



Commitment to Character

Tolerance - Respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.

Teaching Tolerance and Black History Month:

Pioneering black female comic artist to be honored in Hall of Fame

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff
Grade Level 7
01/26/2018

<https://newsela.com/read/first-black-woman-comic/id/39773>

Two excellent videos for grades 6-12:

Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks

This is the story of how one woman, through a single act of defiance, stirred a community to unite in opposition to segregation and changed American forever. The curriculum revisits a familiar historical event and finds new stories that introduce new heroes. Behind every great protest movement is a community of ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things. The film revisits the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 and 1956, and presents it as more than a history lesson, but as a model for young activists looking to make positive change in their communities.

The Children's March

This video and curriculum material tells the story of how the young people of Birmingham, Alabama, braved fire hoses and police dogs in 1963 and brought segregation to its knees. Their heroism moved President Kennedy to introduce the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a key piece of federal legislation that transformed not just the South, but the entire nation.

Kindness starts with one

Try this game of pay-it-forward: anonymously make someone smile, leave behind a card telling them to keep the ripple going. It's easy and fun. You're the scientist and the world is your laboratory. Is kindness truly contagious? There's only one way to find out, give it a try.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Have a kind word and gentle touch for those who you have contact with.
- Compliment a stranger sincerely.
- Smile and laugh more often.
- Return shopping carts to the store.
- Write a thank you note to someone.
- Put little notes in someone's locker that will brighten up their day
- Share a comic strip or something funny with someone else.
- Pick up trash or pull some weeds in your neighborhood or on your campus.
- Give out random acts of kindness buttons, ribbons and books.
- Send someone an animated greeting card on the internet.
- Tutor your classmates in a subject that you are good at.
- Send kindness notes to your classmates/teachers/parents etc.



Three Words a Day

- Feb. 1 Control your thoughts.
- Feb. 2 Don't think can't.
- Feb. 3 Put things away.
- Feb. 4 Exercise improves attitude.
- Feb. 5 Use positive words.
- Feb. 6 Develop good habits.
- Feb. 7 Friends take time.
- Feb. 8 Trust your judgment.
- Feb. 9 Like yourself first.
- Feb. 10 Always pay attention.
- Feb. 11 Build someone's confidence.
- Feb. 12 Questions aren't dumb.
- Feb. 13 Tell the truth.
- Feb. 14 Love is best.
- Feb. 15 Respect others' feelings.
- Feb. 16 Don't fear failure.
- Feb. 17 Everyone has worries.
- Feb. 18 Ask what if__?
- Feb. 19 Ignore put downs.
- Feb. 20 Go ahead laugh.
- Feb. 21 Helping feels good.
- Feb. 22 Think before speaking.
- Feb. 23 Always work willingly.
- Feb. 24 Cheer somebody up.
- Feb. 25 Never get discouraged.
- Feb. 26 Consider others' needs.
- Feb. 27 Do for yourself.
- Feb. 28 Don't make excuses.



Black History Month educational resources:

- [African American History Month](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities: EDSITEment's Guide to Black History Month Teaching Resources](#)
- [PBS Newshour: Black History Month Resources for the Classroom](#)
- [Smithsonian Education: Black History Teaching Resources](#)
- [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#)
- [Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum \(St. Petersburg\)](#)
- [Florida Memory: Black History Month, Resources for Students and Educators](#)

Dinner Dilemmas

Purpose: To create family discussions that promotes Character Education in Pinellas County.

Dinner Dilemmas are designed to go home once a month with the students. Schools that send home a weekly newsletter could print one dilemma each week in its publication. During the week families are asked to discuss the dilemma. It is hoped that families will talk about the dilemma and decide how the character quality of the month relates to the situation presented. It is further hoped that families will discuss the dilemma of the week and decide how the character quality of the month applies to each family member.

Week 1

Situation: Sue was in her guided reading group. Everyone was taking turns reading aloud. Some in the group were slow and cautious readers.

Dilemma: On one hand Sue became impatient for her turn. On the other hand Sue knew she should be tolerant toward all readers.

Discussion: What is your advice for Sue?

Week 2

Situation: The kids in Sam's class overhear Tony ask to make two Mother's Day cards. The kids start making fun of Tony because he has two moms.

Dilemma: On one hand Sam knows he should be tolerant of other people's families. On the other hand, Sam feels peer pressure to go along with the crowd.

Discussion: What is your advice to Sam?

Week 3

Situation: All the neighbor kids wait at the same school bus stop. One girl has cerebral palsy. She goes to a special school and rides a different bus. The kids are consistently making fun of her.

Dilemma: On one hand Sue and Sam have joined in the taunting in the past. On the other hand, this is Tolerance month at school and they have pledged to practice tolerance.

Discussion: What is your advice for Sue and Sam?

Week 4

Situation: A student comes to school with a hat on after chemotherapy. Her hair has fallen out. Kids grab the hat and toss it around. She begins to cry.

Dilemma: On one hand Sue choose not to join in. On the other hand, Sue feels she should speak up about tolerance towards those who look different.

Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?

Books to read aloud on Tolerance:

Something Else by Kathryn Cave

Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

A Picture Book of Anne Frank by David A. Adler



Diversity--crayons

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Quotes: Starting the week of January 28:

“Week 1 – “Share our similarities, celebrate our differences.” M. Scott Peck

Week 2 – “People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.” H. Jackson Brown

Week 3 – “The highest result of education is tolerance.” Helen Keller

Week 4 – “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
“Martin Luther King, Jr.

Week 5- “Civilizations should be measured by the degree of diversity attained and the degree of unity retained.” W.H. Auden

What is your school doing to promote good character? Please share your activities and ideas.