

Character In Action
Month-By-Month Theme
Grade 8

Ideas for Resources

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey ISBN 0-684-85609-3 (one per teacher)

Me to We by Craig Kielburger and Mark Keilberger ISBN - 10:0470153644 (one per teacher)

Hold On by Allan Gibbons ISBN 1842551760 (one/kit) read aloud

http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf (A short unit with phenomenal activities that are ready to go, and literacy-based. It is a joint venture between Character Counts, the Arizona Character Education Foundation, and the East Valley Tribune, and is based on the Six Pillars concept—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship). You will have to print this off—8 page unit.

<http://www.forbetterlife.org/pass-it-on/downloads> This site has posters and bookmarks that are free. www.goodcharacter.com

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul by Kimberly Kirberger ISBN - 10:1558746374

www.cyberbully.org

www.filmclipsonline.com has excellent ideas for using clips from movies to teach specific traits. You have to purchase the videos, but the teacher guide is free for download.

Sites for Kids www.bullying.org/public/frameset.cfm www.kidshelpphone.ca/en/ 1-800-668-6868

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=main

Great website, with games and webisodes for the kids to watch—very geared toward youth 9-13. <http://library.thinkquest.org/TQ0312169/intro.html>

As well, below are some ideas for lit circles/novel studies based on a theme. Please be sure to read the novels first.

Worse Than Boys by Catherine MacPhail ISBN 9780747582762

The Lottery by Beth Goobie

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Daniel's Story <http://nie.honoluluadvertiser.com/12-Character-Education/Guides-Supplements/Timeline%20of%20Holocaust.pdf>

Month	Character Attribute	Suggestions for Activities
September	Respect Habit 4: Think Win-Win	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect lesson from Teen Character Counts! http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf Bullies are often trying to make people "respect" them. Is this really respect, or is it fear? What is the difference? How is bullying and violent behavior an act of disrespect? Have students watch a TV sitcom. First, identify the target audience. Next, record examples of respectful behaviour, then disrespectful behaviour. Share as a class, then identify why we find disrespectful behaviour so entertaining. (Discuss stereotypes).
October	Initiative Habit 1: Be Proactive Wayne Gretzky, or any sports hero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut out a photograph of your hero and explain how this person showed initiative. Brainstorm ways students can show initiative. Have each student show which one they would like to demonstrate, and have them target it and track it for a week (ie. Complete homework) I Am poem I Am Going To Make a Difference unit from Anti-Bullying Curriculum http://nie.honoluluadvertiser.com/12-Character-Education/Guides-Supplements/Goal%20Setting.doc

November	<p>Courage/Bravery Habit 3: Put First Things First</p> <p>Helen Keller, soldiers,</p> <p>The Habit of Will Power and Won't Power—page 117 has the Courage Zone vs the Comfort Zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am going to make a difference unit from the Anti-bullying curriculum What was the hardest stand you ever had to take with a friend? Did it cost you anything? What were the benefits? (www.goodcharacter.com) Profiles in Courage: Have the students, either individually or in groups, identify acts of courage by people in the news or by people in your school or community. Then have each individual or group make a presentation to the class and conduct a discussion. What do these selections have in common? What are their differences? What can the students learn about themselves from the selections they made? What have they learned from the people they selected? (www.goodcharacter.com) Kim Phuc story and photo (suffered napalm attack in Vietnam in 1972) Have your students bring in articles from magazines and newspapers describing situations in which moral courage is an issue. Conduct a discussion in which they decide who is acting courageously and who isn't.
December	<p>Compassion/Empathy Habit 5 and 6 Seek First to Understand and Synergize</p> <p>Possible Role Models: Craig and Marc Kielburger, Mother Teresa, Team Hoyt (teamhoyt.com)</p> <p>Anti-bullying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring and Citizenship lessons from Teen Character Counts! http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf How to Have a Moral Conscience unit, Anti-Bullying Curriculum, Grade 8 Read The Giving Tree to your class, then have a giving tree in your class as a Bulletin Board for Christmas. Have students recognize the "gifts" of others—things students have done for them. When a student has performed an act of kindness, the student receiving it can put a gift on the tree with that person's name on it. Me to We has an entire chapter on Empathy (p. 157)
January	<p>Optimism</p> <p>Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idiom analysis: Have the students draw what it literally means: "Sees the world through rose-coloured glasses." Discuss what it actually means. Develop a personal mission statement. (The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, p. 81)
February	<p>Honesty The Personal Bank Account Habit 1: Be Proactive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, p. 24, discusses "principles." http://nie.honoluluadvertiser.com/12-Character-Education/Proj.%20Solution%20Gr.%203-7/Honesty2.pdf Select an advertisement from a magazine or newspaper, or from radio or TV. Analyze it for honesty: Does it explicitly say anything you think is untrue? Is it trying to make you believe something that might not be true? Is it lying by omission, i.e. leaving out important information that would make a difference to you? Is it misleading in any way? Does it present any half-truths? Debate idea: discuss the whole concept of "little white lie." What does it mean? Is it okay to tell a little white lie?
March	<p>Integrity/Trustworthiness The Relationship Bank Account</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Ethical Decisions lesson from Teen Character Counts! http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf

	Wayne Gretzky Anti-bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Dogs unit (Grade 8) http://www.cybercops.net/cybercops/games/ • Identify someone in public life who you think has demonstrated a lack of integrity. Write a letter to this person saying what you think of his/her behavior and what he/she should do to shape up. • Make a list of your principles, or your most basic beliefs, that you wouldn't compromise no matter what. Now select one of these principles, and write a short story (real or imagined) describing a time you did something courageous by standing up for this principle. • Many people complain that political leaders lack integrity. Develop a checklist for evaluating the integrity of political leaders, including student body officers. Use this check list, rank political leaders you are familiar with. Does a high ranking affect how you feel about these leaders? Would it influence the way you would vote?
April	Fairness Anti-bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Ethical Decisions lesson from Teen Character Counts! http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf • Social Justice Unit from Anti-Bullying Curriculum, Grade 8 http://charactercounts.org/pdf/connect-with-char/CWC_Sample_LessonPlan_11-13_Fairness.pdf http://charactercounts.org/pdf/connect-with-char/CWC_Sample_Handout_11-13_Fairness.pdf
May	Perseverance (Resilience, persistence) Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Terry Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://nie.honoluluadvertiser.com/12-Character-Education/Proj.%20Solution%20Gr.%203-7/Persevering2.pdf • Talk about goals. Why are they important? What are they for? Ask students, if we don't know where we are going, are we likely to get there? • Summarize The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, by Steven Covey. Share these habits with your class and briefly describe how each habit can lead to accomplishing goals. • Robert Frost's poem "The Road Less Traveled" • <i>Stone</i> video • Kim Phuc
June	Responsibility Romeo Dallaire,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility lesson from Teen Character Counts! http://www.charactercenter.com/Teen_Character_Counts.pdf • I Am Going to Make a Difference unit from Anti-Bullying Curriculum, Grade 8 • Grad Activity: THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT. . . There is so much to look forward to as you grow older and more responsible. What purchase is very special in your dreams? Draw and cut out a large pair of eyeglasses with fun frames. Paste these on a folded construction paper booklet and entitle it, "Looking Forward To. . ." Inside, include a picture of, or write a description of, special items that you would like in the future. Include details: cost, care, and what kind of responsibility you think is involved in your choice. <i>Mind over manners</i>