

SASO MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION LESSON

TOPIC: COURAGE & RESPONSIBILITY

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Note to Teacher: This lesson encompasses one of the Six Pillars of Character: Responsibility. Specifically, it focuses on duty and accountability. It offers the teacher guidelines to follow after students have viewed the SASO DVD of Alex Ruoff (*Volume I: Courage and Responsibility*) and the SASO VIDEO (*Character. Own it.*) which features PJ Shirdan (Courage).

Discussion questions, scenarios, and suggestions for writing and speaking assignments have been designed to develop student critical thinking, reflection, interaction, and creativity. They are interchangeable and should be determined by the teacher.

With regard to discussion questions and scenarios, teachers may pose questions to students individually or to small groups. With regard to the latter, a spokesperson for each group should be selected to summarize discussion to the rest of the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is courage? Give examples.
2. What is responsibility?
3. Who is a friend or family member who is courageous?
4. Who is someone in the media (e.g., a celebrity) who is courageous?
5. Who is a friend or family member who is responsible?
6. Who is someone in the media (e.g., a celebrity) who is responsible?
7. Are you a courageous person? Why?
8. Are you a responsible person? Why?
9. Who was Rosa Parks and why was she courageous and responsible?
10. Who was Lou Gehrig and why was he courageous and responsible?

Scenarios: What would you do?

1. There is a new student in your class in school. This student has just moved to the area and does not know anyone. Your friends do not like the student and refuse to speak to him/ her or to include him/her in their activities. What would you do?
2. As you are walking down the hallway in your school, you see another student ahead of you accidentally drop a twenty dollar bill on the floor. What would you do? Does it make a difference whether the student comes from a rich or poor family?
3. One of your friends is a very popular student but lazy academically. He wants you to write a book report for him. He needs to get a B on the report in order to remain eligible to play school sports. With his athletic ability, your school may win the state championship. What would you do?
4. Everyone in your class will be divided into two basketball teams. You are the captain of one of those teams. One student in the class has some physical limitations and cannot move as quickly as the other students. You and the captain of the other team will take turns choosing the players on your teams. What would you do about the student with the physical limitations?

Writing/Speaking Assignments: Students either may write a paper or give an oral presentation about the topic (length and guidelines to be determined by the teacher).

1. Discuss someone you know (or know of) who is or was courageous.
2. Discuss someone you know (or know of) who is or was responsible.
3. Define courage in your own words and give examples to explain your definition.
4. Define responsibility in your own words and give examples to explain your definition.
5. Who is your role model for courage?
6. Who is your role model for responsibility?
7. Interview your family members and/or friends and ask them to define courage and responsibility and to tell you about one time when they acted in a courageous and/or responsible manner.
8. Discuss a time in your life when you were courageous and/or responsible and how your actions made you feel.
9. Discuss a time in your life when you were not courageous and/or responsible and how your actions made you feel.
10. Discuss why courage and responsibility are important in our society today.
11. Write a nonfiction or fiction story about courage and/or responsibility.

12. Write a poem or song about courage and/or responsibility.
13. Select one of the quotes about courage or responsibility below and explain what it means. Or, find a quotation about courage or responsibility and explain what it means. Identify the author of the quote and describe who that individual is (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States).

Quotations about Courage:

1. You must do the thing you think you cannot do. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
2. Every oak tree started out as a couple of nuts who stood their ground. (Anonymous)
3. A life making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing at all. (George Barnard Shaw)
4. Every man has his own courage, and is betrayed because he seeks in himself the courage of other persons. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
5. Cowards die many times before their deaths. The valiant never taste of death but once. (Shakespeare's Julius Caesar)
6. Hard things are put in our way, not to stop us, but to call out our courage and strength. (Unknown)
7. I believe that anyone can conquer fear by doing the things he fears to do. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
8. Fear defeats more people than any other one thing in the world. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
9. Fear is never a reason for quitting; it is only an excuse. (Norman Vincent Peale)
10. All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them. (Walt Disney)
11. You can conquer almost any fear if you will only make up your mind to do so. For remember, fear doesn't exist anywhere except in the mind. (Dale Carnegie)
12. To know what is right and not do it is the worst cowardice. (Confucius)

Quotations about Responsibility:

1. We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort. (Jesse Owens)
2. If you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams. (Les Brown)

3. We are not here merely to make a living. We are here to enrich the world. (Woodrow Wilson)
4. The key is taking responsibility and initiative, deciding what your life is about and prioritizing your life around the most important things.
(Stephen Covey)
5. When it's all over, it's not who you were. It's whether you made a difference. (Bob Dole)
6. We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.
(George Bernard Shaw)
7. When we have begun to take charge of our lives, to own ourselves, there is no longer any need to ask permission of someone. (George O'Neil)
8. Within each of us lies the power of our consent to health and sickness, to riches and poverty, to freedom and to slavery. It is we who control these, and not another. (Richard Bach)
9. You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. (Abraham Lincoln)
10. You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself. That is something you have charge of. (Jim Rohn)
11. Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation, Every possession, a duty.
(John D. Rockefeller)
12. Don't spend your precious time asking "Why isn't the world a better place?" It will only be time wasted. The question to ask is "How can I make it better?" To that there is an answer. (Leo Buscaglia)
13. The price of greatness is responsibility. (Winston Churchill)
14. Big pay and little responsibility are circumstances seldom found together. (Napoleon Hill)
15. It is a painful thing to look at your own trouble and know that you yourself and no one else has made it. (Sophocles)
16. Be the change you want to see in the world. (Mahatma Gandhi)
17. If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.
(Abigail Van Buren)
18. You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say. (Martin Luther)