



Hero Traits

Heroes:

Heroes are people who care about each other and support each other just as friends do every day. This activity encourages students to recognize themselves and their friends as Heroes.

Objective:

Students will be able to identify and spell grade-appropriate words that describe a Hero by consulting references. Students will be able to match word appropriately with a classmate.

Materials:

Brown paper bags, slips of paper, writing supplies.

Steps:

- Discuss: What makes your friends or classmates special? What does it mean to be a good friend?
- Have students brainstorm a list of characteristics and positive traits that their friends have. Students should give examples of specific actions.
- Next, have students list adjectives that describe a good friend or everyday Hero.
- Invite students to add to the list by using synonyms. Students may use a dictionary, vocabulary book, thesaurus, or the Internet for help.
- Give each student a brown paper bag. On the outside of the bag, ask students to draw a picture of one way they personally help others. Create your own paper bag, too.
- Give each student several slips of paper.
- Explain to students that they will be filling each classmate's bag with positive feedback. For example, "Riley is a good listener." "Hunter sat with me at lunch when I was a new student." "Destiny always helps me with my homework."
- Have students sit in a circle; you should join students in the circle. Facilitate the activity by having students pass their bag to their right. Students should write down a characteristic, word, trait, or comment or draw a picture about their peers' description of how they help others. Alternatively, they may write a positive memory about the student.

- Have the students pass their bags again, and again until everyone receives their own paper bag back filled with slips of paper about them and the way they help people.
- Allow students time to read and reflect on all the positive traits they have.

Personal Reflection:

- What does it feel like to be recognized as a good friend or everyday Hero?
- What Hero quality do you want to develop?
- Can everyone be a Hero? Explain.

Group Reflection:

Can everyone be a Hero? Explain why or why not.

Extended Learning:

Create a Heroes dictionary using the word list that the class created to describe a good friend or Hero. Have each student pick a word. Students will write the definition, pick an illustration, and use the word in a sentence. Compile entries into a class book.

Option: Have students make multimedia pages and compile entries to create an iBook. Download iBooks Author free from the Mac App Store.

Notes:
