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Kids With Character

Teacher's Guide

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Kids With Character

This poster set can be effectively displayed in elementary school classrooms, counselors' offices, and hallways, cafeterias, or other student assembly areas. The illustrations were designed to be fun, eye-catching, and engaging, and many students will enjoy looking at and thinking about them on their own. To have the most impact, however, the posters and the traits they depict can be explored through lessons.

To aid the busy teacher or counselor, this guide contains discussion questions (with brief activities), Web sites rich with ideas and resources on character education, and a list of suggested books that can be used to discuss each of the character traits. In addition, coloring sheets for each of the posters provide an enjoyable way for students to create their own mini-posters to hang up around the classroom or at home—daily reminders that it's good to be a kid with character.

Note: The picture books mentioned in the guide are all available for purchase at our Web site, www.CounselorResources.com.

Discussion Guide

Respect

1. What does it mean to celebrate differences?
2. What differences are the kids in the poster celebrating?
3. What are some other differences that can be celebrated? (Examples: foods, languages, religions, learning styles, abilities, interests, personalities, ages)
4. Think about one of your friends. What are some similarities that you share? What are some differences between your friend and you?
5. What does it mean to show respect? How is celebrating differences a way of showing respect?
6. What are some other ways to show respect? How can you show respect to your parents? To your teachers? To your friends? To a new kid at school? To a stranger?
7. Think of a new way that you can show respect for someone. Try it out later today.

Responsibility

1. Look at the poster. What is happening?
2. What is the boy thinking about? What do you think he will decide to do?
3. Why is it important to think before you act? What does it mean to consider the consequences?
4. Think of a time when you forgot to think before you acted. What happened? Share your story with a partner.
5. What does it mean to be responsible? How is thinking before acting a way of being responsible?
6. What are some other ways to show responsibility? How could you be a responsible student? A responsible brother or sister? A responsible pet owner?
7. Think of an adult in your life whom you look up to. How does your role model show responsibility?

Fairness

1. Look at the poster. What is happening?
2. What does it mean to be fair? How is taking turns and sharing a way of being fair?
3. How are the kids in the poster being fair? What do you think would happen if the kids stopped using the swings fairly? How might the scene change?
4. Think of a time when you were treated unfairly. How did you feel? Share your story with a partner.
5. Why is it hard to be fair sometimes? Who is it hardest to be fair with? Have you ever fought with a brother, sister, classmate, or friend about fairness? What happened?
6. What are some other ways to show fairness? What are some ways that you can be fair at school? At home?
7. Draw a picture of a time when you showed fairness.

Caring

1. Look at the poster. What is happening?
2. How are the students showing that they care? What do you think would happen if the students didn't show they cared? How might the scene change?
3. How do you know when someone is in need?
4. Who cares about you? How do you know that they care about you? Describe their words and actions.
5. How can you show caring at school? Have you witnessed someone showing caring at school this week? Explain what you saw.
6. How can people show caring for those in their community who are in need?
7. Draw a picture of you caring for someone else.

Trustworthiness

1. Look at the poster. What is happening?
2. What do you think the kids were doing right before this scene? How do you think the man is going to react to what the kids are telling him?
3. What does it mean to be trustworthy?
4. One way of being trustworthy is having the courage to do the right thing. How are the kids in the poster showing trustworthiness?
5. Why should you try to do the right thing even when it's hard?
6. What are some other ways to show trustworthiness?
7. Think of a time when you displayed trustworthiness. Share your story with a partner.

Citizenship

1. What does it mean to be a good citizen? Why is good citizenship important?
2. What can you do to protect the environment?
3. What can you do to be a good neighbor?
4. What can you do to respect authority?
5. What can you do to stay informed? How can you find out about what's going on in your school and community?
6. What can you do to get involved in your school and community?
7. How can you show good citizenship in your classroom?

Web Resources

www.character.org

The Web site of the Character Education Partnership offers free lesson plans, a character education blog forum, and links to other helpful sites.

www.charactercounts.org

Lesson plans and handouts, free e-newsletters, and information on the Six Pillars of Character are available on the Character Counts Web site.

www.actsofkindness.org

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation Web site features an abundance of activities and lesson plans for teaching kindness.

Related Books

(Also available through School Counselor Resources: www.CounselorResources.com)

Respect:

ACCEPT AND VALUE EACH PERSON. By Cheri J. Meiners. Simple text and colorful two-page spreads encourage children to appreciate and get along with others, no matter their size, shape, or color. Grades K–2. (Product code: FS129)

DON'T LAUGH AT ME. By Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblin. Based on the popular children's song, this book sends the message that kids aren't all that different from each other and encourages them to stop the cycle of teasing and bullying. Grades K–6. (Product code: TSP107)

HEY, LITTLE ANT. By Phillip Hoose and Hannah Hoose. A kid argues with an ant over whether he should squish the tiny insect with his shoe. Delightfully illustrated, this simple picture book helps adults talk with children about being tolerant, respectful, and empathetic. Grades K–3. (Product code: TSP108)

KIDS TALK ABOUT RESPECT. By Carrie Finn. Fifth-grader Kendra answers younger kids' letters, doling out advice on matters that relate to respect for the environment, animals, other people's property, other religions, one's body, and more. Grades K–3. (Product code: CS185)

MY MANNER MATTER: A First Look at Being Polite. By Pat Thomas. This book thoughtfully explores why manners matter: because they are a way of showing respect, and because they make working and playing together more enjoyable. Grades K–2. (Product code: BES284)

PIGGY MONDAY: A Tale About Manners. By Suzanne Bloom. "Mrs. Hubbub's class was getting out of line. She told them to behave or they would all turn into swine." Before this wickedly funny story ends, the class learns that surprising things may happen to children who forget their manners. Grades K–4. (Product code: AK100)

RESPECT AND TAKE CARE OF THINGS. By Cheri J. Meiners. Use this friendly book to help children learn to respect and take care of things—whether it's around the house, in the classroom, or out in nature. Grades K–2. (Product code: FS121)

Responsibility:

DO I HAVE TO? Kids Talk About Responsibility. By Nancy Loewen. In "Dear Abby" style, kids write in and ask questions of Tina Truly, their seventh-grade advisor, about different aspects of responsibility—from taking care of pets and doing homework to managing time and helping out around the house. Grades 2–5. (Product code: CS161)

JASON TAKES RESPONSIBILITY. By Virginia Kroll. Jason’s mother gives him the important responsibility of mailing the invitations for his grandma’s birthday party, but Jason ends up losing one. Can he find a way to make up for his mistake? Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK165)

SORRY! By Trudy Ludwig. Jack’s friend Charlie gets away with all sorts of things—just by saying he’s sorry. After they ruin Leena’s science project, Jack and Charlie learn a lesson about apologies and personal accountability when a teacher makes them *show* they’re sorry, not just say it. Grades 1–4. (Product code: TSP104)

Fairness:

KIDS TALK ABOUT FAIRNESS. By Carrie Finn. Fifth-grader Sam answers younger kids’ letters about issues of fairness, such as “Why do I have to go to bed earlier than my big sister?” and “At recess my friend got mad because I was on the swing, but it was my turn. What should I do?” Grades K–3. (Product code: CS183)

THE SANDBOX. By Don Rowe. In this book designed to get young children to think critically about fairness and conflict resolution, Johnny and Tim have trouble sharing the sandbox with Kylie. Pretty soon there is pushing and crying and no more playing in the sandbox—and nobody thinks any of it is fair. Grades K–3. (Product code: CS105)

SHARE AND TAKE TURNS. By Cheri J. Meiners. Warm illustrations show children modeling a variety of sharing behaviors, such as dividing up toys, playing with a ball together, and taking turns on playground equipment. Grades K–2. (Product code: FS146)

Caring:

MAKAYLA CARES ABOUT OTHERS. By Virginia Kroll. Makayla is usually eager to lend a hand, but when she sees that helping her neighbor involves an unpleasant task, Makayla learns an important lesson: caring means doing things for other people, even when you don’t have to and when it’s hard to do. Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK167)

NOBODY KNEW WHAT TO DO: A Story About Bullying. By Becky Ray McCain. When a group of bullies starts picking on his classmate Ray, the young narrator knows it’s wrong. At first he tries to ignore it, but eventually he realizes that Ray needs help and works up the courage to tell his teacher about it. Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK108)

REACH OUT AND GIVE. By Cheri J. Meiners. By generously sharing their things, time, and talents, kids show that they care about people at home, at school, in their community, and in the world. Grades K–2. (Product code: FS123)

WHEN I CARE ABOUT OTHERS. By Cornelia Maude Spelman. Populated with cuddly animal characters, this book uses simple and reassuring text to explain the essential concepts of empathy, caring, and treating others the way you want to be treated. Grades K–2. (Product code: AK145)

Trustworthiness:

BE HONEST AND TELL THE TRUTH. By Cheri J. Meiners. The young narrator explains ways that she can be honest, such as “I can do my own work,” “I can keep my promises,” and “If I find something that doesn’t belong to me, I can try to return it.” Grades K–2. (Product code: FS241)

CRISTINA KEEPS A PROMISE. By Virginia Kroll. Cristina has already promised to watch her brother compete in the Special Olympics when she finds out about the opportunity to meet her favorite author. Should she skip her brother’s race to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK161)

I’M TELLING THE TRUTH: A First Look at Honesty. By Pat Thomas. Simple sentences accompany expressive illustrations in this book that explains why someone might choose to be dishonest and why being honest in words and actions is the better choice. Grades K–2. (Product code: BES282)

KIDS TALK ABOUT HONESTY. By Carrie Finn. Advice columnist Sam Strong answers letters about honesty dilemmas that kids will relate to, such as “I really want to see a movie that my dad doesn’t want me to see. Should I watch it at my friend’s house and not tell my dad?” Grades K–3. (Product code: CS184)

Citizenship:

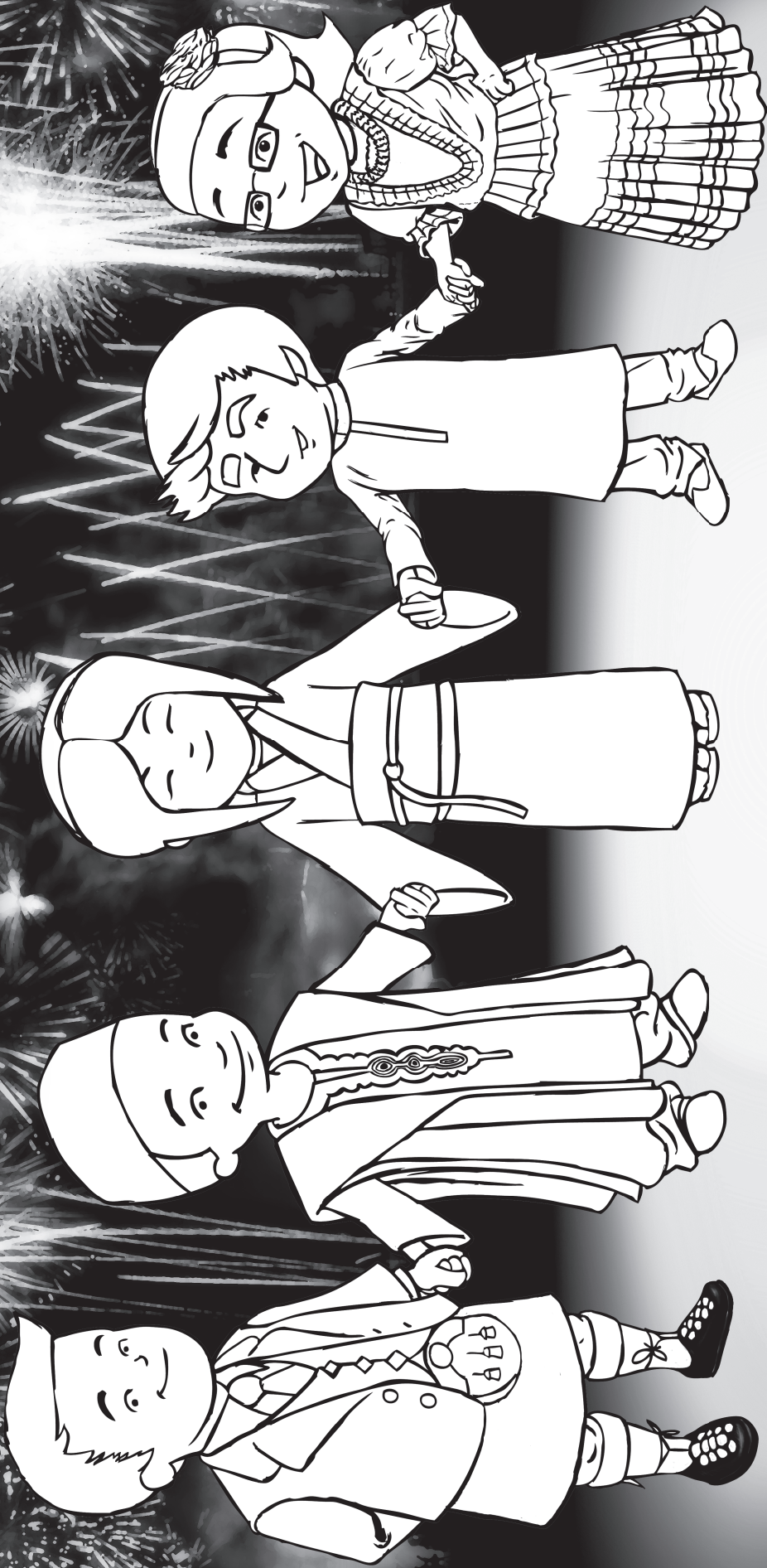
GOOD CITIZEN SARAH. By Virginia Kroll. Sarah thinks good citizenship is about not breaking any laws, but when a snowstorm hits her town, she learns that it’s also about being a good neighbor and helping out others. Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK168)

GOOD NEIGHBOR NICHOLAS. By Virginia Kroll. It seems like the old man next door, Mr. Robinson, is always yelling at Nicholas for some reason or other. Is there anything he can do to get along with his difficult neighbor? Grades 1–4. (Product code: AK163)

KNOW AND FOLLOW RULES. By Cheri J. Meiners. Pictures of children in school situations illustrate how following rules for work, rules for play, and rules of common courtesy helps to create a positive environment. Grades K–2. (Product code: FS147)

WE LIVE HERE TOO! Kids Talk About Citizenship. By Nancy Loewen. Frank B. Wize uses his 13 years of wisdom to answer kids’ letters about voting in school elections, hanging the national flag, caring for the environment, and other issues related to citizenship. Grades 2–5. (Product code: CS171)

RESPECT



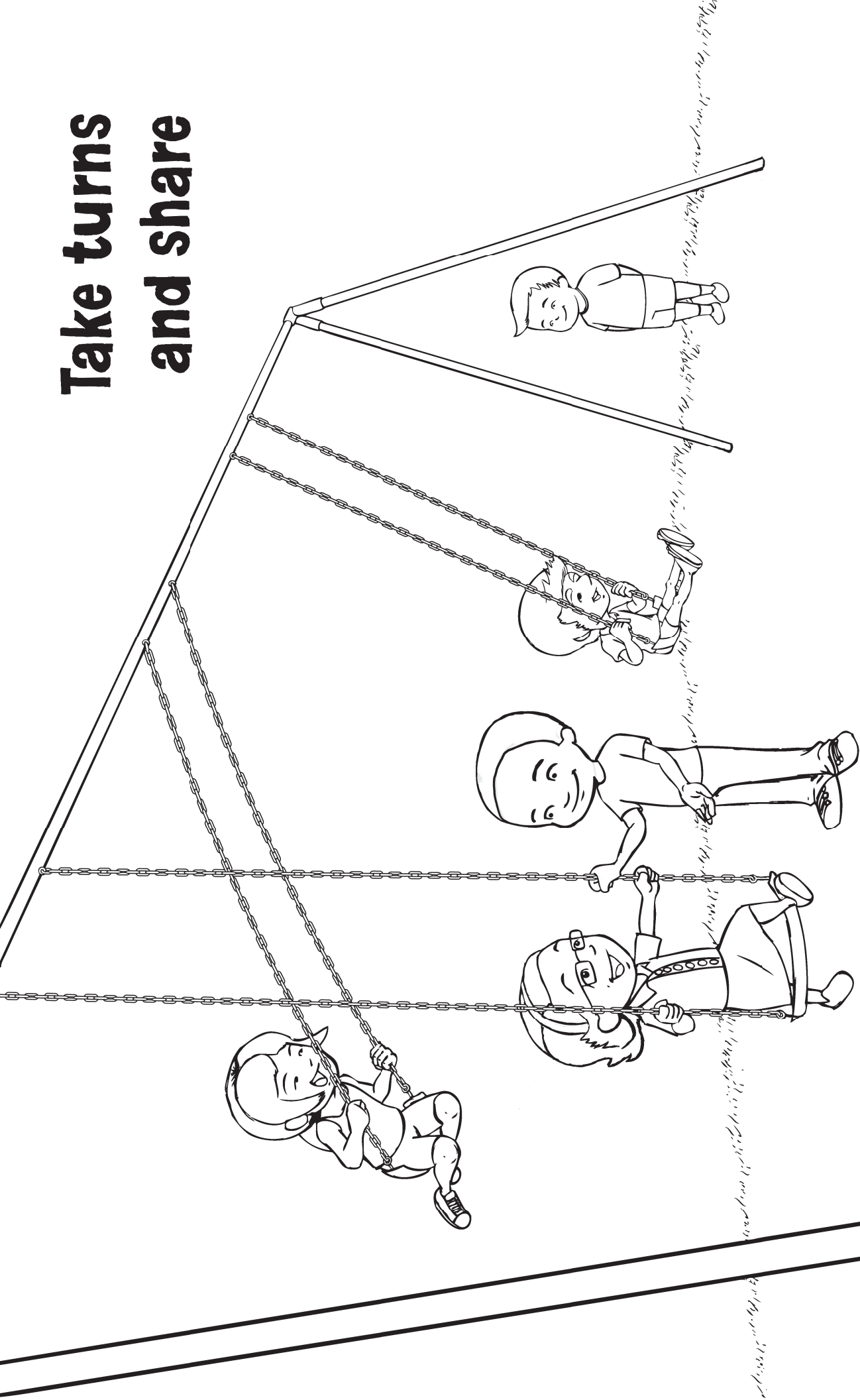
Celebrate Differences

**Think before you act:
consider the consequences**



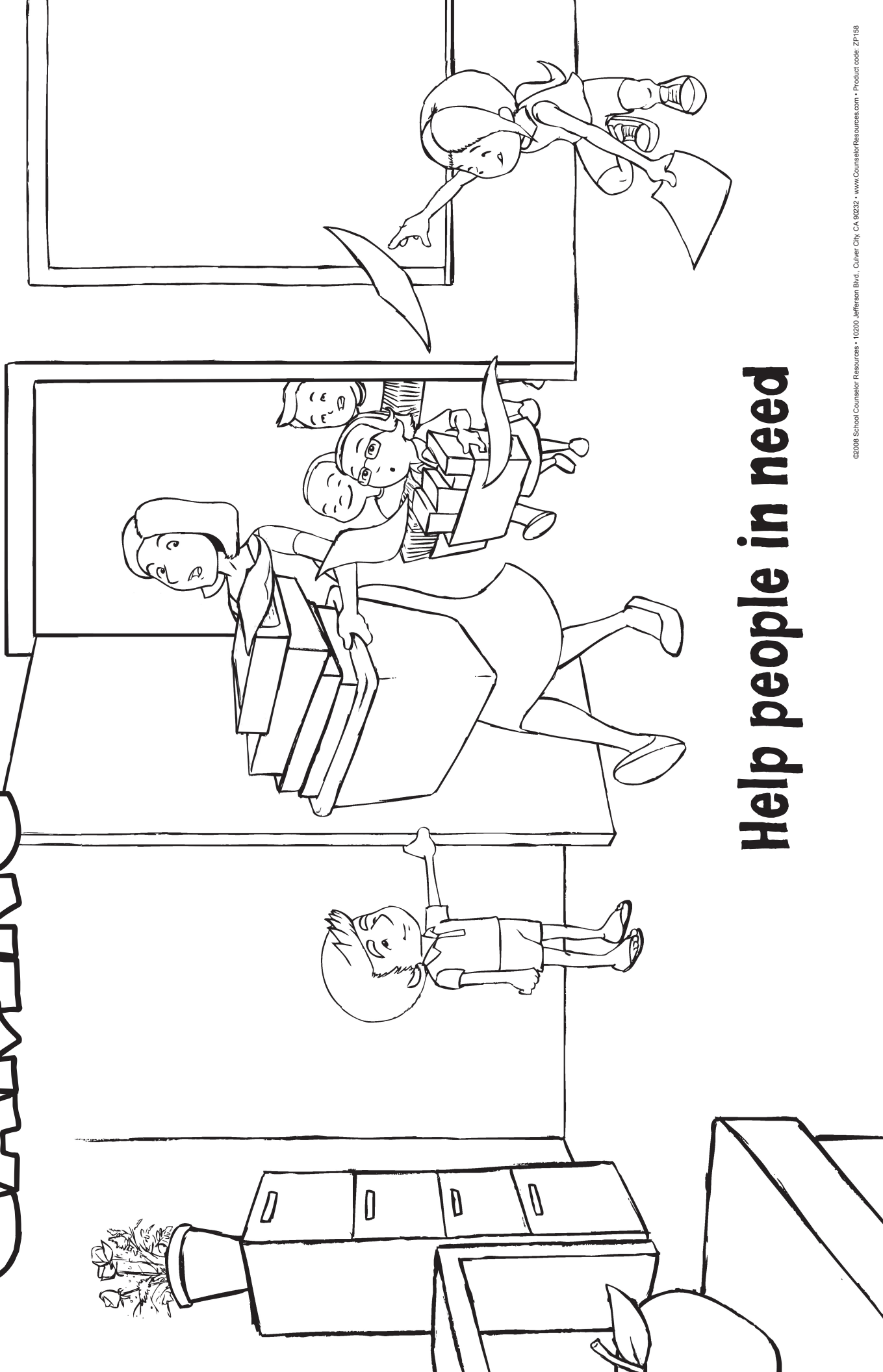
RESPONSIBILITY

**Take turns
and share**



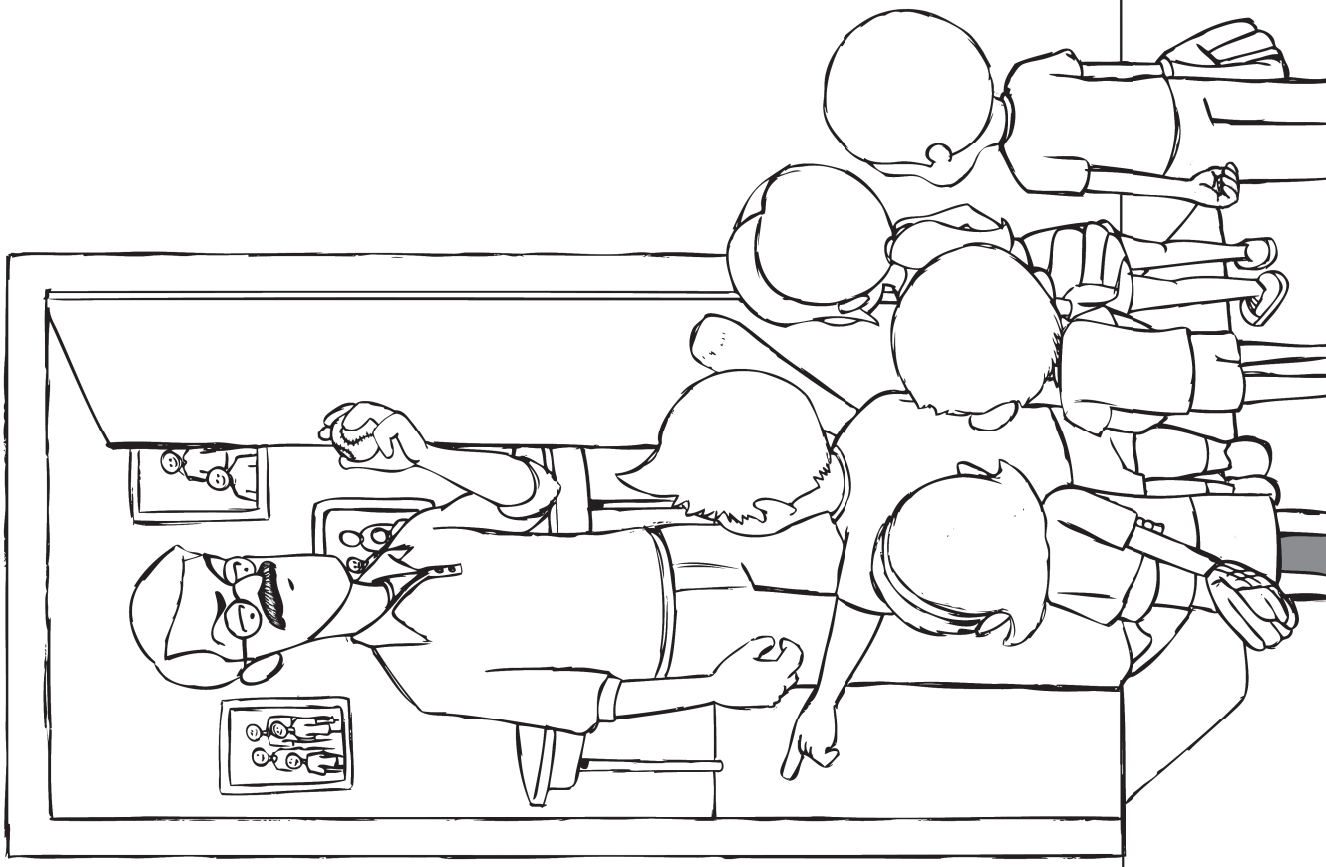
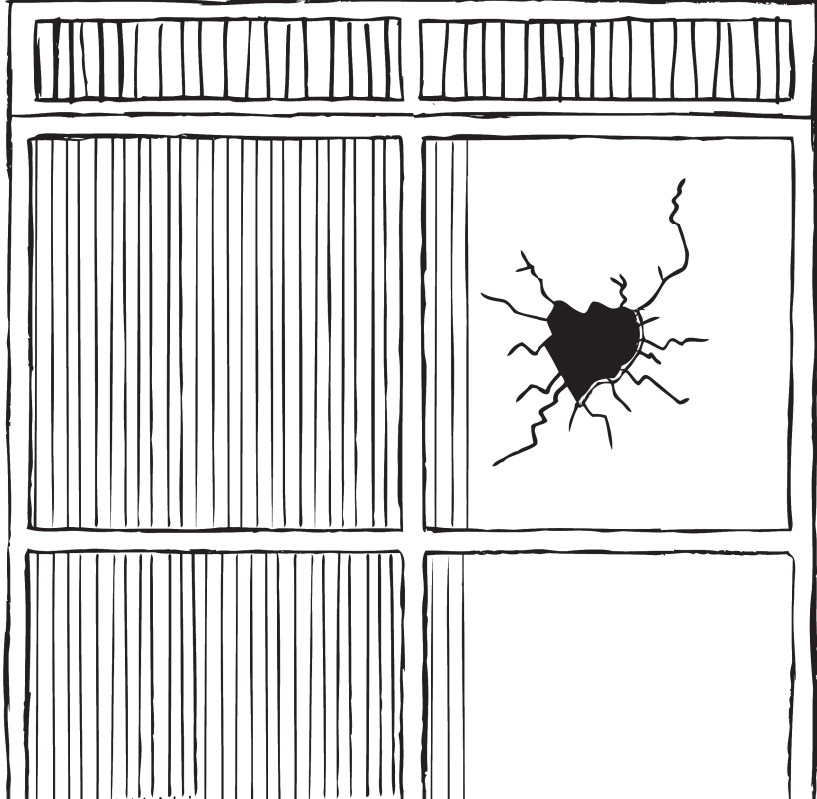
FAIRNESS

CARING



Help people in need

TRUSTWORTHINESS



**Have the courage to
do the right thing**

CITIZENSHIP



**Do your part to make your
school and community better**