

SASO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION

LESSON TOPIC: LIVING LIFE THE WEST VIRGINIA WAY

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Note to Teacher: This lesson encompasses many of the Six Pillars of Character. In addition to a presentation of facts about the State of West Virginia and an introduction to attending college, it focuses on pursuing having good character—i.e., do your best, be prepared, be diligent, work hard.

This lesson offers the teacher guidelines to follow after students have read or listened to someone read *Living Life the West Virginia Way*.

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. Although the majority are appropriate for students in third grade and above, some are appropriate for students in lower grades. Teachers may pose questions to students individually or to small groups. Regarding the latter, either all students may contribute or a spokesperson for each group may be selected to summarize discussion to the rest of the class.

Discussion Questions:

(See Discussion Questions for [Living Life the West Virginia Way Discussion Questions](#) on this website)

Scenarios: What would you do?

1. A new student is introduced to your class. Because he has recently moved to town and doesn't know anyone, he doesn't have any friends. What would you do?
2. When you are outside on the playground, one of your friends, Arman, is mean to another student, Dane. It seems that Arman is mean to Dane every day. What would you do?
3. You are having problems spelling words correctly. Even though you try, you keep making mistakes. What would you do?

4. Your class is working on a special project. One of the students is very shy so he never says anything when the class is talking about it. What would you do?
5. You are on the school's basketball team and you are playing in a very important game against your biggest rival. The other team wins by one point. What do you do?

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. What do you like best about the State of West Virginia?
2. Have you ever lived in another state? What are the differences in that state and West Virginia? What things are the same?
3. Would you like to attend college? Why or why not?
4. What would you like to study in college? Why?
5. Select somebody you know who has attended college and describe what type of job that person has.
6. Are you honest? Discuss why you are or are not. Why is honesty important?
7. Discuss three reasons why you think you are responsible. Why is responsibility important?
8. Give an example of how you believe in yourself.
9. What is something people can do if they do not believe in themselves?
10. Describe a time when you were caring, kind and helpful.
11. Describe a time when someone else was caring, kind and helpful to you.
12. Have you ever been bullied by others? What happened and how did that make you feel?
13. Why do you think people bully others?
14. If you are bullied, what should you do?
15. If you know that others are being bullied, what should you do?
16. Do you respect others? Describe three things that you do that shows you are respectful.
17. Do you have courage? Describe a time when you were courageous.
18. Are you humble? List three examples to show that you are a humble person.

19. Is humility important? Why?
20. Do you have courage? Describe a time when you had courage.
21. Do you work hard? Describe how you work hard at home and at school.
22. Are you a good team member or member of a group? Describe how you get along with others.
23. Describe a time when you were a good sport.

Finish these sentences:

1. The most responsible person I know is _____ because he or she _____.
2. The most honest person I know is _____ because he or she _____.
3. The humblest person I know is I know is _____ because he or she _____.
4. The most courageous person I know is _____ because he or she _____.
5. The most respectful person I know is _____ because he or she _____.
6. The hardest worker I know is _____ because he or she _____.
7. The kindest person I know is _____ because he or she _____.
8. When people think about me, I want them to think of a person who is _____.

What do these quotations mean to you?

1. Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds. (Gordon B. Hinkley, American religious leader and author)
2. Believe in yourself when nobody else does. (Mary J. Blige, American singer-songwriter)
3. One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say. (Bryant H. McGill, author)
4. We don't need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful. (Taylor Swift, American singer-songwriter)

5. Treat everyone with respect and kindness. Period. No exceptions. (Klana Tom, American television host, fitness expert, author, actress, and businesswoman)
6. Never do a wrong thing to make a friend...or to keep one. (Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Confederate States Army)
7. Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter. (anonymous - thisislovelifequotes.net)
8. We rise by lifting others. (Robert Ingersoll, American lawyer, a Civil War veteran, politician, and orator)
9. Don't ever let anyone dull your sparkle. You were born to shine! (Katrice L. Thompson, author)
10. Strong people stand up for themselves, but the strongest people stand up for others. (twitter.com)
11. Strong people don't put others down. They lift them up. (Kelsea-rae, model)
12. Be the change you want to see in the world. (Mahatma Gandhi, non-violent leader who led independence movement against England)
13. Mistakes are proof that you are trying. (Samantha Snyder, author)
14. Character is doing the right thing even when no one is looking. (J C Watts, American politician who was quarterback for the Oklahoma Sooners)
15. You are enough. (Zoe Summer, author and artist)
16. Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher. (Oprah Winfrey, American talk show host, actress, author, philanthropist)
17. You can't fix yourself by breaking someone else. (Deb Sofield, speaker and author)
18. You know my name, not my story. (lookupquotes.com)
19. Treat others the way that you want to be treated. (Golden Rule)
20. If you fell down yesterday, stand up today. (H. G. Wells, English author)
21. Wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it. Right is right even if no one is doing it. (Augustine of Hippo, SASO: Living Life the West Virginia Way)

Roman African Christian theologian and philosopher)