

## Character Education Activities: 3-5

### Writing Prompts

**Responsibility** is being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties. Write about a responsibility that you take very seriously and how you have carried this out in your life. Do you believe you are responsible for others? Why or why not? Do you believe it is your responsibility to be a good example for others? Why or why not?

**Respect** includes showing high regard for other people and yourself. When you respect yourself and others, usually you will be respected. Have you ever done anything disrespectful? How did this make you feel about yourself? In what way(s) could you have handled this situation differently?

**Courage** is having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd. Describe a time in your life when it took real courage to stand up for your beliefs and why you were able to have courage to do this.

**Kindness** is being considerate, courteous, helpful and understanding of others. It is showing that you care about others. Write about a time that you were not kind to another and how it made you feel. How could you have handled this situation differently?

**Self-Discipline** is demonstrating hard work and a commitment to purpose. It is the ability to THINK before you ACT. Do you feel that your ability to be in control has increased as you have gotten older? What does it mean to you to have self-discipline? Give some examples.

**Integrity** includes telling the truth and not being deceitful. Write about a time that someone lied to you and you found out about it. How did it make you feel? How did it make the other person feel? Were you able to find a way to trust this person after this experience? Why or why not?

**Perseverance** is not giving up, no matter how hard the task. Write about some of the goals you have for yourself and how you are going to achieve them. What will you need to do? What plans do you have to make?

**Good Judgment** involves thinking about your actions and making wise decisions. Write about a time that you didn't use good judgment and how it made you feel. Were there consequences? Did your actions affect someone else?

- Make a character jar and place it in a prominent place in the classroom. Inside the jar, place slips of paper that **each** contain one character trait, a quotation, a character dilemma, etc. Have a child draw out one of the slips from the jar at the beginning or the end of each day and discuss.
- Have students get into small groups and discuss who is their favorite athlete. Have students tell why they like this person and what they admire about this person.
- Have students talk about their heroes. Find books about heroes for students to read.
- Teach students how to write thank-you notes. Use small note cards for their final copy and have them send.
- Have students role-play the eight character traits. Provide them with scenarios to act out.
- Find something students can do around the school to "help out." This might be a whole class, small group, or individual activity.
- Have students draw, write, or act out what it means to be a good friend.
- As a class, make a list on posterboard of 20 reasons it is good to be different. Post in the classroom.
- Have students make at least 6 coupons to give to others that list how they can help each person.
- Discuss teasing: What is it? How does it feel? What can we do to avoid teasing?
- Work with students on how to compliment each other on things they do well. Be a role model for the children in this area. Have the students practice complimenting school staff members, e.g., the cafeteria staff, administrative staff, specialists, etc.
- Read stories, newspaper articles, or magazine articles about helping others. Ask students if they think kids can help adults. How? When do you know if someone needs help? Do you think you could get along without anyone's help? Why?

#### Recommended Resources:

**Jump Starters**, Linda Nason McElherne, Free Spirit Publishing

**What do You Stand For? For Kids**, Barbara A. Lewis, Free Spirit Publishing

Free Spirit Publishing, [www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com)