

Respect

Be
Polite and
Courteous to
Others

CHARACTER *Connection*



“A person who is straight, friendly and useful may never be famous, but he is respected and liked by all who know him.”

--Herbert Casson



March Character Connection Theme: Respect



Definition

Respect is “to feel or show consideration for; to honor; avoid violation of; treat with deference.”¹ It is being polite and courteous to others. When we respect something, we admire, appreciate, protect, and honor it. Respect is an attitude of honoring and caring about other’s rights. A respectful person honors the rules of family, school, community, and the nation.

Quotes

“Respect is love in plain clothes.” --Frankie Byrne ²

“Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?”-- Confucius³

“Small kindnesses, small courtesies, small considerations, habitually practiced in our social intercourse, give a greater charm to the character than the display of great talents and accomplishments.”—M.A. Kilty.⁴

“If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island, cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them.” -- Francis Bacon⁵

“All human beings have failings, all human beings have needs and temptations and stresses. Men and women who live together through long years get to know one another's failings; but they also come to know what is worthy of respect and admiration in those they live with and in themselves. If at the end one can say, ‘This man used to the limit the powers that God granted him; he was worthy of love and respect and of the sacrifices of many people, made in order that he might achieve what he deemed to be his task,’ then that life has been lived well and there are no regrets.” - Eleanor Roosevelt ⁶



Activities

**Display several apples of different color, shape and age. Point out the differences. Some may be wrinkled and old, some may have bruises. Then cut the apples in half at the midpoint between the stem and the blossom end. Show the star made by the seeds. People, like apples, all have a “star” in the middle that makes them worthy of respect. Read Dr. Seuss’ “The Sneetches” and about their discovery that “no kind of Sneetch is the best on the beaches” and Horton Hears a Who to find that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.” Talk about the many reasons to respect all people no matter what their outsides may be like. Thomas J. Watson said, “Really big people are, above everything else, courteous, considerate and generous -- not just to some people in some circumstances -- but to everyone all the time.”⁷

**Have students make a people Venn Diagram of themselves and others⁸ showing how they are the same and different from other people. Read Who is the Beast by Keith Baker. (This is a story about animals that run when they see the various parts of a tiger. The tiger then shows the other animals that they also have the traits that they feared and concludes, “We all are beasts—you and me.”) Talk about ways to respect differences. Help students realize that although we have many differences, we have many things in common. These differences add to the quality and interest of life for all.



**Make a Courtesy Concentration game. On some cards write words of courtesy. On other cards have students write situations where the words could be used. Turn all cards face down and have students pick two cards. A match occurs when a word card fits the situation card. There may be more than one possible match.

¹ “respect” The American Heritage Dictionary

² http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_respectability.html, accessed 2001

³ http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/curriculum/character_ed/respect2.htm, accessed 2001

⁴ “courtesy” Edwards, Tryon., The New Dictionary of Thoughts Standard Book Company, 1957, page 117

⁵ <http://www.cybernation.com/>, accessed 2001

⁶ http://www.cybernation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_failure.html, accessed 2001

⁷ http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_courtesy.html, accessed 2001

⁸ <http://www.svusd.k12.ca.us/character/RespectCulture.htm#1>, accessed 2001

****About the time of World War I, a nationwide contest was held for writing a brief summary of the American faith. From over 3,000 entries, a piece by William Tyler Page was declared the winner. It was adopted in 1918 as "The American's Creed." Page said: "It is the summary of the fundamental principles of the American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions, and its greatest leaders." William Tyler Page was the descendent of John Page, 1650 settler of Williamsburg, Virginia; Carter Braxton, signer of the Declaration of Independence; and John Tyler, tenth President of the United States. He served as a Capitol Page, and clerk of the House of Representatives. *As a class, read the creed and look for passages and phrases from the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Daniel Webster's reply to Robert Y. Hayne in the Senate in 1830.*⁹ Talk about the ways to show respect for our country and its symbols, then memorize "The American's Creed:"**

"I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."¹⁰

Stories



Diamonds and Toads



Once there was a mother with two daughters. One was plain, yet polite and kind. The older daughter was beautiful, but rude, selfish, and lazy. It is difficult to imagine, but the mother favored the older daughter and required the younger to do all of the work.

One day she sent the younger daughter to fetch a pail of water from the well. When she got to the well she saw a very ugly old hag begging in an obnoxious way for a drink of water. Ignoring the appearance and unbecoming words of the old woman, the young girl graciously and politely acknowledged the stranger, drew up the water and gave the woman a drink. When the young girl returned home, her mother asked her what had taken her so long. As the girl started to explain, diamonds and flowers fell from her mouth. It was then that the mother realized that the stranger was a disguised enchanted fairy.

The mother wished for the same gift for her other daughter. Quickly she summoned her eldest to fetch another pail of water from the well. The older daughter complained and reminded her mother that this was the younger daughter's job. Finally she was persuaded of the possible advantages that could come her way and she left for the well. At the well, she saw the same ugly hag. She proceeded to draw water from the well. When the old lady asked for a small dipper of water, this daughter commented on the woman's unlikely appearance, then asked her what she would give for the drink. The old woman told her that she would give her a gift equal with her service. The daughter gave her a drink. Back at the house, the mother asked her favorite daughter if she had seen anyone at the well. To her horror, as the daughter answered, toads, lizards, and snakes fell from her mouth.¹¹

*Erastus Wiman said, "Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of the pleasures; costs nothing and conveys much. It pleases him who gives and; him who receives, and thus, like mercy, it is twice blessed."*¹² How are those who treat others with respect and courtesy blessed? How are respectful and courteous words like diamonds?

Nasreddin and the Feast

A tale from Turkey

A very rich man once invited Nasreddin, a famous and wise man, to a feast. Before the feast, Nasreddin traded clothes with a beggar. He wore the rags to the door of the rich man. A very smelly and disgusting sight greeted the servant who answered the door. Nasreddin insisted that he had been invited to the feast. The servant consulted the master. However, they saw only the filthy clothes and turned him away. Nasreddin went home. He put on his best finery. Again he called at the door of the rich man. This time he was welcomed and seated at a place of honor. As the feast began, Nasreddin carefully spooned the fine foods onto his sleeves and down the front of his robe. In astonishment, the rich man asked Nasreddin what he was doing. Nasreddin replied that

⁹ <http://www.icss.com/usflag/american.creed.html>, accessed 2001

¹⁰ submitted by Pleasant Grove High School PTA Representative

¹¹ adapted from a 17th century fairy tale by Charles Perrault

¹² http://www.cyber-nation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_courtesy.html accessed 2001



it was clear that it was the clothes and not Nasreddin that had been invited to feast with the rich man. *Nasreddin is a legendary figure said to have been born in a Turkish village during the 1200's. Every year "International Nasreddin Hoja Festival" is held between July 5-10 in the Turkish town where he was supposedly buried. Azerbaijanis, and Iranians as well as speakers from Turkey tell stories of this comic sage.*¹³

The Silent Couple¹⁴

There once was a stubborn young man who married a young lady as stubborn as he was. At the close of the wedding day, the newlyweds were just sitting down to rest when the husband noticed that the last guest had left the door ajar. Feeling tired, he asked his new bride to close it. The new wife was also tired and suggested that it was the man of the house's responsibility to lock the door. The argument escalated into name-calling and accusations. Finally, the wife suggested that the next one to speak or move would close the door. The husband agreed and the contest began.

Thieves passing in the night noticed the open door, let themselves in and stripped the house of the wedding gifts and decorations. Thinking the couple were wax figures, they took the jewels and watches from their very persons. Still, neither the man nor the wife moved.

In the morning, a passing policeman noticed the door and stepped in to check on the household. Finding the house stripped of its furnishings, he immediately demanded to know what the man was doing in the house. Getting no response, he prepared to box the man's ears. Suddenly the wife spoke, "See here! Don't you dare lay a hand on my new husband." With that, the husband cried, "I won! You go shut the door!"

Talk about how disrespect and lack of common courtesy can rob us of time and the more precious things in life. How would the story's end have changed if the husband and wife had respect and consideration as their priorities?

Writing or Discussion Topics

**Have students talk to their parents about the role that respect for self, co-workers, supervisors, and customers plays in the world of work.

**To practice penmanship and to learn manners, George Washington transcribed "Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour In Company and Conversation." He copied these 110 rules while living at his Ferry Farm home near Fredericksburg, at about 16 years of age.¹⁵ Some of these rules include "#1 Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present," "#22 Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy" and "#49 Use no reproachful language against anyone; neither curse nor revile." Parson Weems wrote of Washington that it was "no wonder every body honoured him who honoured every body."¹⁶ *Read the 110 rules, then use them to write your own Rules of Civility.*

**Have students write narratives of appropriate polite dialogue and actions at a dinner table, entering a building, meeting someone, asking for something, apologizing for a mistake, and other social situations.

Role Plays

**Garth is walking to school when he sees two friends rushing away from the school yard with tree clippers in their hands. Garth then notices the stumps of 5 newly planted trees. *What should Garth do? How does disrespect of property affect everyone?*

**Jody has been asked by her mother to teach her younger sister, Ailene, to answer and use the phone politely. *What should Jody teach Ailene? Role play several potential polite telephone conversations.*

**Kelly, the new girl in Stephanie's class, uses a seeing eye dog. *What are appropriate ways that Stephanie can show Kelly and her dog kindness and respect?*

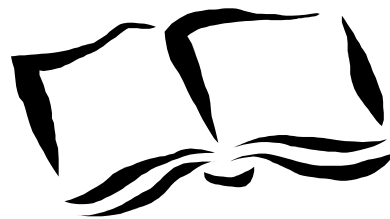
Book List

Badger's Bad Mood by Susan Varley

Bat Boy and His Violin by Gavin Curtis

Mr. Key's Song by Sadyebeth and Anson Lowitz

The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden



April: Courage

May: Generosity

June: Family Goals

July: Family Service

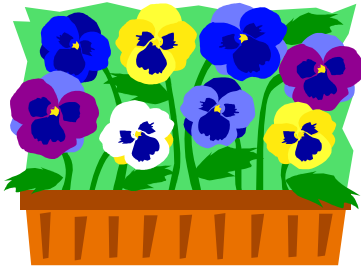
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¹³ http://www.azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/43_folder/43_articles/43_molla.html, accessed 2001

¹⁴ submitted by PG High PTA Representative from the [Book of Virtues](#)

¹⁵ <http://www.living-history.com/documents/110rulesofcivility.html>, accessed 2001

¹⁶ <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~cap/gw/chap15.html>, accessed 2012



Name : _____

Respect Word Search

A C Q K P F N O I T A R I M D A B E O A D R N S C I D P
X K U S M L J R V G Y T I L I V I C O S W O P E W G A Z
E S H L F N E N K J O L E S E S D T C H L X C R Z N S S
W E C I X T S A U G L G Z N F N P Z P L H N D W W W T D
X G O K P M C P S D O Q L O Q U F L R S E A M B U V B O
S R U D O O O Z F E O J E I D N H S T R N J O E E S P F
W T R F L J F J Y H P R K T L C W U E S G G J Z X B S N
E M T L I E C F N R I F L A A T S F T U J L H Q R R O D
B E E V T H S S M M W K V R C P E P K M O X W J E I U G
Y E O O E N A A D R F X V E G D A H R P A A N S T A A Y
O C U C X S A A L L O C H D B A E R J B I P P A S R C Y
U N S L Y I R C V Y R C P I R P E L D Z N E R F W F V X
R E Y I E Y I F E R M H H S W J X M Y O C E D P K V H I
R D D S A H I G V F A I N C M C A F T N R G Y K H F Y
W E L K R O B V T R J Y C O Y U U P Z E X O H E K N N
E V S B M Z N V S U B R P C W K S P V S A C M J Y B G V
L E S A M N I C X S G K A E F Y E R A U W W G E G Z V A
C R G U O R C I G W I G H O L V E P Y J T I D E P I F
O E V Q R A Q W X A P M Y V K R M C T L R Y Z S R I G Y
M M T M W P D R O I V A H E B Y E I C U I X T Y N P J L
E O H A B P F G Y E U X I O W N N A E Q F E C S T P T R
M N A Y M V C Z B Y P T B H I I V T T L E G G X E W K R
F F N H C O D W Q C I R Q L W R E O M M G H W U L D W
L G K I V G I L U . O X O V G Z M I R Q L G D P T W U L
N F R O N O H X S G V A F Q F X A P Q T R E G A R D R
U Z Y Y N Q Q Q Q R E T B L P L W F V R J A F V H U C P
S G O Z V G Z D Z M T O Y E S P L E A S E F Y K N W E
O H U V K K M R . U O E D Y L O H C B D N D N D P O G U

respect
behavior
protect
thank you
homage
esteem
Pardon me

civility
consideration
honor
your welcome
reverence
veneration
Mr.

polite
admire
rules
yes please
deference
May I
Mrs.

courteous
appreciate
please
regard
admiration
excuse me
Miss