


charactercounts.org/C6

Nothing that
makes
someone
feel bad is
good.
Name-
calling, and
bullying is
just plain
mean.



*It is important
to show care
and concern
for others by
our words and
actions. Just
think of how
you would feel
if others hurt
you by what
they said or
did.*

1. What is interesting to you about this quote?

2. What kind of behaviors do you see at school that bothers or upsets you? Why do you feel that way?

3. How do other students react when the actions shared in the quote happen at your school?

4. If you could create your own school, how would you like students to behave? Be specific about the words and actions of students and adults.



RESPECT

C3.1



Each person has the right to make decisions for himself or herself. Don't try and force your opinions or ways on others.

1. What do you think this proverb means? Have you experienced this, or its opposite?

2. What do you do to show friends or your family that you respect their rights?

3. When you show respect to others, how do they act toward you?

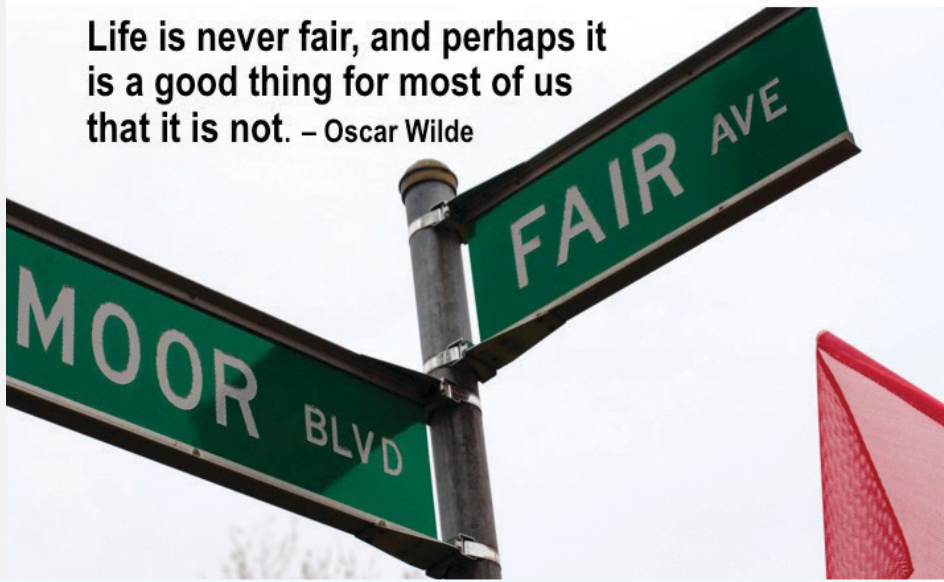
4. On the picture there are many words to define respect. How is kindness toward others similar to respecting them?

5. What would our school be like if everyone was respectful and kind to everyone else?



charactercounts.org/C5

Life is never fair, and perhaps it
is a good thing for most of us
that it is not. – Oscar Wilde



*You should
try and treat
others the
same with your
words and
actions.*

1. What does this quote mean? Do you agree that life is never fair? Why or why not?

2. Write a short argument disagreeing with Wilde. When is life fair? How is it fair?

3. Is our school fair? Make two lists. Write at least 3 ways you think our school rules is fair. Then, give any examples as to how you think our school is unfair.

4. Review what you have written. What makes something fair? List what needs to be considered to make a decision fair.



charactercounts.org/A5



When you have a tough choice, make sure what you choose to do shows good character.

A5 EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS AND DECISION MAKERS

A5.3 Effective Decisions



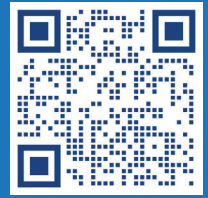
Sometimes the hardest thing and the right thing are the same.

1. Why do people sometimes do the right thing even when it's not as easy or as much fun as something else?

2. Why is it hard sometimes to do the right thing?

3. What would happen if nobody cared about doing the right thing?

4. As you get older, you will face more decision that you have to make. How will you know when something you might do is right or wrong?



charactercounts.org/CI



It is important for you to have good character. You show your character by the choices you make.

1. How might you show kindness to someone who is angry?

2. Based on this proverb's advice, would could you do if someone says something that's not true about you?

3. There are students who don't include others in a game at recess. Some choose to cheat. Still others who think they deserve everything. What can you do to help others change their behavior?

4. If you were the girl on the swing, what would you like someone to do?



charactercounts.org/C6

C6 CARING

C6.2 Caring Moderates Other Ethical Duties



1. What does this quote have to say about character?

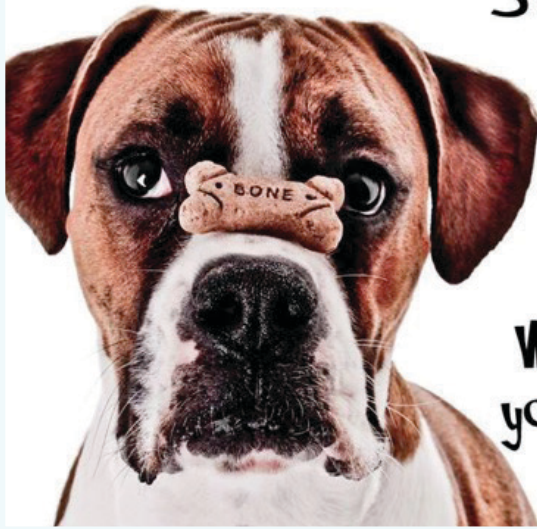
2. You have a choice. Would you want to be popular? Or, to be seen by others as being nice? Explain your choice.

3. How can students show they care about others?

4. What would your class be like if everyone lived by this quote?

5. What would class be like if no one lived by this quote?

You can show caring by being compassionate and empathetic to everyone. That means even to those who don't seem to deserve it.

charactercounts.org/SE2

SELF DISCIPLINE IS THE
POWER to Say
NO to YOURSELF,
to give SOMETHING
UP NOW SO YOU
WILL get SOMETHING
YOU WANT even MORE
Later



*Self-discipline
is learning
how to control
yourself.*

1. Look at the picture of the dog and the bone sitting on his nose. What does the quote mean to the dog?

2. Here are examples of children who do not have self-discipline. Rewrite the example so it shows a child having self-discipline.

Matteo interrupts conversations between adults. He just can't wait for his turn to speak.

Mason sneaks junk food the minute his parents are out of his sight. Jasmine spends her spare time at school playing with her pencils, rather than doing her work.

Christopher joins his friends who are teasing another child.

Cassie sits down to do her homework with her ear buds and mp3 player, but forgets what her assignment was

3. What are ways that you show self-discipline?



charactercounts.org/CI

CI

COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER AND ETHICS

CI.3

Responsibility for Their Character

**Character is who you are when
your friends are watching you.**



*Developing
character lies
in your own
hands. No one
can take that
responsibility
away from you.*

1. Isn't the quote supposed to be, "Character is who you are when no one is watching you?" What is different about the quote with the picture?

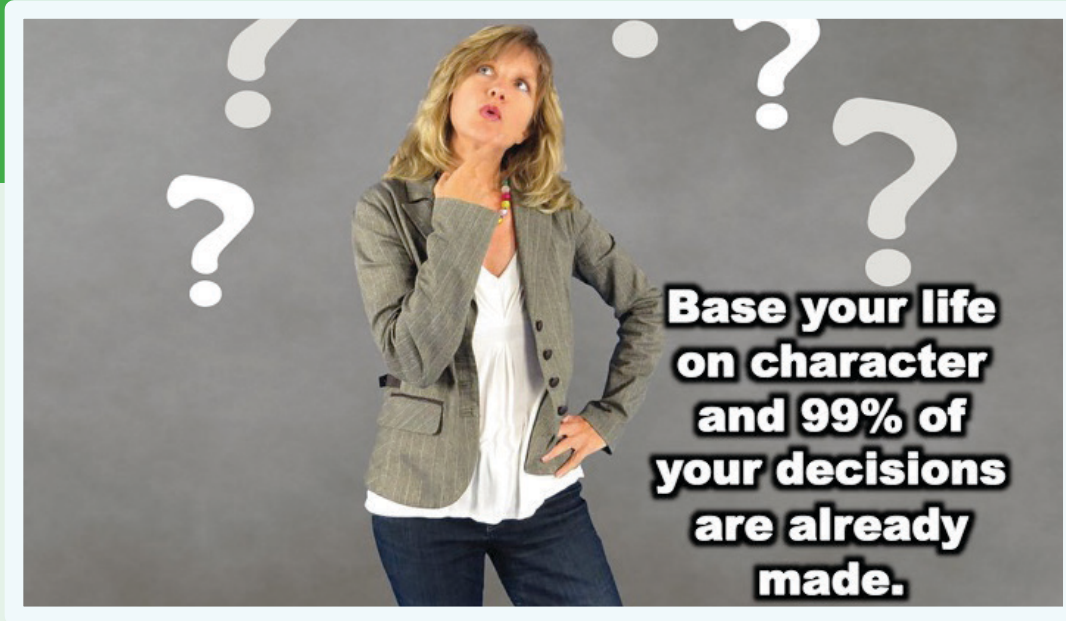
2. Is it easier or harder to show good character when you are with friends? Explain your answer.

3. Which Pillar best describes you? Why did you choose this Pillar?

4. Why is it hard to always be someone of good character?



charactercounts.org/A5



Your character will be judged by choices that you make. And realize your behavior and the choices you make affect others.

PARENTS INTICAL

1. What do you think this proverb means? Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

2. What similarities do you find between the proverb and the choices you make?

3. The bad choice is not my fault. Someone else made me do it. What do you think about this statement? If it is true, why do you think so? If you don't, explain your answer.

4. What do you think about when you make a decision?

5. In what way does your decision affect others?



charactercounts.org/C3

C3

RESPECT

C3.2

The Golden Rule

**Treat others the way
you want to be treated.**



**If you don't want people to lie to you,
DON'T LIE TO OTHERS.**

**If you don't want people to gossip about you,
DON'T GOSSIP ABOUT OTHERS.**

**If you don't want people to say mean things to you,
DON'T SAY MEAN THINGS TO OTHERS.**



The Golden Rule is simple, but very important. Yet, sometimes it is hard to do. Ask yourself how you would like to be treated. Then, treat others the same way. Live by the Golden Rule and you will be someone who is trusted and respected by others.

The “Golden Rule” is a guide on how to treat others. It says, “Treat others the way you would like to be treated.” Complete the following sentence starters:

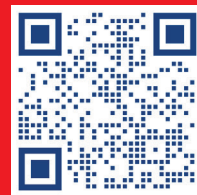
1. If you would like your parent(s) to respect you, you should ...

2. If you would like your friends to share with you, you should ...

3. If you would like your teachers to be kind to you, you should ...

4. Why is this important for you as a student? How about when you are in middle school?

5. How do all of the things found in the quote, apply to the Golden Rule?



charactercounts.org/SE4



Whether or not you succeed in doing something can depend on your mindset. Having a positive mindset will set you up for success. Having a negative mindset is like failing before you even start. Positivity is a powerful attitude to have.

1. Your “mindset” is the way you think about things. You can think about things in a positive way or a negative way. It makes a big difference. Here are examples of how someone might think about something. Check whether you think this is a positive or negative mindset.

“It’s hard to get to school on time. I have to share the bathroom with my sister. I can’t find my shoes and I have to decide what to wear. It’s lucky that I am only 10 minutes late instead of 30 minutes late.”

Positive _____ Negative _____

“I can be on time if I plan better. I can set out my clothes the night before and get up 10 minutes earlier so I can get in the bathroom first. If I am late, it is my responsibility.”

Positive _____ Negative _____

“Math is too hard. It’s ridiculous that they expect a 5th grader to be able to do this stuff. Besides, we’ll never use it in real life.”

Positive _____ Negative _____

“Math is hard, but if I try I can learn it. I just need to do the best I can.”

Positive _____ Negative _____

2. If you put fleas in a jar, they will jump out, but if you put a lid on the jar, the fleas will learn to jump just high enough to avoid hitting the lid. If the lid is later removed, the fleas will still not jump high enough to get out of the jar. This is because of past failures. What does this story have to say about mindsets?

3. What does the picture have to say about attitude?



charactercounts.org/C3

C3

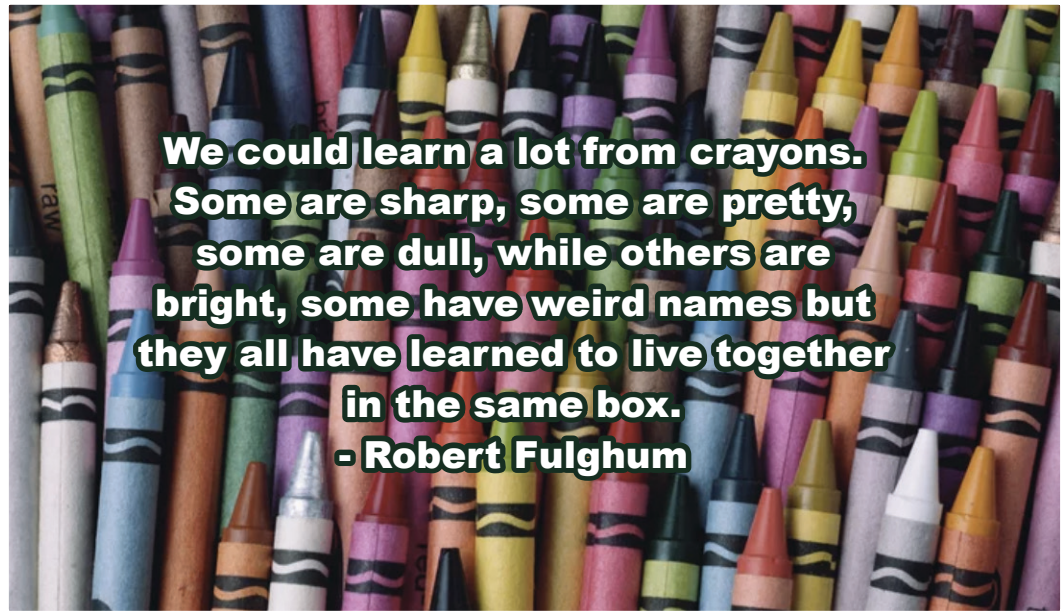
RESPECT

C3.3

Basic Dos and Don'ts Of Respect



You show respect by learning about the customs of others. Then, treat with respect those who come from a different background than you.



We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, while others are bright, some have weird names but they all have learned to live together in the same box.
- Robert Fulghum

1. How it is possible to treat everyone with respect? Is it hard to do this with someone who is not your friend? What about with someone who might be new to your school? How about if that student comes from another country?

2. What does this quote have to say about how we should treat others?

3. Why do you think crayons are used to discuss respect?

4. What does it feel like if you are not treated with respect?

5. Give examples of respectful behaviors.

charactercounts.org/C2

**Character
is much
easier
kept than
recovered.**

- Thomas Paine



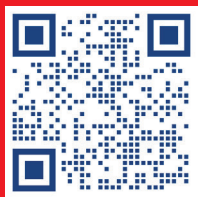
*Don't make
excuse for lying
or cheating.
When you do,
your character
suffers. If you
lie or cheat
others, they
may wonder
if you can be
trusted. They
also think
about what you
may have lied
to them before.*

1. What does someone do or say that makes them untrustworthy?

2. How can you tell when someone is lying to you?

3. What are some reasons why people lie?

4. Why is character much easier to keep than recover?



charactercounts.org/SE4



To succeed at anything, you have to be willing to try. And, you may not be able to be very good the first time. Or, you fail more times than you want. Don't give up because that's the way you learn.

SE4 SUCCESS SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

SE4.7 Perseverance

The difference between a try and a triumph is a little UMPH.

Nothing worth learning comes the first time, but with effort and persistence the world is yours!

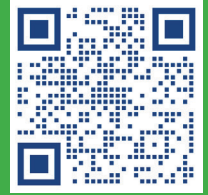


1. The first time you try something, can be difficult. Think of it this way. The more you practice, the easier it gets. What do you think the quotes mean?

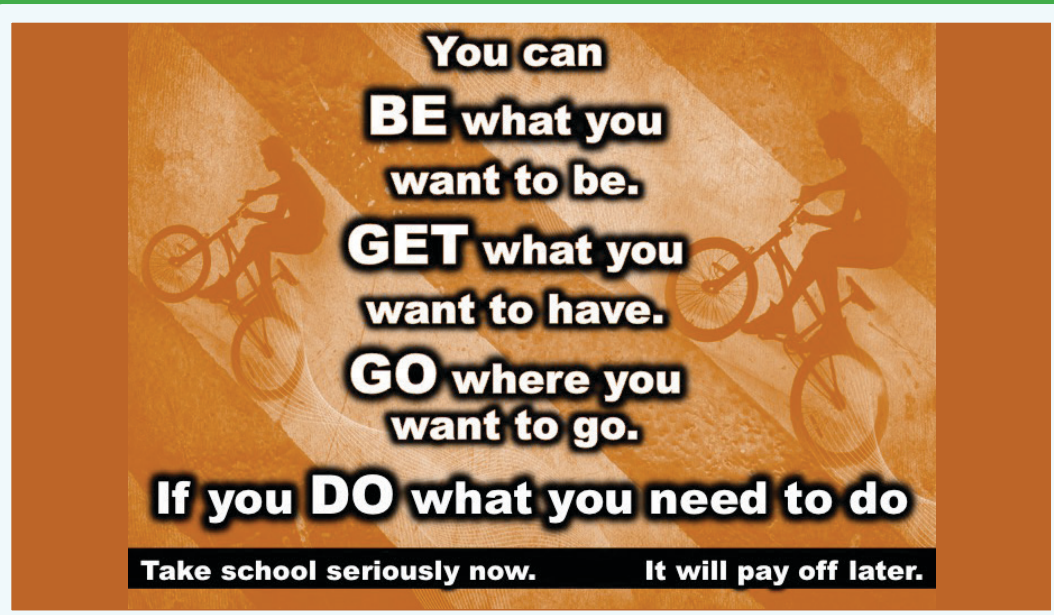
2. Compare the quotes to what you know about perseverance?

3. How long do you think it took the boy to learn how to play basketball?
a) A month _____ c) A day _____
b) A week _____ d) A year _____
4. What skill do you want to learn? How long do you think it will take to be successful?

5. What do you think will be the hardest part for you in learning a new skill?



charactercounts.org/AI



*You can
always learn
and grow by
reading, doing
and seeing
new things.*

1. "Whether you think you can or think you can't, either way you're right." What does that mean? How true is it?

2. Do you think that where you grew up makes a difference in who you can be? Why or why not?

3. What do you like most about school so far?

4. What do you not like about school? What would you like to see changed?



charactercounts.org/A2



There are times you learn from the mistakes you make. You can recover from a mistake by trying to do better the next time.

A2

CONFIDENT AND DILIGENT LEARNERS

A2.2

Learning From Mistakes

Your past is like a pencil mark on paper. You can erase it, but it never really goes away.

But you CAN mark over it with your future.

It's what we LEARN from our mistakes that counts.

1. Can you remember the last time you made a mistake? It could be like a mistake on your schoolwork. Or, it could be something you wish you hadn't said to someone. Write down the last mistake you remember making.

2. Now, write down one thing you learned from that mistake.

3. What's one of your most favorite memories from something that happened at school? Outside of school?

4. "I'm not so bad; other students are worse than me." What does this mean to you? What does it say about character?



charactercounts.org/SE3

The TONGUE
has no
bones, but
is **STRONG**
enough to
break a
HEART. So be
careful with
your **WORDS.**



*In watching
how others
treat some
students, it
may seem
the easiest
thing to do is
nothing. But
if we tried
to feel what
others feel, we
would want
those students
to be treated
better.*

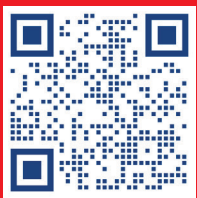
1. What do you think the words around the neck of the boy represent?

2. From the picture, how would you describe what the boy is feeling?

3. What could possibly have been done that makes the boy feel this way?

4. How do words we say to others be strong enough to break a heart?

5. If you could wake up tomorrow with a superpower, what superpower would you want to have?



charactercounts.org/SE4

SE4 SUCCESS SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

SE4.2 Diligence



Diligence is like an investment.

This means that what you put into something determines what you will get out of it. As a diligent student, you work hard because anything worth doing is worth doing right. It is the way you do your work and a reflection of who you are.

PARENTS INITIAL

What we hope ever to do with ease, we must learn first to do with diligence.



1. What are some benefits of working hard?

2. Why should you do your best, even if no one else is watching?

3. How can you be diligent, even if you don't enjoy your work?

4. How diligent are you? Give yourself a grade of A-F for each of the behaviors listed below:

I always do my best.	I don't give up just because things seem difficult.
I am self-disciplined.	I don't leave things unfinished.
I learn from my mistakes.	
5. What is your overall grade on diligence? Why did you give yourself that grade?



A 'moral compass'

means you have standards for yourself and you try to live by them. You have to make a decision. Check your "moral compass" to see if your choice is living up to your values.

1. What does the map in the picture represent?

2. What would you put on your 'moral compass?' (Check all the things that make sense to you.)

Be honest _____	Don't cheat _____
Be nice to others _____	Be fair _____
Be happy _____	Try to make other people happy _____
Don't make excuses _____	Be trustworthy _____
Don't hurt anyone (physically or emotionally) _____	Stand up for yourself _____
Work hard _____	
3. Why did you include these for your 'moral compass?'

4. What else would you add to your 'moral compass?'

5. How does the list show others you are a person of character?
