|   | CHARACTER COUNTS!   | April   Week 1 Monday   Decision-Making                                |
|---|---|--|
|   |   |  |
|   | <b>Grade 2:</b> Share about a time you made a decision and stuck to it. Was it always easy? Why or why not? |  |
| Ð | Grade 1: What helps you do the right thing?   | Quotation:<br>"Decide on what you think<br>is right, and stick to it." |
|   | Kindergarten: How do you know what's right and what's wrong?  |  |
|   |   | traday counts  |

۲

8/8/2012 3:45:15 PM



۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 1 Tuesday | Decision-Making

Activity:

ay court

Œ

۲

kinds of healthy choices are the best decisions decisions, and on the right, they should draw pictures of junk foods that represent not-so-good decisions. Discuss which line down the middle of a piece of paper. On the left, they should draw pictures of healthful foods that represent good All Grades: Tell the class that one way they can make good decisions is by eating healthfully. Have them draw a

| 8/8/2012   |  |
|------------|--|
| 3:45:15 PM |  |

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

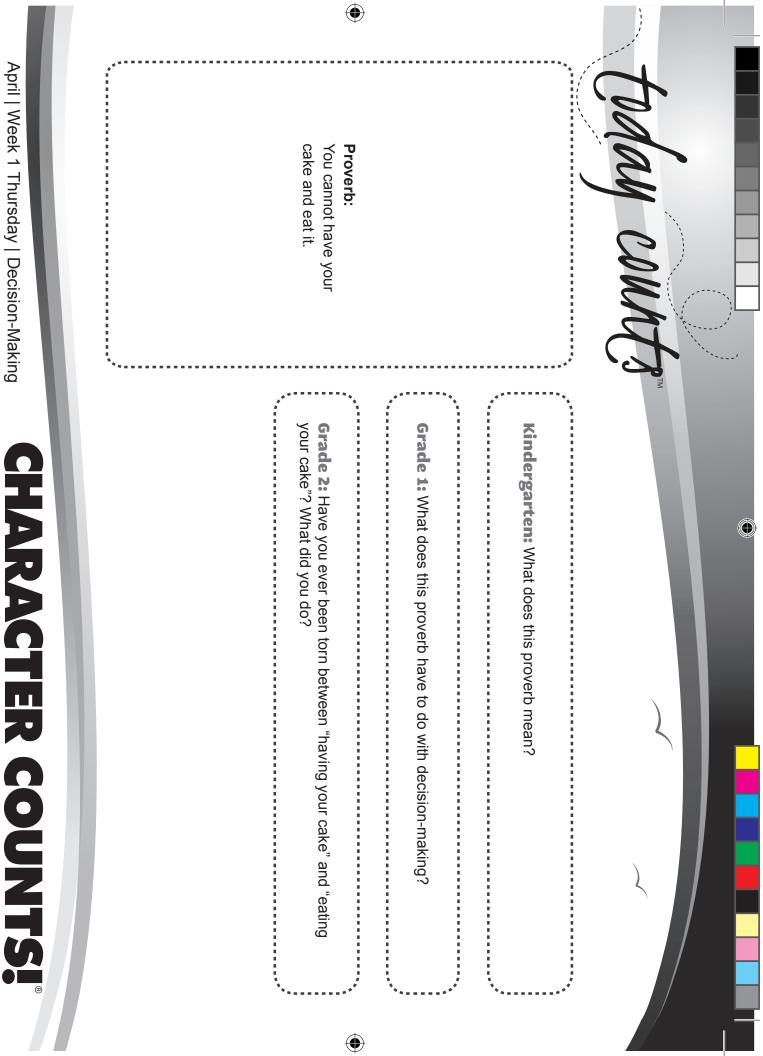
April | Week 1 Wednesday | Decision-Making

| after nut after nut.<br>So he made a decision. He let go. "You keep it," he<br>said. "I'll find another one." Right away he saw a big, |
|--|
|--|

۲

۲

1111



۲

8/8/2012 3:45:15 PM

April | Week 1 Thursday | Decision-Making

8/8/2012 3:45:16 PM

Today\_Counts\_LowerElementary\_073012.indb 145

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

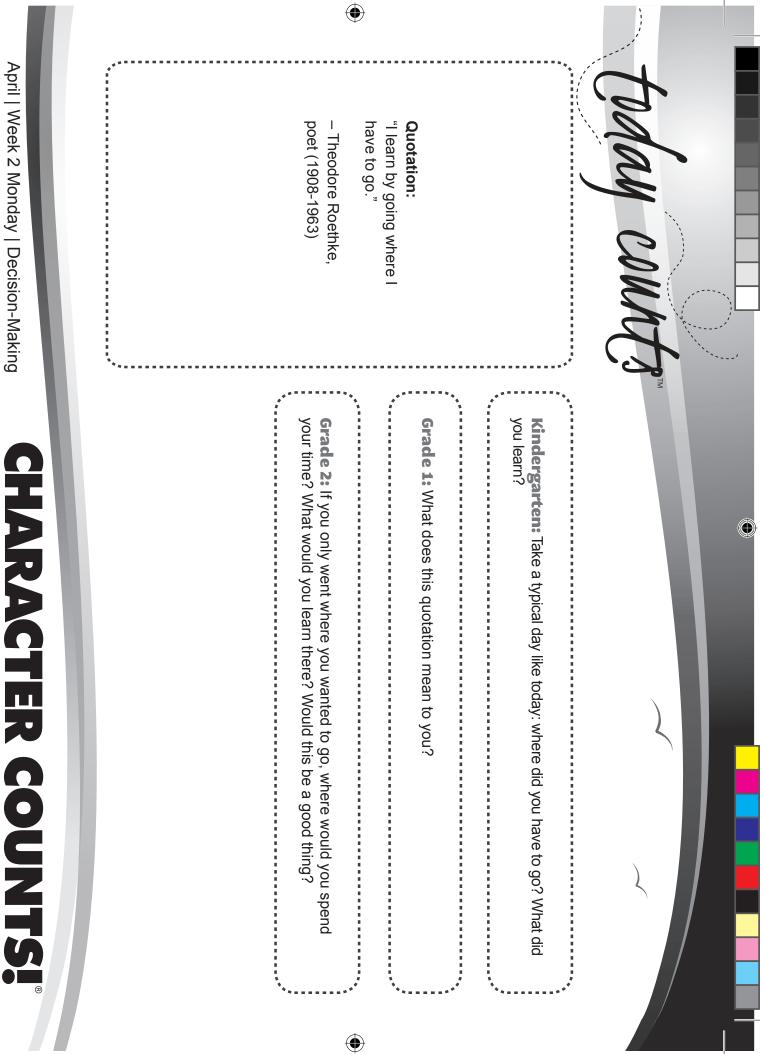
April | Week 1 Friday | Decision-Making

| <b>Grade 2:</b> What would you do? Would your decision be different if the person whe stranger? What if the person who dropped the one-dollar bill was a good friend? | Grade 1: What would you do? Which Pillars of Character helped you make your decision? | Kindergarten: What would you do? Why did you make this decision? | Activity: Imagine you are walking to school one morning. There are some students your school, but who you don't know personally. Then, you notice a one-dollar bill fal the student nor his friends notice. |
|---|---|--|---|
| who dropped the one-dollar bill was a<br>l? Why or why not?   | our decision?   |  | s walking ahead of you, students you know go to<br>all out of one of the students' pockets. Neither   |

۲

۲

paan counts



۲

8/8/2012 3:45:16 PM



۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 2 Tuesday | Decision-Making

Activity:

ay coun

۲

a long time getting plaque and tarter scraped off of your teeth. Would you rather brush your teeth every night and save Why? Which of The Six Pillars of Character can help you decide which is the best choice? yourself the pain? Or would you rather forget about brushing, and suffer at the dentist's office when the time comes? brush your teeth every night, you might get cavities, and you'll definitely get scolded by the dentist and have to sit for All Grades: Divide the students into pairs and have them discuss their answers to the following questions: If you don't

۲

8/8/2012 3:45:16 PM

| ø       |
|---------|
| õ       |
| N       |
| 2       |
| N       |
| _       |
| <u></u> |
| β       |
| ö       |
| õ       |
| Τ       |

Today\_Counts\_April\_LE\_071612.indd 148

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 2 Wednesday | Decision-Making

Story:

M COM

stairs. He peeked around a corner and saw... the on the third floor, he heard the thumping steps up the exterminator! them all. One day while Stanley was out in the hallway baby mice that kept them busy looking for food for walls of an apartment building. They had a litter of Pat and Stanley were two mice who lived in the

care of these guys. I'll just follow him to their home." "See, there's one!" said the exterminator. "I'll take

home, and go back for Pat and the kids later that led to his home, he headed straight for the so instead of running for the crack in the floorboard exterminator away from his family. He'd look for a new and then Stanley ran on down the stairs, leading the exterminator. The man tried to step on him, missed, Stanley had to make a decision, and quickly,

> Stanley's decision? Grade 1: Which of The Six Pillars of Character support made? Why do you think he made this decision? Kindergarten: What was the quick decision Stanley

Grade 2: Share about a time you had to make a quick

decision. What happened?

۲



۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 2 Thursday | Decision-Making

| li proverb  | – Swahili proverb  |
|---|--|
| does not<br>uccess.<br>Grade 2: Is being in a hurry a decision, or does it just happen? What can you do | <b>Proverb:</b><br>Hurrying does not<br>result in success. |
| <b>Grade 1:</b> Has this proverb ever been true for you? What did you learn?                            |  |
| Kindergarten: Do you ever hurry? What happens when you hurry?   |  |

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 2 Friday | Decision-Making

playing. You notice the new student sitting alone on the bench with her head down. What would you do? Activity: There is a new student in your class. She is brand new to the school. It is recess, and you and your classmates are all outside Grade 2: What can we do to make others feel welcome? Which Pillars of Character are we practicing when we do these things? Grade 1: What would you do, and why? Kindergarten: Have you ever been new to a school or a group? How did you feel as the new person?

۲

۲

an conta

8/8/2012 3:45:16 PM

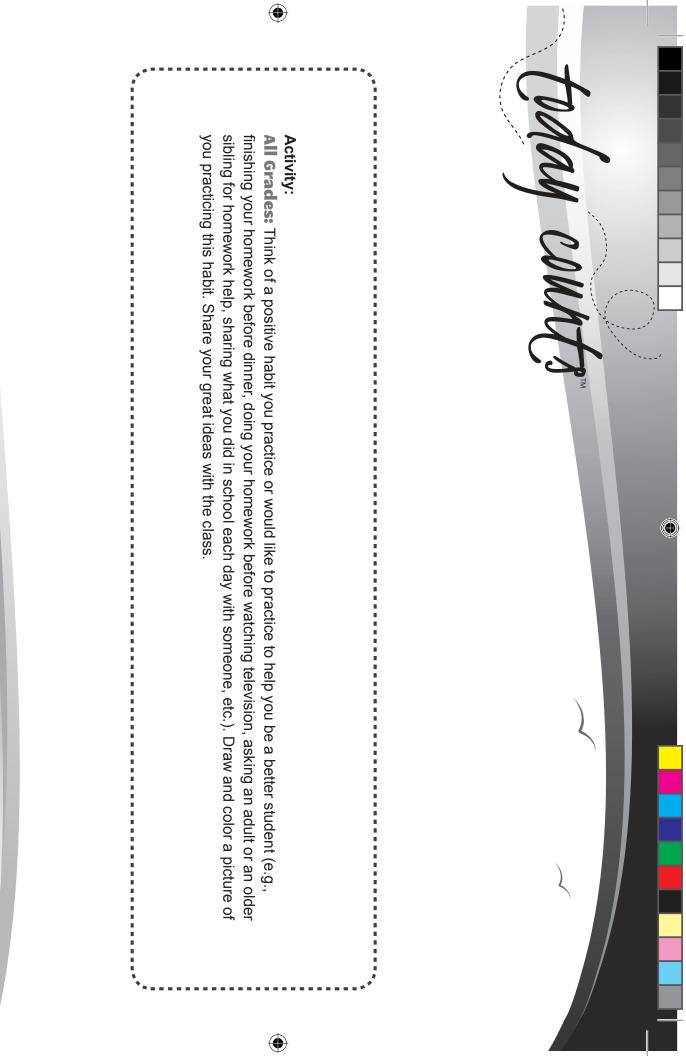
Today\_Counts\_LowerElementary\_073012.indb 151

۲

April | Week 3 Monday | Decision-Making

CHARACTER COUNTS!

an contra as we stick to it long enough." "We can do anything we want as long Helen Keller Quotation: Œ something you want to stick with until you achieve it. something until you achieved it? Share your example Grade 2: How does this quotation motivate you? Share Grade 1: Is there a time when you stuck with Kindergarten: How does this quotation encourage you? ۲



۲

April | Week 3 Tuesday | Decision-Making

CHARACTER COUNTS!

8/8/2012 3:45:16 PM

| Story: Story: It was a crisp fall day and Mumsy the mama squirrel and her baby, Peepsy, scampered down the grand oak tree where they made their home. It was time for Peepsy to learn to hunt for food. "I want to teach you how to find the best acorns," Mumsy said. "You go ahead and find six." Peepsy quickly grabbed six acorns scattered on the ground near the old oak tree and brought them to his mama. Mumsy reached slowly for the first acorn. It looked perfect on Peepsy's little pile, but – when she turned it over – it was only half a shell. "Look," she told Peepsy, "It's empty inside. There's no meat here!" She grabbed a second one. It was a bit weathered, but it was in one piece. She cracked it with her teeth, then spati to n the ground. "Yuck," she said, "this one is rotten on the inside. Even though it looks okay on the outside, it is rotten." She took the third acorn. It was cracked, and bugs already had made a meal off of most of the meat! "This one is picked over," she told her baby gently. "There's not much left for you." The fully shole was looked fresh She cracked it with her teeth inspected it, and taken the meat. The fully shole was looked fresh She cracked it with her teeth inspected it and fed her haby the meat |  |
|---|--|
| The fourth one looked the most promising. She snatched it eagerly, only to throw it disappointedly onto the ground. Another animal had been there already, cracked it, and taken the meat.<br>The fifth shell was looked fresh. She cracked it with her teeth, inspected it, and fed her baby the meat.<br>"Yummy," her little one said.<br>Optimistic, Mumsy grabbed the last acorn at her feet. But again, the top half of the shell looked perfect.<br>When she turned it over, the other half was missing. The meat was gone.<br>"You see, Peepsy," she said. "Things are not always what they seem to be at first glance. Take your<br>time to pick your acorns carefully next time."  |  |

 ۲

----

۲

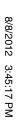
CHARACTER COUNTS!

Today\_Counts\_LowerElementary\_073012.indb 153

۲

April | Week 3 Wednesday | Decision-Making

8/8/2012 3:45:17 PM



۲

April | Week 3 Thursday | Decision-Making

CHARACTER COUNTS!

an conta Chinese Proverb the public opinion. ignorant man follows his own decisions, an A wise man makes Proverb: Grade 2: What can you learn from this proverb about decision-making? Grade 1: How is decision-making different for the wise and the ignorant? What does this proverb mean to you? Kindergarten: What does the word "wise" mean? What does "ignorant" mean? Œ ۲

8/8/2012 3:45:17 PM

Today\_Counts\_LowerElementary\_073012.indb 155

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 3 Friday | Decision-Making

| Grade 2: What would you do? Which Pillars of Character would you use in your decision? | Grade 1: What would you do? | Kindergarten: What could you do for the student in the center? | You are walking home after school one afternoon when you notice a small ring of students huddled in the corner. Curious, you try<br>to get a better look at what the students are huddling around. You spot a lone student in the center of the ring and you hear their<br>conversation. It's clear that the huddled students are teasing the student in the center. The student in the center has no one to defend<br>him. The students are all too occupied to notice you watching and listening. |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|

۲

۲

Activity:

idan compis

۲

| ÷ | <b>Grade 2:</b> What do you think would happen if you no longer did things in "halves"? Share your thoughts.                               | by halves. If it be right, do it<br>boldly; if it be wrong, leave<br>it undone."<br>– Bernard Gilpin |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|   | <b>Grade 1:</b> What does it mean to do things by "halves"? Do you do anything in "halves" that you want to do boldly? Share your example. | <b>Quotation:</b><br>"I hate to see things done  |   |
|   | Kindergarten: What does this quotation mean?   |  |   |
|   |  | today counts   | } |
|   |  |  |   |

۲

8/8/2012 3:45:17 PM

| ø                       |
|-------------------------|
| ø                       |
| Ň                       |
| õ                       |
| 2                       |
| $\overline{\mathbf{N}}$ |
|                         |
|                         |
| ~ ~                     |
| ώ                       |
| 3:4                     |
| :45                     |
| 4                       |
| 45                      |
| :45:1                   |

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 4 Tuesday | Decision-Making

Activity

an conn

a negative response, be prepared to give gentle, correcting tips to encourage good character and positive behavior.] student who catches the ball answers what they would do in the scenario you read out. Repeat a scenario as often as you would like, but make sure each student has a chance to respond to at least one scenario. [Note to teacher: If a student has All Grades: Have students stand in a circle. Read a scenario below and gently toss the ball to a student in the circle. The

1) You are walking by a trash bin with trash littered around it. Do you stop to pick up the trash or do you just keep walking

- 2 You are walking to class and there is a student on crutches next to you trying to go up the stairs. Do you help the
- student up the stairs or do you pass the student and go to class?
- $\underline{\omega}$ It's almost bedtime, you brushed your teeth, and your mom just baked your favorite cookies. Do you wait until the
- next day to eat the cookie or do you eat the cookie now?
- 4
- just keep playing?
- The bell rings and it's time to get to class. You see your friend fall in the hallway. Do you help your friend and make sure he is okay or do you go straight to class?
- <u>თ</u>

- - You see your friend cheat in a game during recess. Do you tell others what you saw or do ignore what you saw and
- ۲

۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

April | Week 4 Wednesday | Decision-Making

Story:

AN CONTA

and helped each other whenever they could. across an anthill, she would call Poppy and the two would feast. They looked out for each other together. When the sun set, the two would go scavenging for dinner. When Arielle would come Poppy the Porcupine and Arielle the Aardvark were the best of friends. They did everything

neighbors). Poppy panicked as she tried to think up the best course of action. a loud conversation, plotting an attack on sweet Arielle (as hyenas often do to their aardvark overheard several of her fellow woodland dwellers. Helia the Hyena and her friends were having One early afternoon, Poppy was alone, scouring the woodlands for a snack, when she

Poppy could not just watch Helia and her friends hurt Arielle. like Poppy. Standing up for her dear friend could prove to be very dangerous for Poppy. However Helia and her friends were a threat to Arielle and the other aardvarks, but also to porcupines,

۲

again and rammed herself into Helia. Helia shrieked in pain and stepped away. Helia's friends to Poppy, Poppy had to resort to her back-up plan in self-defense. She stiffened her quills once was – that Arielle posed no threat to Helia or her friends and that Helia should leave Arielle alone herself to Helia and her friends. She sharply pointed her quills for their attention. When all eyes followed suit. Helia and her friends never again bothered Arielle or Poppy again. Then, Poppy felt the intensity of Helia and her friends' attention fix on her. As they crept closer were on her, Poppy began nervously to reason with Helia. Poppy said how wonderful Arielle After serious thought, Poppy decided what she felt was right. Poppy courageously showed

good decision maker? other hyenas? Why is Grade 1: Have you had plan thoroughly? it important to think and talking to Helia and the through her plan before carefully thought Grade 2: How do What was the result? to stand up for a friend? How do you know? you think Poppy is a you know that Poppy Kindergarten: Do

۲

8/8/2012 3:45:17 PM

| 8/8/2012 3:45:17 PI |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8/2012 3:45:17 P    | õ |
| )12 3:45:17 P       | ò |
| )12 3:45:17 P       | Ñ |
| 2 3:45:17 P         | ~ |
| :45:17 P            |   |
| :45:17 P            |   |
| 17 P                | ω |
| 17 P                | 4 |
| 7 P                 |   |
| P                   |   |
| υ                   | 7 |
|                     |   |

۲

April | Week 4 Thursday | Decision-Making

CHARACTER COUNTS!

۲ an contr Dutch proverb has trouble He who has a choice Proverb: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Kindergarten: Do you ever find you have too many choices? How does it make you feel? Grade 1: What does this proverb mean? Grade 2: Are choices a good or bad thing? Œ ۲



۲

CHARACTER COUNTS!

April | Week 4 Friday | Decision-Making

Activity: You promised to go to your friend's dance recital on Saturday when your neighbor invites you to his birthday party on the same day. The birthday party sounds like more fun than the recital.

your decision?

Grade 2: What would you do? Which Pillars of Character would influence

۲

۲

Kindergarten: What would you do? How would your decision make your friend feel? Grade 1: What would you do, and why?

an contr

Æ