






ACTIVITY

1. Write the words "Pillar of Trust Award Ceremony" on the board and display a large Pillar Award in the classroom.
2. Ask the class if anyone ever won an award. Have them share their stories.
3. When the class is warmed up, explain that everyone will receive an award for trustworthiness. Show them the award.
4. Tell them they will first hear a story about a little girl who showed honesty. They should listen as you read the story aloud to them.
5. Distribute the Comprehension Questions Worksheet and have them complete it in pairs.
6. When they have finished, tell them to think of a time when they weren't honest. Have them share their anecdotes with the class.
7. Tell them they will win the Pillar of Trust based on these stories, but to win the award, they will have to show how they will improve their behavior and try to become more honest and trustworthy.
8. Distribute the Acceptance Speech Rubric and go over each section as a class.
9. Have them write their acceptance speeches. Either read them aloud to the class as they accept their award or display the speeches in the classroom where everyone can read them.
10. Praise the students for the strategies they have selected to improve their behavior and become more trustworthy and honest. Remind them of the strategies they selected when necessary.

OVERVIEW

Everybody makes mistakes, and students will learn from the mistakes they have made regarding trustworthy behavior. They will write an acceptance speech for a fictional award – the Pillar of Trust Award. In their acceptance speech they will examine a time when they didn't act honestly. They will reflect on their behavior and how they improved or intend to improve their trustworthiness, and they will think about people they know who will help them be more trustworthy.

MATERIALS

-  Award Template (one for each student)
-  The Little Girl Who Waited Story
-  Comprehension Questions Worksheet
-  Acceptance Speech Rubric
-  Trustworthiness Daily Scorecard (one for each student)

The Six Pillars of Character start with trustworthiness for a good reason. There's nothing more central to good character than honesty, promise-keeping, loyalty, and integrity – the components of trust.

Honesty means speaking the truth.

Honest people are open and direct, say what they mean, and mean what they say. Promise-keeping means saying you will do something, then doing it.

Loyalty means protecting and helping people who are special to you.

Integrity means matching how you live to what you believe.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson, students will learn trustworthiness by:

- Understanding they have the ability to be trustworthy people
- Learning from mistakes they have made in the past
- Recognizing strategies to help them be more trustworthy
- Identifying people around them who can help them develop more trustworthy behavior
- Celebrating changes they have made in their behavior that makes them more trustworthy

FOLLOW-UP IDEAS

- Use the rubric to help students think about other behavioral infractions when they occur.
- Encourage reflection on behavior on a regular basis. Turn the reflection into classroom meetings where other students can give advice and voice their opinions.
- Praise behavior that demonstrates improvement in any area that has been discussed or reflected upon.

OTHER TRUSTWORTHINESS ACTIVITIES

- Ask parents to reinforce the lesson at home by using the Trustworthiness Daily Scorecard.
- Use falling dominoes to show how one lie leads to a whole trail of lies.
- Introduce honesty by having two teams of children guess if statements from the other team are true or false. Teams get points for every correct guess. Stress that lying in real life is no game and that any intent to mislead is wrong.
- Introduce integrity with a walk-your-talk activity. Try a version of charades. Have two teams write the names of animals or television characters on slips of paper. The other team tries to guess the animal or character as one team member imitates its walk or behavior. Teams get points for correct guesses within a one minute time period.
- Introduce promise-keeping by having students make coupons for jobs they will do at home as gifts for family members.

LINKS TO USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Sophy10.html>
Great article on methods to teach trust to children.

<http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit40/lesson1.html>
Lesson plan that teaches trust in an interactive way. Also links to other lessons and resources.

<http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Interdisciplinary/INT0135.html>
Lesson plan from the Educator's Reference Desk aimed at older kids, but it can be adapted to suit your classroom.

<http://charactercounts.org/>
Visit our website for free teaching resources, lesson plans, ideas, and much more to help you incorporate character education into your classroom and school.



STANDARDS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Standard 1

Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process.

LEVEL II [Grades 3-5]

Benchmark 10

Writes expressive compositions (e.g., expresses ideas, reflections, and observations; uses an individual, authentic voice; uses narrative strategies, relevant details, and ideas that enable the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience).

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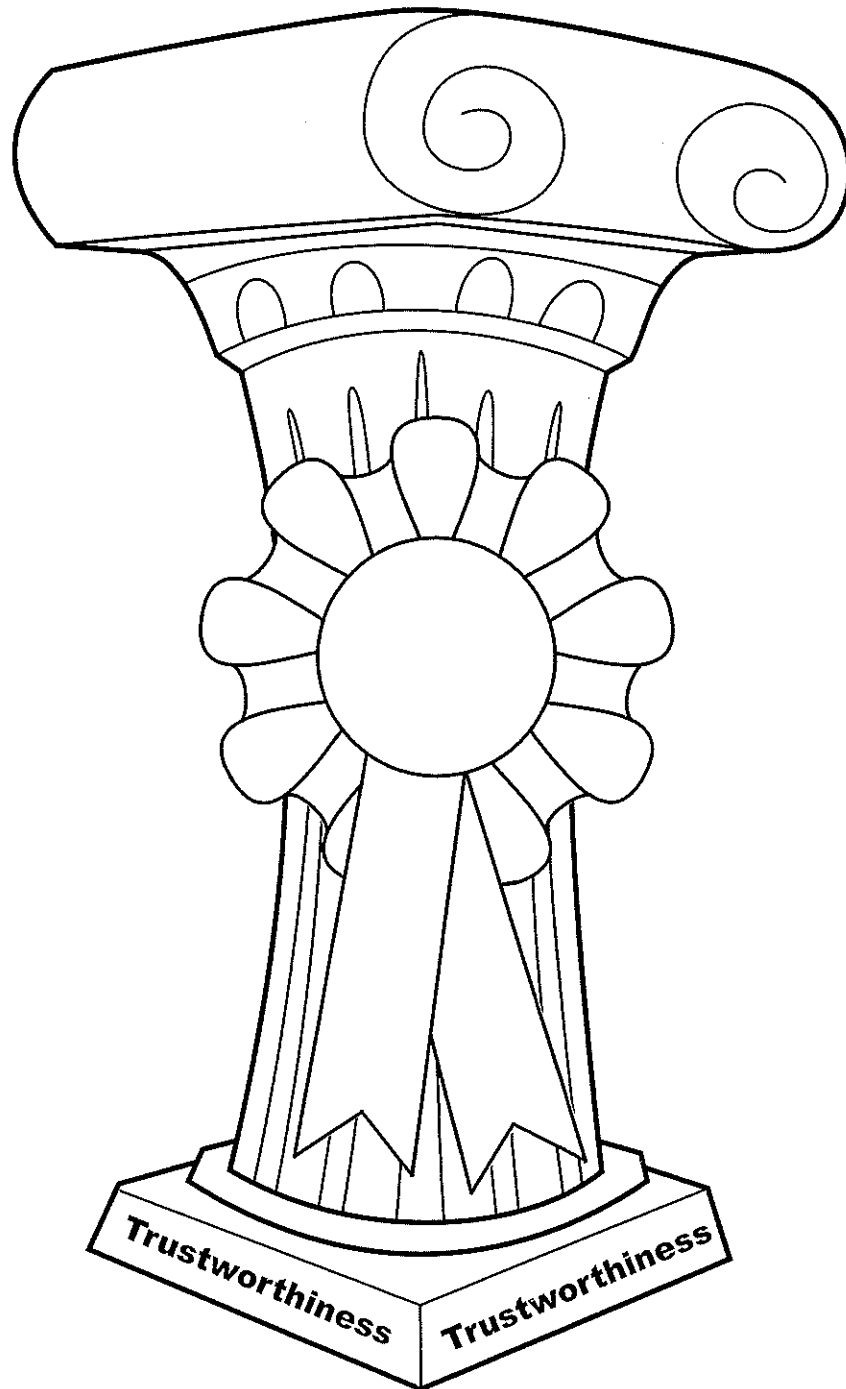
VOCABULARY TERMS

self-reflection
honesty
trustworthiness

behavior
acceptance speech
voice

narrative strategy
relevant detail
expressing ideas

AWARD TEMPLATE



THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WAITED STORY

A long time ago, a great famine occurred. For months there were no crops. Farmers had nothing to sell, money ran out, and so did food.

In one village a rich man was worried about the children and invited them to his home. When they arrived, he placed a large basket of bread in front of them and told them to each take a loaf home. He told the children he would do this every day until the famine was over.

The children lunged at the basket, grabbed a loaf each, fighting over the largest ones, and ran off with the bread without even a "thank you." All except one little girl, who waited patiently until the others had taken the bread before reaching into the basket. She took the last loaf, which was the smallest. She hugged the man and ran home.

As he had promised, the rich man provided a loaf of bread to each child every day. Every day the children fought over the best bread, and every day the little girl took the smallest loaf last, and hugged and thanked the man before running home.

One day, after the little girl had taken the loaf home and her mother was cutting it, a handful of silver coins fell out of it on the table. "Oh my goodness!" her mother exclaimed. "Take these back to the rich man and tell him we didn't mean to steal it!" The little girl did as she was told, running all the way to the rich man's house. Holding out the coins, she told him she was sorry for having taken the bread with silver coins.

The man told her there had been no mistake. "I've watched you come to my house to take the loaf, and every day you leave with the smallest one. You always wait your turn, even though you know you will be left with the small loaf, and you always thank me. This is a reward for your patience. Always remember that the person who chooses to accept less rather than fight for more will find unexpected blessings of far greater value in the end."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS WORKSHEET

1. Write the meaning of the following words. You can use a dictionary to help you.

famine

loaf

patience

blessing

2. Why did the rich man give a loaf of bread to the children in the village?

3. What did the children do when they saw the basket of loaves?

4. What size of loaf did the little girl take? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHARACTER COUNTS!

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS WORKSHEET

5. What did the girl receive for her patience?

6. Why did the man give the girl the reward?

7. List three words that describe the following characters:

The man	_____	_____	_____
The girl	_____	_____	_____
The other children	_____	_____	_____

8. What would you have done if you were one of the children?

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH RUBRIC

Think about the story you told about when you weren't as honest as you should have been.

You know you can be a more honest person and win the Pillar of Trust. But first you'll have to give a speech to say "thank you".

Use the boxes below to help write your speech. Think carefully about the information you include and how it's written. Check your spelling, too!

Skill/Score	Honesty Level	Detail	Spelling
1	Help!	You skip information about the time you were dishonest. You don't say what you should have done or how other people were affected.	POOR You haven't checked your spelling, and there are many errors.
2	Figuring It Out	Your story is very good. You include details about the people in the story who were affected. Your ideas will make you more trustworthy.	AVERAGE You've made a few spelling mistakes and misspelled words we've already covered.
3	Going Down the Right Road	Your story has a lot of detail about the people who were affected when you weren't honest. You include details about what you can do to be more honest and how the situation could have been different if you'd been more honest.	GOOD You have only one or two errors. Some are words we already know.
4	Honesty At Work!	Your story is very descriptive and shows how the people involved were affected by your dishonesty. You write about things you could have changed at the time and how you will work on making those changes so you're a more trustworthy person.	EXCELLENT You have some mistakes in new words, but you've spelled all the words we know correctly.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

CHARACTER COUNTS!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Total							

Grand Total

To help your child learn trustworthy behavior, in the spaces above write examples of trustworthy behavior that your child demonstrates during the week. Give points for every example. You can also choose behavior you would like your child to improve on and monitor it throughout the week with your child. Praise trustworthy behavior regularly and show how you are pleased with positive behavior. You can laminate this sheet and re-use it!

