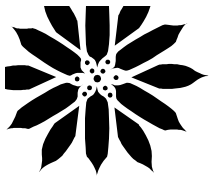


Love

Treating Others
With Care and
Respect

“Love cures
people -both the
ones who give it
and the ones
who receive it.”

--Karl A. Menninger



December 2004 Character Connection Theme: Love

Definitions

One of Webster's definitions of love is "the affectionate concern for the well-being of others."¹ Love can mean:

- *Caring, Kindness, Sharing
- *Putting yourself in someone else's shoes
- *Showing compassion, empathy in thoughts and feelings



Quotes

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." --Amy Carmichael

"Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love." --Mahatma Gandhi

"Love is a force more formidable than any other. It is invisible yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment, and offer you more joy than any material possession could." -- Barbara De Angelis

"To love is to place our happiness in the happiness of another."
--Gottfried Wilhelm Von Leibniz

"Love and a cough cannot be hid." --George Hebert

"The object of love is to serve, not to win." --Woodrow Wilson²

Activities

**Have each student make a Christmas card for someone they love. Encourage them to write specific examples of why they love that person.

**Many stories are told of the transformation that can occur when a downtrodden person is shown love and kindness. *Assign a secret pal to each student in the class. Encourage them to do nice things for that person during the "Twelve Days of Christmas."* Students may reveal who their secret pals were or leave their identity anonymous teaching the lesson that acts of love don't have to be known to everyone.

**Act out Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Have students discuss with their parents the importance of benevolence and charitable giving in the world and workplace.

**Experiment with magnetism by putting varying layers of different materials (foil, cotton, felt, paper, plastic) between two magnets. *Which materials and how many layers affect the attraction of the two magnets?* A story is told of two friends walking in a desert. During an argument one friend slapped the second. The second friend said nothing but knelt and wrote in the sand, "This day my friend slapped me." The two went farther, found an oasis, and started to swim. The second friend started to drown. With a great effort, the first rescued him. Now the second friend found a large rock and chiseled, "Today my friend saved my life." Later the first friend asked why he had written the first message in the sand and the second on a rock. His friend replied, "When a friend hurts us, we should write it down in the sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. When something great happens, we should

¹"Love" from Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary.

²http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_love.html

engrave it in the stone of the memory of the heart, where no wind can erase it.”³ *Like the magnetic experiment, are there materials or attributes that keep us from attracting or being attracted by other people? Are there qualities that make loving and being loved easier?*

**Memorize a poem of love and the Christmas spirit such as “For Them” by Eleanor Farjeon.

Before you bid, for Christmas' sake,
Your guests to sit at meat,
Oh please to save a little cake
For them that have not treat.

Before you go down party-dressed
In silver gown or gold.
Oh please to send a little vest
To them that still go cold. . .

Before you gather round the tree
To dance the day about,
Oh please to give a little glee
To them that go without.⁴



Stories

Two Nickels and Five Pennies

“In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. ‘How much is an ice cream sundae?’ ‘Fifty cents,’ replied the waitress.

“The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it. ‘How much is a dish of plain ice cream?’ he inquired.

“Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. ‘Thirty-five cents,’ she said brusquely.

“The little boy again counted the coins. ‘I’ll have the plain ice cream,’ he said.

“The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table, and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed. When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies—her tip.”⁵

What’s Really Important

“A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100 - yard dash. At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went back. Everyone of them. One girl with Down’s syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, ‘This will make it better.’ Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for 10 minutes. (Author Unknown)⁶

“Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone.”

Edith Cavell was born on December 4, 1865 in Norfolk. When she was 20 years old, she entered the nursing profession. In 1907, she was appointed the matron of Berkendael Medical Institute in Brussels.⁷ Here she was a teacher and administrator.

During World War I and Germany’s occupation of Belgium, the Institute was converted into a

³ Author unknown, http://www.skywriting.net/inspirational/messages/learn_to_write_in_the_sand.html, accessed Oct. 20, 2004

⁴ <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/7348/xchristmas.html>, accessed October 20, 2004

⁵ Canfield, Jack, *A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Health Communications, Inc. 1996. Pg. 19.

⁶ Canfield, Jack.. *A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Health Communications, Inc. 1996. Pg. 70.

⁷ “Who’s Who: Edith Cavell,” <http://www.firstworldwar.com/bio/cavell.htm>, accessed October 18, 2004



Red Cross hospital for all nationalities. Whether they were German, English or Belgian, Edith nursed her patients with dedication and care. She continued to supervise other nurses, deliver lectures, and maintain official records, but she also joined a group that helped wounded Allied soldiers recuperate and escape. To avoid questions and incrimination of her nurses, often she alone nursed, cooked for, provided papers, money and guides to these fleeing soldiers.

On August 5, 1915 Edith was arrested by local German authorities and charged with having personally aided 200 soldiers in escape. She was sentenced to death. Within days after her execution, she became known as a martyr. Sentiment ran high against her executioners, and for weeks afterward Allied recruitment doubled.⁸

A statue of Edith Cavell in her nurse's cloak stands in St. Martin's Place, just off London's Trafalgar Square. As tribute to her life, it displays the words, "Humanity, Fortitude, Devotion, Sacrifice." The statue also bears her statement: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone."⁹



Why does love usually produce an action? What is the difference between patriotism and love?

Writing or Discussion Topics

****The Gift of the Magi** by O. Henry is a Christmas story of true love. In this story a husband wants to buy a beautiful set of combs for his wife's long hair but doesn't have enough money. He decides to sell his precious watch in order to obtain the money to buy the combs. The wife wants to buy a chain for the husband's watch and earns money for it by cutting off and selling her hair. When they show each other their gifts their love is strengthened even though the gifts cannot be used. *Discuss the thought and sacrifice that goes into a gift of love. Write about what you would sell in order to have enough money to buy a special gift for someone. Who would that someone be?*

**** Oren Arnold** is attributed with, "Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." L.O. Baird comments, "May no gift be too small to give, nor too simple to receive, which is wrapped in thoughtfulness, and tied with love."¹⁰ *Sometimes the best gift is a gift that doesn't cost anything. Discuss what kind of gift could be given to show love that doesn't cost money.*



Role Plays

****Trudi's friend, Allison,** asked her if she could borrow her dress for a dance. Trudi willingly loaned Allison the dress and even took it over to her house. The next week Trudi's sister asked if she could borrow her sweater to wear to school. Trudi's sister has a difficult time keeping her side of the room clean, which just yesterday embarrassed Trudi when she wants to invite her friends to her room. *What should Trudi do? Why is it sometimes harder to show love to people we are closest to?*

****Robert** was chosen to be one of the captains to pick teams for a soccer game at recess. *Should Robert first pick his friends, those who need a friend, or those who are best at soccer?*

Book List

Weird Parents by Audrey Wood
Fanny's Dream by Caralyn Buehner
The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry, illustrated Lisbeth Zwerger
Toot & Puddle You Are My Sunshine by Holly Hobbie
Old Jake's Skirts by C. Anne Scott
100th Day Worries by Margery Cuyler
The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale by Aaron Sheperd
Mama, Do You Love Me? By Barbara M. Jooose

December: Love

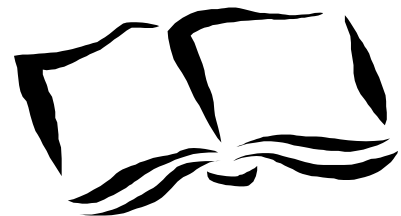
January: Dependable

February: Truthfulness

March: Respect

April: Courage

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⁸ <http://womenshistory.about.com/library/prm/bledithcavell3.htm>, accessed October 18, 2004

⁹ http://womenshistory.about.com/library/prm/bledith_cavell1.htm, accessed October 18, 2004

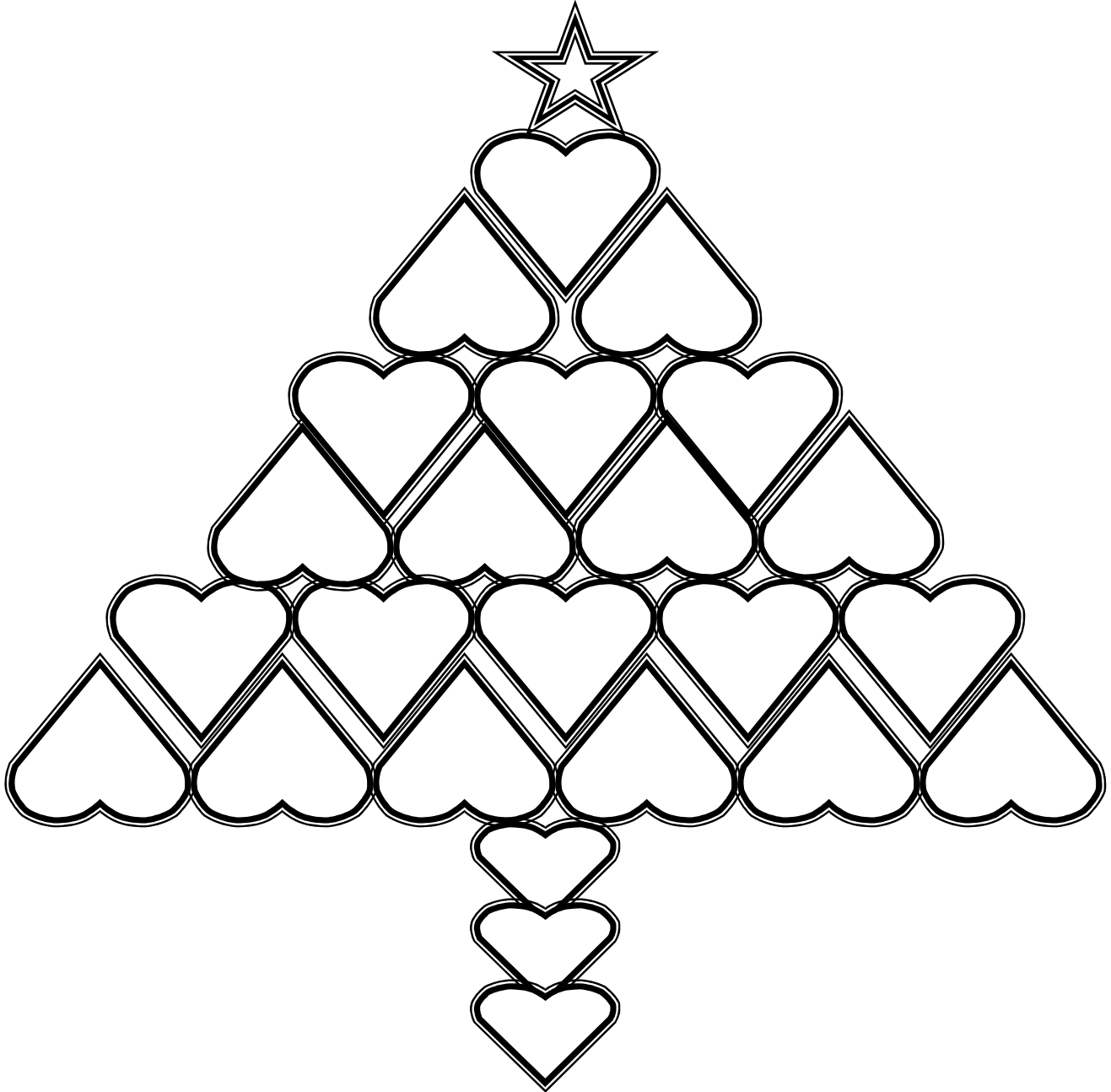
¹⁰ <http://www.quoteworld.org/search.php?thetext=gift>

December 2004 Character Connection

Love

An Advent Calendar

"Love is a force more formidable than any other. It is invisible -- it cannot be seen or measured, yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment, and offer you more joy than any material possession could." (Barbara De Angelis)



For each act of loving service or kindness, color a heart and write a short description of the deed.

"To love for the sake of being loved is human, but to love for the sake of loving is angelic." (Alphonse de Lemartine)