

RESPECT - Showing care and consideration; respect for life, for property, for parents, for elders, for nature, and for the beliefs and rights of others. Courtesy, politeness and manners. Self-respect and the avoidance of self-criticism.

#### FOR THE PARENTS:

Respect is attitude and action - of honoring people and caring about their rights, showing courtesy by treating one another with respect, speaking to others with honor, respecting others belongings, speaking to and acting with dignity toward others. We can respect an idea, a person, a belief or concept, and a place.

Sue Bender in her book "Plain and Simple" referred to the virtue of respect by comparing it to the Amish nine-patch quilt where each patch represented a different aspect of the virtue. The nine patches (thus the nine aspects of respect) were listed as follows: Patch #1 - respect the process and value the product in all work; Patch #2 - respect time and all the achievements of each moment; Patch #3 - respect the ordinary, in the ordinary is stability; Patch #4 - respect home, as place and solice; Patch #5 - respect community and encompass the greater brotherhood of alliances; Patch #6 - respect life as art; see art in the simple objects; Patch #7 - respect life's limits as freedoms; Patch #8 - respect contrasts and diversity; Patch #9 - respect choice.

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The book we read in class to illustrate RESPECT was Train to Somewhere by Eve Bunting. This book is about an orphan train that traveled west from the 1850's to the 1920's. Children would be presented to potential families at each stop along the way in hopes that they would be adopted.

Train to Somewhere illustrates respect for children and their need to be part of a family, for adoptive families and their desire to have a child, for "the system" and the guardian entrusted with the care of these children.

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List some ways young people can show respect for older people. Make a "respect chart". Using the left hand column heading "WHO", list the categories of people and things that deserve respect. In the right hand column "HOW", identify how respect can be shown for that person or thing listed.

#### SUGGESTED READINGS:

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky - Susan Jeffers

Kids Who Make a Difference - Joyce M. Roche

The Big Book For Our Planet - Ann Durell

#### RESPECT QUOTE:

"I am respectful. I treat others as I would like to be treated."

DIGNITY - worthiness, high repute, honor, nobility, stateliness, pride.

Dignity and dignified behavior may be viewed as action dictated by living according to a code of highest ideals: one's behavior translates that code into action. We often think of dignified acts or dignified behavior as being lofty and ancient. History provides many examples during the Middle Ages and Medieval time periods when Lords, Kings and Knights ruled. They ruled their kingdoms based on their high ideals and noble beliefs. Dignified action takes into account the good of the whole. How does this action benefit or hurt the majority?

One of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln, lived by honor and dignity. His tireless and often unpopular battles to abolish slavery were out of consideration for the greater whole. He was a historic hero, as are many soldiers, firefighters, and doctors today who put themselves in harms way to protect all of us.

Ideals such as dignity and honor are formed by experience and example. We as parents, educators and community leaders set the stage for modeling behaviors for the growing children we impact. We can help our children choose character-building virtues by setting standards that support and encourage excellence.

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We read Annie and the Old One by Miska Miles. It is a Navajo Indian tale about a young girl who believes that her grandmother's woven Navajo rug holds the fate for her grandmother.

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#### SUGGESTED READINGS:

Airmail to the Moon

Grandpa Comes to Stay

Historical biographies such as:

Abraham Lincoln pertaining to his fight to free slaves

Joan of Arc and her crusade

#### DIGNITY QUOTE:

"Dignity is not finery. Dignity is character under pressure."

REVERENCE - show deep respect or love for  
Shows a certain sensitivity or appreciation for

Reverence is often associated with an appreciation for something of high esteem. To revere something means to show a deep respect for it. People who are religious would say that they revere the church they attend or the god they worship. People who study nature might say that they revere the beauty witnessed in wilderness areas. People who study medicine might say they revere the dedication of their field to the ministering of illness. People who study the written word might revere the prose of an author or a manuscript.

To revere something is to show it a special and deeply respected place. Depending on the interests of an individual, what they revere would be different than another person. To revere something is to appreciate how that thing makes a difference for you.

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The book we read in class was Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. It is the story of Wilson Bentley who lived in Vermont in the mid to late 1800's. He had a great appreciation and reverence for the unique beauty of the frozen snowflake. He took to photographing thousands of individual snowflakes to permanently record their unmatched beauty and uniqueness.

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What are some things in your life that you love and revere?  
What about them are special or important to you?

#### SUGGESTED READINGS:

The Hatmaker's Sign

The Butter Battle Book

#### REVERENCE QUOTE:

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart." Helen Keller

**WORTH** - value or merit: deserving, equal in value to, value, importance, goodness, virtue

**FOR THE PARENTS:**

When we think of worth several things may come to mind.

**Worthwhile** - Is something worthy of our time and attention? Do we place a value on the continuation of an activity, a relationship, an alliance?

**Value** - Does the activity or whatever have value for us? Do we place value on a pursuit, a goal, or a job?

**Merit** - Does the activity merit our attention and continued focus? For example, does pursuing a goal, such as Eagle Scout, merit our time and effort?

These questions only we can answer for ourselves. We must review an activity based on the worth, value and merit of that pursuit or activity.

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The book we read to correspond with the concept of worth was Leola and the Honeybears by Melodye Benson Rosales. The book is an African-American retelling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The book retells the story but brings to light the issues of respect for property, and the value of treasured possessions.

Leola, like Goldilocks, enters the Honeybears forest cottage. She wanders about and helps herself to baked treats, chocolate-covered pinenuts, comfortable furniture, and beds for napping.

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Share with your students what constitutes a worthwhile goal. How can we help a child determine what has worth and value? Pursuing something of worth and value takes guidance and understanding. We, as adults, can help a child frame what to think about when evaluating a worthwhile activity.

**SUGGESTED READINGS:**

The Full Belly Bowl

**HONOR** - High regard, good reputation, adherence to principles, recognition, honesty, integrity, morality.

Being a person of honor has to do with right and wrong. To know the difference between right and wrong and to always try to do what is right is the honorable thing to do.

There are many challenges we face both as parents and children. In many ways we are encouraged to "do the right thing" by what society dictates as acceptable. How do we face situations when the rules are fuzzy or not well articulated or when the eye of society will not view what we do? This presents us with a dilemma - what is honorable? What is right? This is where we need to fashion our own way and that of our families by having a secure base. Families are the models and parents are the vital keys to honorable lesson-building.

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The book we read in class was Barefoot: Escape on the Underground Railroad by Pamela Duncan Edwards. This is a book about the Underground Railroad, a network of courageous people who helped pass runaways from one "safe house" to another northward to freedom. There were many signals used to show a runaway that it was safe to approach a house: special songs, a lantern shining from a particular window, and often a quilt hung over a porch rail or a clothesline.

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#### SUGGESTED READINGS:

Everybody Cooks Rice

How My Parents Learned to Eat

Working Cotton

Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky

The Greedy Shopkeeper by Irene Mirkovic

George Washington and the Cherry Tree

#### HONOR QUOTE:

"Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest." Mark Twain

VALUE - Importance, desirability, utility, to think of highly

There is little else in life as rewarding, comforting or satisfying as a true friend or a cultivated friendship. Friendship is something to be valued. Value of a friend, for example, would require a shared commonality - a comfortable "agreement" of shared interests.

Value in tradition is also a foundation for many, either in terms of heritage, history, family or religion. We can look back on the chosen words for this year - Respect, Worth, Dignity, Honor, Reverence. They all have a common basis in value - something that we feel is important. For each of us that picture is different, but equally important. We each need to identify our direction and place value in that path.

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The book we read for Value was Mrs Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco. It is a story about an African-American boy, Larnel, and his neighbor Mrs. Katz. They begin to share a friendship after Mrs. Katz adopts an abandoned kitten found by Larnel. They find a common bond in their respective pasts and eventually become good friends.

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How can a good friendship be valued and nurtured?

Can you list some things that a good friend would not do?

If you have a conflict with a friend, what are some things you could do to resolve it?

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

Ed and Fred

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Why Frog and Snake Never Play Together - African Folk Tale

VALUE QUOTE:

"You need to value friendship in order to have valuable friendships."