



- * *"All I Really Need to know I Learned in Kindergarten"* by Robert Fulgham (Break Away text)
- * *"I Ain't Sitting Beside Her"* by Shyrose Jaffer (Inside Track, News Article)
- * *"Living with Nature"* essay by David Suzuki (Transitions)
- * *"Why We Grow Insensitive to Dangers"* Essay by David Suzuki (Crossroads 10)
- * *"Lament for Confederation"*
By Chief Dan George



I live with *Initiative*

I will recognize what needs to be done and do it, without prompting from others.

WHAT IS INITIATIVE?

Definition: the power or opportunity to act independently with a fresh approach before others do.

INITIATIVE is when we act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it. We take the first step towards the achievement of a goal.

I WILL:

- * do things without having to be asked.
- * pitch in where I see I am needed.
- * be innovative and enthusiastic in everything that I do.

NOVELS:

The Road Less Traveled by Robert Frost

SHORT STORIES:

The Good Samaritan
Is there really such a thing as talent? By Annie Dillard

SONGS:

9 to 5
by Dolly Parton

Get A Job
Silhouettes



It is not the mountain that we conquer, but ourselves.

—Sir Edmund Hillary

Character In Action in the High School

Suggested Activities

- * Cut out a photograph of your hero and explain how this person showed initiative.
- * Write about an event in your life in which you succeeded at something which was very challenging. How much did any of the above listed behaviors contribute to your success? What did you learn from that?
- * Discuss the following statement.— Successful people get that way by being lucky. (hint: Initiative)
- * How could you benefit by showing more initiative?
- * Write about a time in your life where you were successful because you acted without being prompted.
- * Write about a time when you witnessed someone being teased, taunted or bullied? How did you react? How did you feel? How do you think the victim felt? How could you have shown more initiative.
- * Is there an area of the school that needs a make-over? What steps would you take to make change? What would your role be?
- * Often we go through our day taking things and or people for granted. If you had the opportunity to thank someone who would it be and why?

Canadian Model Initiative—Diane Dupuy

Diane Dupuy demonstrates what can happen when you dare to dream. With a mountain of obstacles stacked against her, Diane persevered and through blind determination, she made her dreams come true, founding the Famous People Players., an internationally renowned, blacklight theatre company based in Toronto, Ontario,. Diane's remarkable imagination is what you see on stage. What you don't see is inspirational, as her performers are **PEOPLE** who are developmentally challenged. Diane's commitment to the arts and to her special players has gained the highest respect and accolades around the world.

Diane founded the company in 1974 with the belief that the disabled must be integrated into society. This non-profit organization employs people with physical and mental disabilities, with individuals sharing duties in dining room management, arts administration, and theatrical and visual arts performances.

Diane says, "Through one dream, a thousand dreams unfold".





I live with *Courage*

I will stand up for my beliefs and principles and face challenges, fear and difficulty with fortitude.

WHAT IS COURAGE?

Courage is demonstrated by people who stand up for what they believe in their heart to be the right thing to do, even when others don't support them and might try to convince them that they are wrong.

I WILL:

- * Continue to do what I know to be right, even when it would be easier to follow another path.
- * Ensure that my feeling of "I can" are stronger than my feeling of "I can't".
- * Take risks to do the right thing, even when it might challenge the attitudes and behaviors of others..

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

There are many types of courage.

- * *Physical Courage:* overcoming fears when you are required to do something physical, i.e. dancing in front of friends.
- * *Emotional Courage:* overcoming feelings of fear i.e., standing up to a bully.
- * *Spiritual Courage:* overcoming fears to act on values that are important to you, i.e. Having the spiritual courage to take action against an injustice you see taking place in the school yard.



I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.

~Rosa Parks

Character In Action in High School

Suggested Activities

- * 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)
- * 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.
- * Have students respond to the following quotation by Thomas Jefferson: "One person with courage is a majority."

Canadian Role Model of Courage

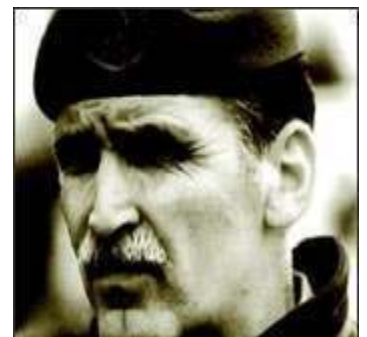
* *Romeo Dallaire*

With more than 800,000 people slaughtered in 100 days the Rwandan genocide stands as one of the most horrific mass murders of the past century.

In the middle of the horror was a Canadian peacekeeper whose efforts to avert the tragedy were thwarted by political apathy and incalculable evil.

In 1993 Romeo Dallaire was chosen to lead the UN Mission in Rwanda. In 1994 he was the leader of the Canadian mission in Rwanda that was not given the authority to defend civilians. He oversaw the murder of 800,000 Tutsis (the worst massacre of the late 20th century); unable to do anything and watched in horror as men, women, and children were killed.

Dallaire pleaded for 2000 more troops from the original 3000, and the permission to use aggressive force. Dallaire's request was denied which paved the way for the genocide. Dallaire could have quit in protest but decided to stay and prevent some of the carnage.





Patch Adams

Visit http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/show_mansleep.html to see an excerpt of an interview with



I demonstrate *Optimism*

I maintain a positive attitude.

WHAT IS OPTIMISM?

We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future.

I WILL:

- * Maintain a positive attitude.
- * Be open-minded and try new things.
- * Respect others taking risk.

ROLE MODEL:

Barack Obama:

"I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about a real change in Washington...I'm asking you to believe in yours."

Barack Obama was born to a white American mother, Ann Dunham, and a black Kenyan father, Barack Obama, Sr., who were both young college students at the University of Hawaii. When his father left for Harvard, she and Barack stayed behind, and his father ultimately returned alone to Kenya, where he worked as a government economist. Barack's mother remarried an Indonesian oil manager and moved to Jakarta when Barack was six. The family lived in a small apartment - his grandfather was a furniture salesman and an unsuccessful insurance agent and his grandmother worked in a bank - but Barack managed to get into Punahou School, Hawaii's top prep academy. His father wrote to him regularly but, though he traveled around the world on official business for Kenya, he visited only once, when Barack was ten.



"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."

~Alfred Adler.

Character In Action High School

Suggested Activities



Writing Prompts:

- * React to the statement "Whatever is, is best."
- * The end of the school year is a time for looking ahead. What are your plans for next year? For the next five years?
- * The characters in the novel are very optimistic that their dreams may come true. What are some of your hopes and dreams? What can you do to achieve them?

Student Activities:

- * The environment is an important issue right now. If we conserve now, do you think the earth will be in better shape for the next generation? Discuss.
- * Is being optimistic 'cool'? Why or why not?

Contact us at our website.

<http://www.rrdsb.com/> and we'll post some of the stories online for everyone to enjoy.



NOVELS:

Romeo and Juliet
Crabbe
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Of Mice and Men
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
Jane Eyre

SHORT STORIES:

The Little Engine that Could
Ten Lost Years by Barry Broadfoot

Five Reasons I Play Wheel-chair Basketball (Elements of English 10)

POEM:

Optimism.

The things which we in visions see,
Are heralds of the things to be;
For what we dream, we do.
Desires which in our beings burn,
The hopes with which our bosoms yearn,
Are destined to come true
-Colfax Burgoyne Harman
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/poetry/harman/optimism.html>

SONG:

The Greatest Love of All
(Whitney Houston)

MOVIES:

A Walk to Remember
Star Trek 2009
Pay It Forward



I demonstrate *Honesty*

I will be sincere, trustworthy and truthful.



WHAT IS HONESTY?

HONESTY is when you commit to being true to yourself and others.

I WILL:

- * *Speak the truth with kindness and caring.*
- * *Be trustworthy, so people know they can depend on me.*
- * *Be sincere, there is no difference between what I say and do and what I believe in my heart.*
- * *Be impeccable with your word*
- * *Don't make assumptions*

ROLE MODEL:



Melanie Goodchild

Melanie Goodchild is the owner of Raindancer Interactive, a successful multi-media communica-

tions consulting and design firm, and has also established herself in the film industry. Her productions have been broadcast on national television and screened at the prestigious Smithsonian Institute Museum of the American Indian. In 1993 she received the Broadcaster of the Future Aboriginal Peoples Internship Award from Global Television Network. Melanie is an advocate for Aboriginal youth and entrepreneurship. Becoming active in First Nations and youth issues as a young teenager, Melanie has been honored with the Ontario Native Women's Association Award, YTV National Youth Achievement Award, and a Canada Day Youth Citizenship Award. She speaks publicly in Canada and the United States on issues such as self-esteem, new technologies, entrepreneurship, and the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse.

"To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education."

~ John Ruskin

Character In Action High School

Suggested Activities



Writing Prompts:

- * How many lies do you get to tell before you are a liar?
- * Do you consider yourself to be an honest person? Why?
- * What would you do if you found \$10,000.00 on the shelf beneath an ATM machine and nobody say you find it?

Student Activities:

- * Have the students keep an "Honesty-Dishonesty" journal for one week. In this journal, document examples of honesty and dishonesty in everyday life. Keep track of all the times you hear or tell a "white lies." Pay particular attention to the media. See what role honesty plays in stories covered in the news. Note how often dishonesty is at the core of TV sitcoms and dramas. At the end of a week, write your conclusion and share them with the class. What did you learn about your own behavior from doing this project?
- * Conduct a survey in your school or community asking questions like the following: Do you think people are honest enough? What are some examples of dishonesty you really dislike? What are some examples of honesty that you especially appreciate? Compile the results.
- * What is a phony? How does dishonesty turn people into phonies? What does it mean when you say that a person is "real" or "authentic"? What does being "real have to do with honesty?"



NOVELS:

Romeo and Juliet
Macbeth
The Crucible
The Taming of the Shrew
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Me and Luke
The Chrysalides
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Twelfth Night
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Tuck Everlasting
The Face on the Milk Carton
The Catcher and the Rye
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime
The Good Son
The Hiding Place

SHORT STORIES:

In My Hands
~ Irene Gut Opdyke and Jennifer Armstrong

The Parsley Garden
~ William Saroyan

The Tell-Tale Heart
~ Edgar Allan Poe

POEMS:

The Apology
~ Alden Nowlan

Guilt
~ Leona Gon-(12)

MOVIES:

The Confession
Boiler Room
Liar Liar
A Time to Kill
Dead Man Walking
A Few Good Men
Apocalypse Now

- ★ A Walk to Remember
- ★ The Emperor's Club
- ★ The Fugitive
- ★ The Hiding Place
- ★ Amazing Grace



I demonstrate *Fairness*

I will treat others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner.

WHAT IS FAIRNESS?

FAIRNESS is being consistent.
FAIRNESS is listening and being open.
FAIRNESS is being careful making judgments about others.
FAIRNESS is treating people equally and equitably.
FAIRNESS is following procedures.

I WILL:

- * Follow rules.
- * Be open-minded and listen to others.
- * Treat people equally.
- * Not blame others carelessly.

Role Model:

Emily Murphy

Emily Murphy was a prominent suffragist and reformer. In 1917, she spearheaded the fight to have women declared "persons" in Canada and, therefore, eligible to serve in the Senate. She became the first female police magistrate in the British Empire and wasn't afraid to face a battle. If she had a good cause in hand, she was prepared to see it through to a successful end. On October 18, 1929, the Privy Council ruled that women are "persons" and can serve in the Senate. For Murphy, the Persons' Case was only one triumph in a lifetime of achievement. She combined family life with a writing career and a wide variety of reform activities in the interests of women and children. Murphy was a member of the Canadian Women's Press Club (president, 1913-1920), the National Council of Women, the Federated Women's Institutes, and 20 other organizations.



*"Think of giving not as a duty
but as a privilege."*

~John D. Rockefeller Jr.

Character In Action High School

Suggested Activities

Writing Prompts:

- * Describe a time when your first impression was wrong.
- * Think of a time when you've taken unfair advantage of a person or a situation, or when someone has taken unfair advantage of you. What was unfair about it? How did it make you feel? What did you learn from the experience?
- * How is fairness related to having respect for others? How is it related to honesty? To being a good citizen?
- * Describe an unfair situation in your community and what you think should be done about it.

Student Activities:

- * Have your students visit this website <www.goodcharacter.com> and click on "Opportunities for Action." There they will find opportunities to become involved in activities and issues relating to fairness and justice.
- * Invite a judge to come and talk to your class about how he/she makes a fair decision in the courtroom.
- * As a class, make two lists: a list of things we sometimes do in our personal lives that are unfair, and a list of things we do as a society that are unfair. What could be done to rectify these injustices so we can cross them off the list?

NOVELS:

Romeo and Juliet
To Kill a Mockingbird
The Crucible
Othello
The Merchant of Venice
The Lottery
Me and Luke
Julius Caesar
Of Mice and Men
The Life & Death of Sneaky Fitch
The Wave
Jane Eyre

SHORT STORIES:

A Country Called Canada
~by Gary Lautens
(Grade 9)-Literacy Power-G

The Parsley Garden
~by William Saroyan

Men Must Pay For Evil They Do...
~by Tom Barrett

Stereotypes Are For "Others"
~by Maria Coletta Mclean

POEM:

Justice
~by Rita Joe

SONG:

Where is the Love?
~by Black Eyed Peas

MOVIES:

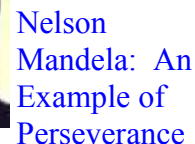
The Hurricane
Double Jeopardy
The Green Mile
The Shawshank Redemption
The Fugitive
Cinderella



WHAT IS PERSEVERANCE?

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

~Vince Lombardi



Character in Action in the High School

★ ★

★ Give an example of someone you admire who showed perseverance.

★ Think of an activity where you gave up and you wished you hadn't. Describe it.

★ Have you ever felt that pressures from your peers prevented you from accomplishing something you wanted?

★ Have you ever been affected by negative comments people have made about your abilities? What can you do about these kinds of external pressures when they get in the way of your success?

★ Watch for a news program that illustrates perseverance, such as how citizens kept their town from flooding by piling up millions of sandbags. Discuss how perseverance can require much work but provide great benefits.

★ Read *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss. After story discussion, have students fold a piece of construction paper into fourths and write *I can do it!* in the center. Inside each square, ask students to draw or write one thing they want to accomplish in their lifetime and what they will do to accomplish it. Invite each student to share and explain one square. Display the papers on a bulletin board entitled *Let's Do It!*

★ ★

“It Starts with Me” - Craig Kielburger (p.198-201), *Break Away*

“Lance Relland: Aboriginal Bone Marrow Registries” (p. 206-207) Break Away

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening - Robert Frost,
(p. 185) *Nelson English: Literature and Media 9*

The Best Kind of Fear - J. William Knowles (p. 22-23) *Foundations of English 11*

Angela's Ashes - Frank
McCourt

Erin Brockovitch (2000)

Chicken Run (2000)

Music of the Heart (1999)

October Sky (1999)

Amistad (1997)

Mandela was arrested in 1962 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour. In 1963, when many fellow leaders of the ANC and the Umkhonto we Sizwe were arrested, Mandela was brought to stand trial with them for plotting to overthrow the government by violence. On June 12, 1964, eight of the accused, including Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

During his years in prison, Nelson Mandela's reputation grew steadily. He was widely accepted as the most significant black leader in South Africa and became a potent symbol of resistance as the anti-apartheid movement gathered strength. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom.

Nelson Mandela was released on February 11, 1990. After his release, he plunged himself wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier. In 1991, Mandela was elected President of the ANC.



I live with *Responsibility*

I will be accountable for my actions, be reliable and keep my commitments.



*"You must take responsibility. You cannot
change the circumstances, the seasons, or
the wind, but you can change yourself."*

~Jim Rohn

Character In Action in High School

WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY?

We are accountable for all our actions. We follow through on our commitments. Responsibility is when you do what you say you're going to do, you keep your promises and you're accountable for your own actions.

A CANADIAN ROLE MODEL OF RESPONSIBILITY

David Suzuki is recognized as a world leader in sustainable ecology, and is someone who devotes himself wholeheartedly to educating the public about the importance of the natural world and the need to protect it. He is an acclaimed geneticist, environmentalist, the host of public television's *The Nature of Things*, the founder and chair of the David Suzuki Foundation, and the author of more than forty books, including *The Sacred Balance*, *Tree*, *Good News for a Change*, and the new *David Suzuki: The Autobiography*. David Suzuki is fulfilling his responsibility by promoting the world's responsibility to the earth over the airwaves and in the classroom. He is using his celebrity status for good.



Journal Prompts:

- * Do you consider yourself to be a responsible person? Why/ in what ways?
- * Do you consider it important for your friends and family members to be responsible? Why?
- * Think about somebody you know who is very responsible. How does that person demonstrate responsibility? Does that make you respect him/her more?
- * It's been said that "There are no rights without responsibility, and there is no responsibility without rights. " What does that mean? Do you agree? What is the relationship between rights and responsibilities?
- * What does being responsible have to do with the quality of your character?
- * What are the benefits of being a responsible person? How do you benefit from the responsibility of others?

Writing Assignments:

- * What responsibilities do you believe you personally have for: 1) yourself, 2) your family, 3) your community, 4) the world?
- * Think of an instance when you were impressed by the way a teenager took responsibility for something. Write a news story (or letter to the editor) about this person.
- * Write a letter to someone in the news who did something that you think was irresponsible. Be specific about why you don't think it was right and why you think this action sets a bad example.
- * Write an essay about the relationship between your age and level of responsibility. How do responsibilities differ for people your age and for older adults? How has your sense of responsibility changed as you have gotten older? At what age should we become totally responsible and accountable for our actions?

Student Activities:

- * Have your students visit this website <www.goodcharacter.com> and click on "[Opportunities for Action](#)." There they will find opportunities to become involved in activities and issues relating to personal and social responsibility.
- * Divide the class into small groups. Have each group develop a list of do's and don'ts for being a responsible person. (Have them make oral reports to the class addressing the following questions: What happens when people live in accordance with these guidelines. What happens when they don't. In what ways does irresponsible behaviour affect our community and society? In what ways can/do young people demonstrate personal responsibility?)



MOVIES:

- * A Bronx's Tale
- * Spiderman
- * Babel

NOVELS/PLAYS:

- * To Kill a Mockingbird
- * Harry Potter: Philosopher's Stone
- * Cowboy's Don't Cry
- * Romeo and Juliet
- * Crabbe
- * Me and Luke
- * Lord of the Flies
- * Of Mice and Men
- * The Face on the Milk Carton
- * The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime
- * The Wave
- * Jurassic Park
- * Frankenstein
- * A Streetcar Named Desire
- * The Tempest

SHORT STORIES:

- * *Story of Icarus and Daedalus*
- * *"The Dutiful Daughter"* by Victor Kadonaga (*the Road Ahead*)

POETRY/SONGS:

- * *"Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening"* by Robert Frost
- * *"My Guilt"* by Agnes Copithorne (Elements of English 10)
- * *"The Responsibility"* by Peter Appleton (Contexts, Anthology 3)

INFORMATIONAL TEXT:

- * "Canada Joins in Boycott of Moscow Olympics" (News Article, Contexts, Anthology 3)