to cheat a little and still be honest." –Henry D. Moyle

"Resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you can not be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer." –Abraham Lincoln

Activities

**Read or show videos from children's literature such as Horton Hatches an Egg, Aesop's Fables, The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf, and other stories that can stimulate a class discussion on integrity.

**Invite a military person to the classroom to relate the meaning of honor.

**Study and act out examples of integrity from the lives of historical figures. (Lincoln borrows a book, it is rained on, he works to pay for it. Lincoln, working in a store, walks to pay an accidental

¹ Submitted by Lindon community member

overcharge.) Perhaps students can perform puppet shows portraying the things they have learned. They could also make up their own stories that show integrity. Have them perform in front of the class, other classes, or send the puppets home for children to perform with their families.

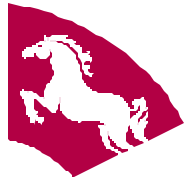
**Ask parents to discuss with their child an experience when it was difficult to tell the truth or their integrity was tested. Have parent and child write about the incident.

**Design posters and signs encouraging classmates to be honest with one another.

**Over the public address system, read sayings that encourage honesty and integrity.

**Give each student a piece of paper with the word INTEGRITY. Each time they tell the truth or act with integrity, let them color one letter of the word and write or draw a picture of the situation on back. Display the finished papers around the room.

**Have students make up situational cards by either drawing a picture or writing a situation where telling the truth might be hard. Shuffle the cards and distribute them to the students to come up with the honest solution.



Stories

Muhammad's Five Favorite Horses

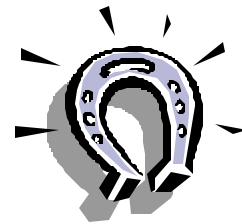
The Arabian horse is one of the oldest breeds of horses. These animals are valued for their swiftness, stamina, beauty, intellect, and gentleness.

Legend says that long ago Muhammad trained his horses to drink water only on a given signal. One hot day his horses were in a corral without water. When he opened the corral gate, the animals stampeded to a nearby pool of water. Many of the thirsty horses immediately started to drink water, but five hesitated at the water's edge, turned to their master, and watched for his signal. These became Muhammad's trusted and most valued steeds. It is said that from these five sprang the Arabian breed of horses. *What set of values will you be true to even in difficult circumstances?*

The Horse Shoe Nail and the Battle of Bosworth

On August 22, 1485, on the field of Bosworth, the forces of King Richard III met the forces of Henry Tudor, contender for the crown.² Although the forces of King Richard III were initially greater, the king was killed and Henry Tudor became King Henry VII. Some say the battle was lost because the Stanley brothers, who commanded about a third of the King's men, changed allegiance to Henry Tudor. Some lay blame on Earl of Northumberland who failed to call in the reserves when he saw the Stanleys defect.³ Still others say that in the great rush to battle, one of King Richard's horses was missing a nail. In the battle's charge, the horse stumbled, throwing his mount:

For want of a nail, a shoe was lost,
For want of shoe, a horse was lost,
For want of a horse, a battle was lost,
For want of a battle, a kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.⁴



² "Bosworth Field, Battle of." *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2003 Encyclopædia Britannica Premium Service. 10 Mar, 2003 <<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?eu=16062>>.

³ "The Battle of Bosworth Field," Medieval Siege Society Ltd, <http://www.pomian.demon.co.uk/bosworth.htm>, accessed march 10, 2003

⁴ "For Want of A Horseshoe Nail," <http://www.iamoconf.xroads.net/Globetrotter3/5honor/storynail.htm>

Like the nail on the king's horse, telling a small lie or a seemingly tiny breach of integrity can be the determining factor in fighting life's battles.

Writing or Discussion Topics

**How do you define the word lie? Is it still lying when you know the truth but don't say it? Explain. Is it alright to lie when telling the truth it would hurt someone's feelings?

**How does lying hurt a friendship, society, or business? Is honesty really the best policy? In "Taking the high road" by Greg Kratz (Deseret News, Sunday February 16, 2003), Adrian Gostick, director of marketing and corporate communications for O.C. Tanner, commented, "It's just not possible to be happy and productive long-term if you're working in an environment . . . that doesn't match your core principles." He told of a businessman in Brazil that acted with integrity. Writes Kratz, "One businessman from Brazil said ethics in that country differed from U.S. standards when he was starting out. Practices like bribery were deemed appropriate. But Gostick said this leader found that businesses that refused to compromise their principles were the ones that lasted. 'The ones who thought it was just a part of doing business to grease the skids, they're long gone,' Gostick said."

Role Plays

**At school there is a lost and found box. When Tanya looked in the box, she saw a sweater she really liked that no one had claimed. *What might happen if she took the sweater? What might happen if she didn't take it?*

**On Wednesday, Nicole volunteered to help with the community bake sale to be held on Saturday. On Friday, her friend invited her to go to a Saturday matinee. The friend suggested Tanya claim to be sick, and then just go to the movies. "They'll never know the difference," she said. *What could Nicole say to let her friend understand that doing what you say is important?*

**Todd was getting ready to go out the door to school. Suddenly he remembered he needed some money for lunch. He saw his mom's purse on the desk. Mom was getting ready for work and he didn't want to bother her. *What should Todd do? Why?*

**Jack promised to take out the trash right after school. When he got home he remembered but wanted to watch TV instead. *If he doesn't take out the trash, is it breaking a promise?*

**Robert did his spelling homework but Bill didn't. On the way to school Bill asked Robert if he could copy his homework- just this once. *What could Robert say to get out of the situation? Do you think if Robert let him copy it would stop after that one time?*

Book List

The Empty Pot, by Demi 1990.

A Day's Work, by Eve Bunting 1994.

The Passage to Freedom by Ken Mochizieki

The Children's Book of Virtues

"The Honest Disciple" p 70.

"George Washington and the Cherry Tree" p 84.

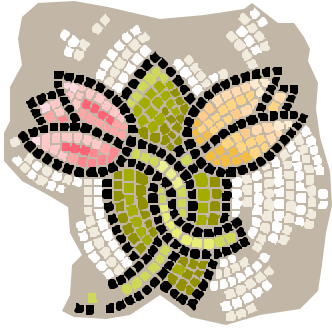
"The Indian Cinderella" p 88

The Honest Woodman" p 101



Future Topic: May: Citizenship

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Name _____

Integrity

In the puzzle below, find the words. As you find the words, cross out the letters. The first word, *sincere*, is found for you. Once a letter has been used for one word, it will not be used again in another word. The remaining two words in the puzzle will complete the quote below:

H K V E R T R E L I A T R U S C A N D V F D S
O N O W A R U S T H N T R T T R U O R E I E S
N E S L C I T Y N O C U W O R T T R I T Y L E
~~S~~ ~~I~~ T E D A R O A I E T H O R H F U L T I N
~~N~~ ~~C~~ ~~E~~ F G B S T R G H T F W A Y I T Y T R Y D
~~E~~ ~~R~~ A R E L E D R P N I L E R D R R E L I U N
K N C A N D I E S O S B I N T E G E L B A E U
V E R I S I M I L I T U D E P R O B I T Y S O

sincere
honest
reliance
trustworthy
truth
truthful
verity
fidelity
honorable
frank
probity
trust
verisimilitude
candor
candid
straightforward
responsible
true
veracity
reliable
soundness

“**I** _____ without **K** _____ is weak and useless,
and **K** _____ without **I** _____ is dangerous and dreadful.”

—Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

For additional help, the beginning letters are highlighted in the puzzle below:

H **K** **V** **E** **R** **T** **R** **E** **L** **I** **A** **T** **R** **U** **S** **C** **A** **N** **D** **V** **F** **D** **S**
O N O W A R U S T **H** N T R T **T** R U O R E I E S
N E S L C I T Y N O C U W O R T T R I T Y L E
S I T E D A R O A I E T H O R H H F U L T I N
N **C** E **F** G B **S** T R G H T F W A Y I T Y **T** R Y D
E **R** A R E L E D **R** P N I L E R D R **R** E L I U N
K N **C** A N D I E S O S B I N T E G E L B A E U
V E R I S I M I L I T U D E **P** R O B I T Y **S** O