GETTING IN CHARACTER: KINDNESS

Questionnaire

Directions: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Use the back of the sheet if necessary.

1. What is character?

2. What are the three steps of exercising good character?

3. What is kindness?

4. Why should we demonstrate kindness, anyway?

5. What sort of positive effects result from acting with kindness?

6. How important is kindness compared to other character traits?

7. Did your impression and understanding of kindness change by the end of the show? If so, how?

8. Name a time when you acted kindly. How did it make you feel?

9. Name a time when you acted unkindly. How did it make you feel?

10. How do you feel when other people act unkindly? Does it affect you and your attitude?
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Situational Questionnaire

Directions: Read over each situation and write what you would do, how you would feel, and what you think of each situation. Discuss your answers as a group afterwards.

1. On the school bus, one of your fellow students is being bothered every day because he dresses like a “nerd.” Have you ever made fun of someone for how he or she looks? Why? How did it make you feel to do that if you did?

2. You have started at a new school in a new home. Most of the other students are of a different ethnic background than you. Some of the students pick on you and are racist. How does this make you feel? Have you ever been made fun of because of your skin color?

3. A senior citizen is trying to cross the street. You see a young woman help the senior citizen across. How does that make you feel? Would you do the same thing? Would you mind your own business?

4. One of your friends has begun to pick on one of your other friends. Let’s say it’s because he won’t take part in an activity you all used to do, like watch a TV show or play baseball. How do you deal with them? Do you speak with the one who is picking on your other friend? Do you keep out of it so they leave you alone?

5. One of your best friends has less time to hang out with you because she volunteers at a hospice, a home for sick people. On the weekend, you are invited by your parents to an amusement park and so is your friend. However, she turns you down because she is doing more hours at the hospice. Do you get angry at her? How do you feel about her commitment? Is her kindness to others above kindness to you?

6. Has anyone you know acted in an unkind manner lately? How? How did you feel? What did you do?

7. When is the last time you acted in an unkind manner? How? Would you act differently now? How?
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Informal Survey

Directions: Interview ten people about the following issues. Fill in their answers in the spaces provided. Use the back of the sheet if necessary. Use a new sheet for each person you interview. Do not use any names in this Survey.

Age of Interviewee: _______  Sex of Interviewee: _______

What does the term character mean?

What does it mean to be kind?

Name a few ways people are unkind at home. Name some at school. What happens when you aren’t kind?

What happens when others act in an unkind manner with you? Can you give an example of when a friend acted that way?

When’s the last time you’ve acted with kindness? Give an example.

What about the last time you acted in an unkind manner? When, where, and how?

Has one of your parents or relatives acted in an unkind manner before? How did you feel about it?

And what about when they demonstrate kindness? How do your parents and relatives act with kindness?
Scenes From the Video

Directions: Fill in answers and opinions to the following questions for each of the scenarios in the video “Getting in Character: Kindness.” Use the spaces provided and the back of this sheet for answers.

1. When Joey and Peter fought in the beginning of the video, how might Joey have better handled the situation? How about Peter? Did Peter have to push Joey like that? Could Joey have avoided getting pushed?

2. Kelly happily called Joey a “mad nerd” when Peter was picking on him. Was that right of her, even if she was only joking around? Have you ever made fun of a friend because others were? Have you ever been made fun of by a friend because others were making fun of you? Why do you think people sometimes do that?

3. Karen keeps getting made fun of by Cisco and Mike. Is there anything she could have done when they started picking on her in class? How about outside? What sorts of ways can we deal with people who act unkind like that?

4. Peter says that lots of people are unkind to him. In turn, he is unkind to Joey. What else might Sarah have said regarding his feelings on the matter? When people are unkind to you, do you act unkind to others?

5. Brock told his friends off for their treatment of Karen. Was he right to step in like that? Would you? Is that being kind?
GETTING IN CHARACTER: KINDNESS
Playing The Part

Directions: Here are several scenarios. Assign each student one of the characters from the video and act out the way you’d react to each other in the given situation. Enact the scene for the rest of the group. Act each scene out in two different ways. Then discuss your actions. How do different actions affect the outcomes of the scenarios?

A. Situation: Mike and Cisco, Brock’s two unkind friends, get caught making fun of people by Joey. They know Joey’s friend is big-guy Peter, so they won’t beat him up. What do they say when Joey confronts them on their unkindness? What reasons do they give for their behavior?
Characters: Mike, Cisco, Joey

B. Situation: Sarah’s best friend was in an accident recently, and now she has to wear a large back brace. Everyone makes fun of it. Denisse and Joey have joined her to talk about possible ways to deal with people when they act unkind to Sarah’s friend. What kinds of ideas do they have? Do they get angry? Do they try and protect their friend?
Characters: Sarah, Joey, Denisse

C. Situation: Peter’s parents can’t afford to buy him a new football jersey like the other players have. Lots of the other players seem a little less interested in him since he doesn’t wear the most popular and expensive stuff. Sarah decides to talk with him about it. How does he feel? How might he deal with this?
Characters: Peter, Sarah