

Respect

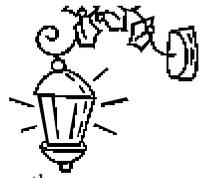
To earn it
we must show it

“Respect for
others begins
with respect for
self.”

~Unknown~



December Character Connection Theme: Respect



Definitions

Respect is to feel or show esteem for, to honor, or show consideration for.¹ Erich Fromm, 20th century psychologist, commented in The Art of Loving: “Respect is not fear and awe; it . . . [is] the ability to see a person as he is, to be aware of his unique individuality. Respect, thus, implies the absence of exploitation. I want the loved person to grow and unfold for his own sake, and in his own ways, and not for the purpose of serving me.”² In The Magic of Encouragement, Stephanie Martson, 20th century family therapist, wrote “When children are treated with respect, they conclude that they deserve respect and hence develop self-respect. When children are treated with acceptance, they develop self-acceptance; when they are cherished, they conclude that they deserve to be loved, and they develop self-esteem.”³

A person with respect will:

- *Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule.
- *Be tolerant of differences.
- *Use good manners, not bad language.
- *Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- *Never threaten, hit, or hurt anyone.
- *Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements.⁴
- *Use appropriate titles (Mr., Mrs., Dr.)
- *Take care of the environment.
- *Follow rules in the family and community.



Quotes

“Rudeness is a weak man’s imitation of strength. –Eric Hoffer⁵

“Respect for others begins with respect for self.”³

“Wise people appreciate all people for they see the good in each. –Baltasar Gracian³

“Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy.” –Ralph Waldo Emerson

“I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them.”
--Herbert Henry Lehman⁶

Activities

**Make a Christmas card for someone that you respect. Include a note thanking them for their example.⁷

**Pair students and have them practice good telephone manners.⁸

**Read *What Do You Do, Dear?* by Seslyne Joslin. As a class, compile a book of manners. For each situation draw Ima Impolite’s way of handling the situation as well as the Peter Polite way. *Talk about what being respectful has to do with being polite.*⁷

**Baltasar Gracian said, “Respect yourself if you would have respect from others.”³ Read *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle. Have students make a collage about what they like about themselves. Include favorite places, activities, foods, people, talents and skills. Have them write their good character traits, traits they are working on, what other people like about them and what they consider their strongest point to be.⁹

**Talk about flag courtesy. Encourage children to watch with their families for the courtesy and respect shown to the flag in school assemblies, the New Year’s parade and public functions.

**There are many different holiday celebrations in December: Kwanzaa, Christmas, and often Hanukkah. Talk about ways to show respect for the many different people and religions that are part of our world, then play with

¹ from The American Heritage Dictionary

² The Columbia World of Quotations, <http://www.bartleby.com/66/18/23218.html>, accessed November 11, 2002

³ The Columbia World of Quotations, <http://www.bartleby.com/66/50/38050.html>, accessed November 11, 2002

⁴ Six pillars of character, Definitions for Young People, Good Ideas to Help Young People Develop Good Character, page 5
⁵ quotation list compiled for PACE

⁶ TPCN-Great Quotations, http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_respectability.html, accessed Nov. 11, 2002

⁷ idea submitted by Rocky Mountain Character Representative, adapted from Teaching & Learning Company, Carthage, IL page 27

⁸ idea submitted by Rocky Mountain Character Representative, adapted from Values in Literature, page 128

⁹ idea submitted by Rocky Mountain Character Representative, adapted from Values in Literature, page 131-133



a dreidel, a Hanukkah game. See <http://www.holidays.net/chanukah/dreidel.html> ,
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/hanukkah/dreidel/>



**Learn about origami. (There are excellent children's stories about the art.) Decorate a Christmas tree with origami birds.

**Have students talk to their parents about why respect is important in the workplace and society.

** As a class, memorize a poem such as "If" by Rudyard Kipling¹⁰ "The Cold Within" is a poem about 6 people who die from the cold within rather than share their stick of wood to make a fire.¹¹

Stories

Shackleton's Voyage

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was an Irish Antarctic explorer. Shackleton acquired a ship, the *Polaris*, that was specially designed to withstand ice. He renamed her the *Endurance*. In 1914, with a crew of 27 handpicked from some 5000 applicants, he set out on the *Endurance*, intending to land on the Antarctic and cross it on foot. In Antarctica's *Wendell Sea*, his ship became frozen in the ice. Hopeful that the ice would give way for the ship, they waited months for a thaw. "Optimism," Shackleton said, "is true moral courage."¹² Unfortunately the ship was ultimately crushed by heavy pack ice. The crew scavenged 3 life boats, floated for months on an ice flow, then sailed to the barren *Elephant Island*. There, Shackleton took 5 crew members and in a scavenged boat caulked not with hemp and tar, but with lamp wicks, seal blood and oil paints of the ship's artist, sailed for two weeks to *South Georgia*, 800 miles away. Four attempts and 3 months later he rescued his crew from *Elephant Island*. The men were frostbitten, yet through great personal sacrifice and diligence, he saved every one of his men. Through the greatest diligence, Shackleton had crossed what he called that "thin line that divides success from failure." Shackleton later wrote that the crew even in "dark days and . . . continuous danger, kept up their spirits and carried out their work."¹³ One of the reasons Shackleton was able to save his men was because of their respect for him. This was a respect that was quietly earned. When Shackleton noticed that a crew member was failing in body or spirit, he ordered refreshment for all, (in order not to single out, worry, or humiliate the under-the-weather man.) A crewmember, *Frank Worsley*, wrote, "Shackleton's popularity among those he led was due to the fact that he was not the sort of man who could do only big and spectacular things." . . . "When occasion demanded, he would attend personally to the smallest details, and he had unending patience and persistence, which he would apply to all matters concerning the well-fare of his men."¹⁴ *True respect is not coerced, it is earned. Said Eldridge Cleaver, "Respect commands itself and it can neither be given nor withheld when it is due."*¹⁵



"What I Learned About Respect"

Bill Bradley was an NBA *Knicks* basketball player from 1967 to 1977. He worked in the U.S. Senate, was affiliated with several universities, and wrote a book about his basketball experiences: *Values of the Game*. In an article in *Parade* magazine entitled, "What I Learned About Respect," he writes: "You can't play on a team with African-Americans for very long and fail to recognize the stupidity of our national obsession with race. The right path is really very simple: Respect your fellow human beings, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your common humanity, share your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it. No destructive lies. No ridiculous fears. No debilitating anger."¹⁶

On Respecting the Strengths and Efforts of the Opposition

As a senior in High School and a former student at *Lindon Elementary School*, the 190 pound defensive end played in the 1993 state football championship, in which *Pleasant Grove Vikings* took first place. After the final buzzer rang, the *Pleasant Grove* fans stormed the field to cheer their football team. As the *Vikings* were

¹⁰ http://www.everypoet.com/archive/poetry/Rudyard_Kipling/kipling_if.htm accessed November 11, 2002

¹¹ http://scott.hayes.org/thoughts/the_cold_within.html, accessed November 11, 2002

¹² "Epic of Survival: Shackleton" *National Geographic*, November 1998, page 92

¹³ "Epic of Survival: Shackleton" *National Geographic*, November 1998, page 87

¹⁴ "Epic of Survival: Shackleton" *National Geographic*, November 1998, page 101

¹⁵ TPCN-Great Quotations, http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_respectability.html, accessed Nov. 11, 2002

¹⁶ "Whatever the Score--Bounce Back." *Parade Magazine*, October 18, 1998, page 5



celebrating, the Judge Memorial Bulldogs were standing alone on the opposite side of the field. The Viking defensive end walked alone to the Judge Memorial sideline to console the Bulldogs at their loss. A newspaper reporter noticed this act of courtesy and respect and wrote an article in the Salt Lake Tribune a week later.¹⁷

Writing or Discussion Topics

**There is an old saying that says, “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names can never hurt me.” *Is this true? How should one respond to name calling, sarcasm, or swearing? Have students write about situations where they have been involved in name calling and have appropriately solved the problem.*

**A Deseret News article of 1997 written by Marjorie Cortez described a homecoming event. “As student body officers crowned the school’s homecoming court in the school gym Thursday night, [the girl] experienced, instead, inclusion. The 17-year-old senior, born with Down syndrome, was selected by fellow students as homecoming queen.” Her father. . . commented, “It really speaks to the caliber of the kids who go to this school.” The reporter writes, “Vice principal . . . said the election was testament to the value of including students with disabilities in mainstream classes. ‘Tonight, you have seen that the students voted on inner beauty,’ she said.” *What does respect have to do with courtesy? Does a person’s age make a difference in how you treat them? How do you respectfully treat someone that is different in race, social class, intellectual abilities, etc.?*¹⁵



Role Plays

*Talk about the reasons for not being respectful. Young children may enjoy acting in a role play as animals or people such as: Respectful Rhett, Lazy Larry, Hurried Hippo, Forgetful Fish, Ima Impolite, or Proud Pete.*¹⁸

**Your family is picnicking when the wind blows a napkin several yards away. Nobody but you sees the napkin and if you turn your head you won’t see it either. *What should you do? What are some others ways to be respectful of our environment? (Obeying nature signs, staying on the trail, not picking the flowers, quietly watching wildlife)*

**Your father is home from work, sick. He is resting in the living room. Some friends ask you if they can play. The computer is in the living room and you want to play your new computer game. *How can you show respect for your father?*¹⁹

**The park is in the next cul-de-sac. If you walk through Mrs. Jensen’s yard, it will take only 2 minutes to get from your house to the park. If you walk out of your house and stay on the sidewalk, walking around the block, it will take you 15 minutes to reach the park. *What does respect have to do with your actions?*

**Your friend asks if you like her new shirt. There is not much about it that you like. *How can you respond respectfully?*²⁰

**You find it hard to be friends with Brandon. Brandon is not able to run like the others and keeps tripping over his feet. In class, he doesn’t know how to do his math and he keeps forgetting his spelling words. *How can you demonstrate respect toward Brandon?*¹⁴

Book List

Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco. Philomel, 1998.

Chester’s Way by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow, 1988

The Rag Coat by Lauren Mills, Little, Brown & Company, 1991



JANUARY: Generosity

FEBRUARY: Caring

MARCH: Fairness

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¹⁷ submitted by Character Representative from Pleasant Grove High School PTA

¹⁸ idea submitted by Rocky Mountain Character representative adapted from *Character Education*, Instructional Fair, TS Denison, page 19 *This book also contains excellent role play discussion cards on values.*

¹⁹ Ideas submitted by Rocky Mountain Character representative, adapted from *Character Education*, Instructional Fair, TS Denison, pages 41, 42

²⁰ idea submitted by Character representative of Pleasant Grove High School PTA

