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Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students

Upcoming Events



**Top 10 Behavior Tips
Workshop** at Bethel College
with Barbara Pedersen, Jim
McMillan & Ruby Butler
Monday, March 23, 2009

**Differentiated
Instruction, Literacy &
Collaboration!**
at Davenport, Iowa
with Barbara Pedersen & Jim
McMillan
Monday, June 15, 2009

**The Thrill of Teaching
Summer Institute**
June 29 - July 2, 2009

To register please go to
<http://joyofclass.pbwiki.com/>



March Issue: Throw Me a Lifeline

Life Goals Pledge

I will do the right thing today even if I don't feel like it.

I will treat people right today even if I don't feel like it.

Today I will remember my will power is strong than how I feel or what I think. All things are possible today! Good news is heading my way!

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools!

This month we focus on the C.L.A.S.S. Lifelines. Almost any book we pick-up to share with students can be a chance to teach students about how to “Do the Right Thing” and “Treat People Right”. The Lifelines help us define those phrases for students. By incorporating the Lifelines into our instruction, we help to educate to the whole child. By teaching them the traits and characteristics a person needs, we create a culture in the school where there is an expectation for every student to “Do the Right Thing” and “Treat People Right!”

On the pages that follow we’ve picked some of the Lifelines and have provided some books and activities you can try to incorporate these Lifelines in your classroom. These ideas are just the beginning. Take some time the next time you choose a read aloud to find some Lifelines traits in the book. You’ll be amazed how many connections you can make.

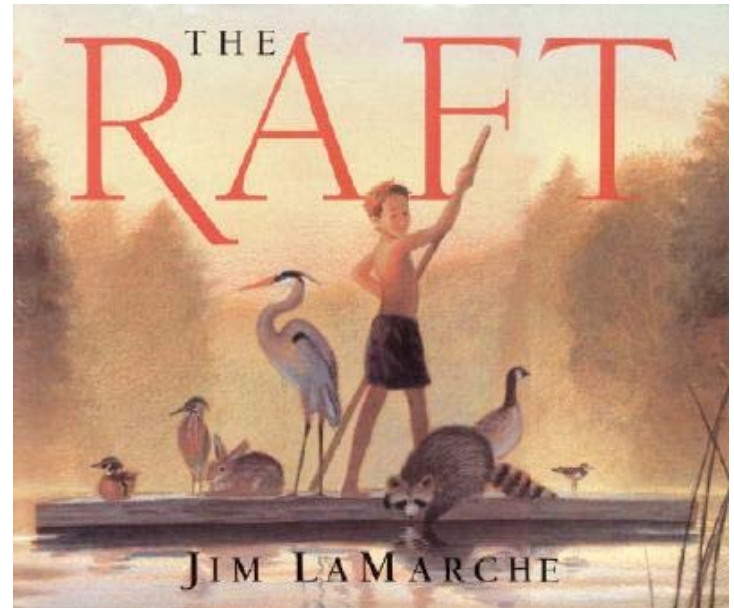
JOY

Definition

JOY is the state of being happy or it is something that causes you happiness.

Connections:

- Sometimes we have to go places we don't want to go. But, often, once we get there we find out that things aren't near as bad as we imagine them to be, or even better yet that there are great things to be discovered. Can you think of a time like Nicky you went someplace you didn't want to go, but discovered great things and were filled with JOY.
- LaMarche uses some wonderful descriptions and illustrations to talk about the animals that Nicky finds while floating along the raft. It provides a perfect example of taking time to notice the world around you. What colors, creatures, actions, and emotions do you notice around? Take JOY in the simple things you find all around right in front of you. Have the students go on a walk around the school building. What is something that jumps out at them that brings them JOY.



Author/Illustrator: Jim LaMarche

Publisher: HarperCollins, 2000.

Description: Reluctant Nicky spends a wonderful summer with Grandma who introduces him to the joy of rafting down the river near her home and watching the animals along the banks.

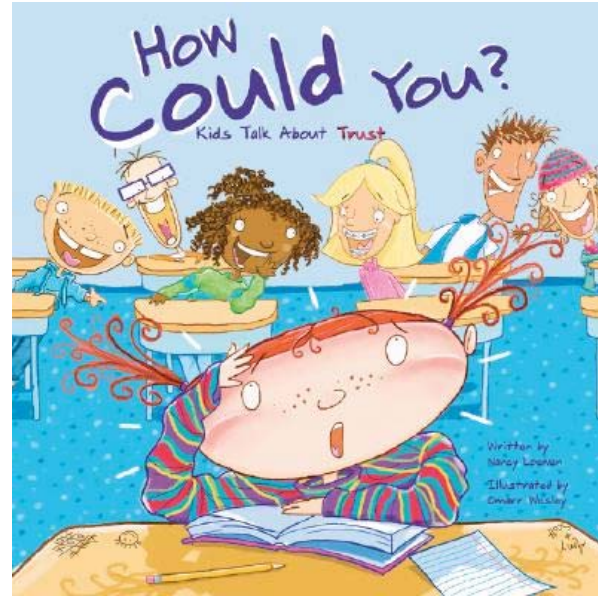
TRUST

Definition

TRUST is being to be dependable and truthful.

Connections:

- Use this book as part of community circle. Read the letter and let students offer their own advice using the Lifeline of TRUST before reading the solution in the book.
- Connect with your school counselor and invite them into your classroom. Perhaps they can provide some scenarios for your students to use as their own writing prompts. Students could write their own book about TRUST. Donate a copy to the school library media center so others can see what your students think it means to use the Lifeline of TRUST.



Author/Illustrator: Nancy Loewen / Omarr Wesley

Publisher: Picture Window Books, 2003.

Description: Uses an advice-column format to define TRUST and provide examples in daily life.

CARING

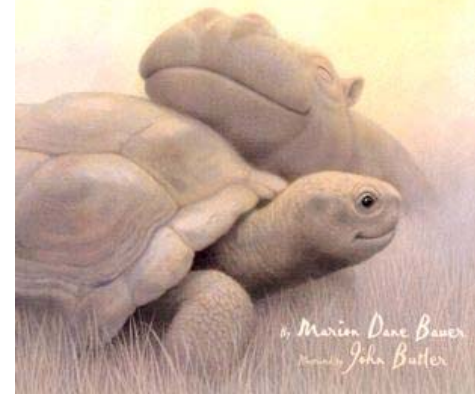
Definition

CARING means to feel and show concern for others.

Connections:

- Why do you think Mzee showed CARING towards Owen? What might have been some reasons for him not to. Why do you think he did anyway?
- Also read some of the books about Mzee and Owen by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Paula Kahumba. Why do you think Isabella thought it was important to tell this CARING story? She is a school age student just like you. Why do you think Mzee and Owen inspired her?
- Why do you think it is important for us to have someone in our lives that shows CARING towards us?
- Mzee and Owen's story shows that there is caring in all creatures and all over the world. Read the newspaper, Internet, or watch the local news. Can you find other places where there is CARING? Let's chart them on a map for a week.

A Mama for Owen



Author/Illustrator: Marion Dane Bauer / John Butler

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books, 2007.

Description: When the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami separates a young African hippopotamus from his mother, he finds a new snuggle partner in Mzee the giant tortoise. Based on a true story.

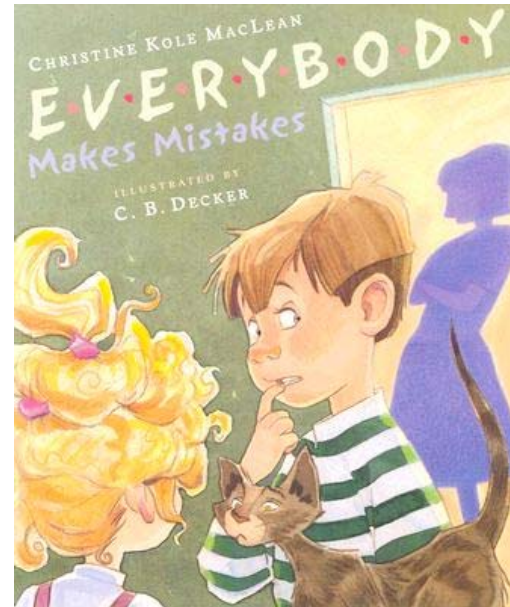
RESPONSIBILITY

Definition

RESPONSIBILITY is to be accountable for your actions.

Connections:

- What were the three big mistakes that Jack made? What would have been some better choices for Jack to have made? What are the repercussions for not using RESPONSIBILITY?
- Let's rewrite the story, only this time let's have Jack use the Lifeline of RESPONSIBILITY. How would it change the story? Would it have been good for his sister? Would his mother have been pleased?



Author/Illustrator: Christine Kole MacLean / C.B. Decker

Publisher: Button Children's Books, 2005.

Description: Although he reminds his mother that everybody makes mistakes, and provides a lot of examples, young Jack is still in hot water for making three big mistakes while playing with his younger sister on their uncle's wedding day.

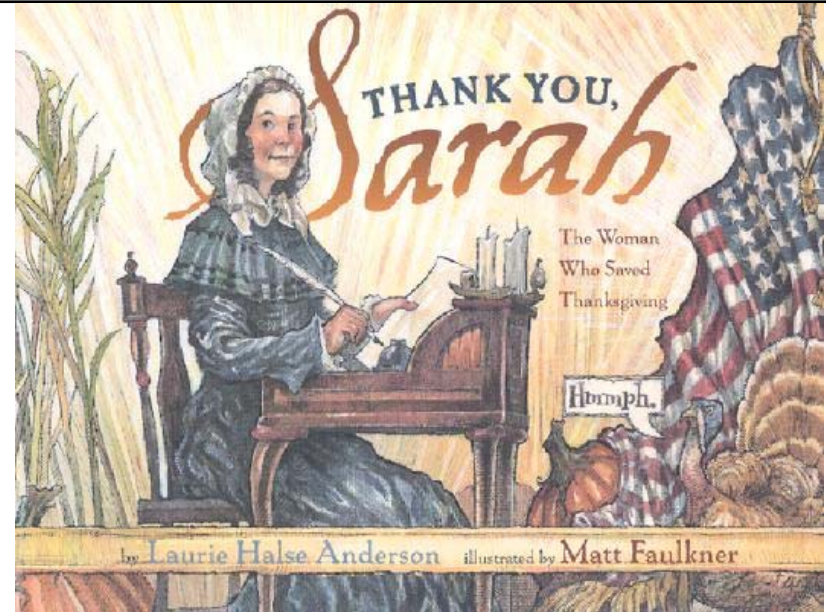
PERSEVERANCE

Definition

PERSEVERANCE is to keep at it.

Connections:

- Sarah used PERSEVERANCE to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Make a list of all the things she tried to do. Why do you think she was eventually successful? Why do you think she kept using PERSEVERANCE?
- Research some of our other national holidays. How did they come to be? Did anyone use PERSEVERANCE to make those holidays?
- What is something where you kept using PERSEVERANCE?



Author/Illustrator: Laurie Halse Anderson / Matt Faulkner

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002.

Description: Relates how Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday.

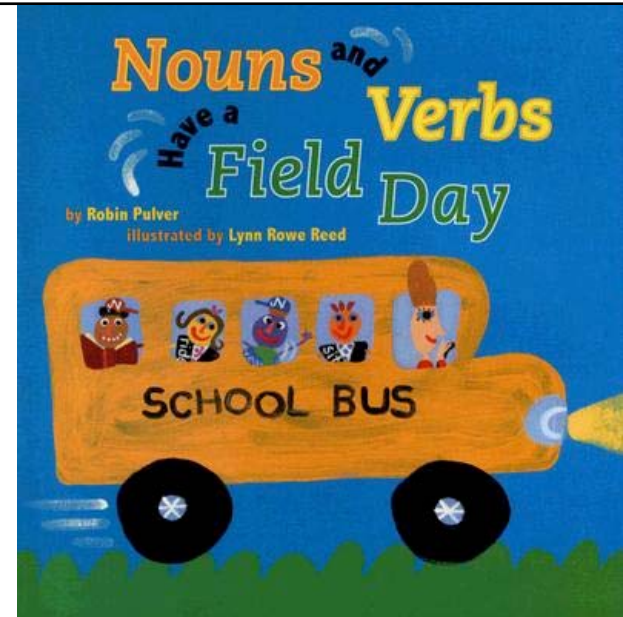
COOPERATION

Definition

COOPERATION is to work together towards a common goal or purpose.

Connections:

- This is not only a perfect story to talk about COOPERATION, but also to cover grammar skills as well. We all know that nouns and verbs have to use COOPERATION in order to make complete sentences in our writing. Let's make a list of nouns and then a list of verbs. Now, how many different sentences can we make by making the nouns and verbs use COOPERATION.
- What are some other places in the school where we need to use the Lifeline of COOPERATION? Use this as an opening community circle conversation, but tell students to think about COOPERATION all day long. At the end of the day, have a reflection time where they come back and add to the list you made in the morning. Have each student pick one idea from the list and turn it into a complete sentence – by having a noun and a verb use COOPERATION!



Author/Illustrator: Robin Pulver / Lynn Rowe Reed.

Publisher: Holiday House, 2006.

Description: Its Field Day in Mr. Wrights class and not just for the students. Nouns and verbs are inventing their own games, such as tug-of-words and putting on three-legged races. Full color.

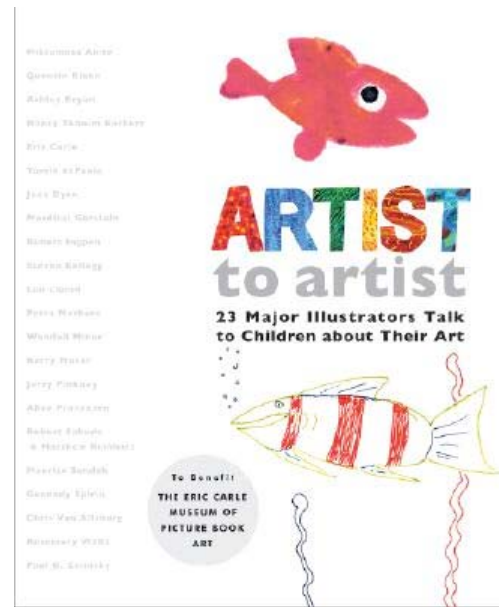
CREATIVITY

Definition

CREATIVITY is being able to create things with your imagination and talents.

Connections:

- 23 illustrators shared about their lives and how that has helped them create children's books. What ways do you show CREATIVITY?
- Think about all the illustrators in the book. Each has their own style of illustration, their own skills for being an artist, and their own likes/dislikes. Yet, they are all successful illustrators who make wonderful books. Do we all have to be CREATIVELY the same way? Why is it important that we are all different?
- Just like the illustrators in the book, create a self portrait using pencil, crayons, markers, crafts, etc. Any resource you have available. Use CREATIVITY, but be able to explain your reasons why.



Author/Illustrator: 23 illustrators contributed to the book.

Publisher: Philomel Books, 2007.

Description: Maurice Sendak, Rosemary Wells, Eric Carle, and twenty other children's book illustrators speak informally to children about their art and careers. Includes fold-out pages with photographs of early work, studios, materials, sketches, and finished works, as well as self-portraits.

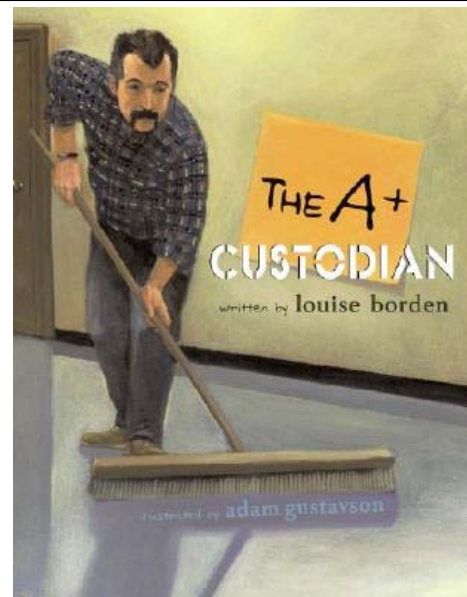
GRATITUDE

Definition

GRATITUDE is to show someone you are thankful for what they do.

Connections:

- During community circle make a list of people in your school who you might want to give GRATITUDE for all they do. Each learning club takes one person from the list and their job is to come up with a way to show GRATITUDE. It could be make a card, poster, banner, etc. It is totally up to the learning club to decide.
- Why do you think it is important to show GRATITUDE? How often should you show GRATITUDE?
- Just like the students used the post-it notes in the story, ask students to share quick stories on post-its every time they notice someone in the class using GRATITUDE.



Author/Illustrator: Louise Borden / Adam Gustavson

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2004.

Description: The students and teachers at Dublin Elementary School make banners, posters, and signs for their school custodian to show how much they appreciate him and all the work he does.