Six Pillars Illustrated Poster Lesson Plan

Overview:

Students will learn which behaviors are incorporated in the values of the Pillars of Character. They will explore these behaviors through art and/or language tasks.

This lesson plan can be adapted to any age group. Decide which poster you want to work with, or assign posters to different groups of students. There are six in all. Depending on the abilities of your group, assign either art or language tasks. Both are outlined below.

Objectives:

• Understand the values of the Six Pillars of Character.
• Learn what behaviors are represented by the six values.
• Discover the strength of poetry and art in conveying ideas.
• Create poetry and/or artwork that communicate the values and behaviors of the Pillars.

Materials:

• Copies of the Six Pillars illustrated posters (available in the online store)
• Paper and pens suitable for poster creation or poetry writing
• Information about the Six Pillars of Character (available at: www.CharacterCounts.org)
• Dictionaries or thesauruses, or access to online references for each group or student

Procedure:

1. Ask the students to brainstorm positive character behaviors. Write them on the board.

2. After about five minutes, begin to categorize the behaviors under each of the Six Pillars of Character -- trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Include at least ten behaviors for each Pillar. Check online to make sure the behaviors are correctly aligned. (Visit www.charactercounts.org for reference.)

3. Explain to the class that instead of writing a classroom agreement aligned with the behaviors they have selected, they are going to use art and/or poetry to convey a message about behaviors that are expected in their classroom. Show them the Six Pillar Illustrated Posters.

4. Discuss the poetry and art in each poster. Examine the language and illustrations and ask the students how each word and image helps them remember the good behaviors that fall under each Pillar. Ask them to identify the character traits and explore the meanings of the words, using dictionaries and/or thesauruses if necessary.

5. Divide the class according to which activity and Pillar you want each group to work on. Distribute appropriate materials and ask students to create either a poem or a poster that helps them remember the behaviors associated with the Six Pillars of Character. Display the finished art and have a poetry slam.
## Six Pillar Poster Image Key

### TRUSTWORTHINESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Career Ladder" /></td>
<td>career ladder (being trustworthy in business)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Trust Walk" /></td>
<td>trust walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Trust Fall" /></td>
<td>trust fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Abraham Lincoln" /></td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Golden Key" /></td>
<td>golden key (being trusted as an adult)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Lighthouse" /></td>
<td>lighthouse (a trusted beacon in the dark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Red House" /></td>
<td>red house (“safe as houses”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Watch" /></td>
<td>watch (keeping appointments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Safe" /></td>
<td>safe (trustworthy with money)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Camel" /></td>
<td>camel (from the Character Carousel of animals, this is Shinrai)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Star" /></td>
<td>star (shape of trustworthiness on poster)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="String" /></td>
<td>string tied around finger (being trusted to remember important things)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESPECT

- books (respect for learning)
- thumbs-up (friendly interactions)
- bowing (sign of respect in some cultures)
- Martin Luther King Jr (respect for diversity and civil rights)
- peace sign (peaceful relationships with others)
- lion (from the Character Carousel of Animals, Austus)
- respect (core value)
- kids brushing their teeth (following a good example by their elders)
- medal (respect for our troops)
- salute (respect for authority)
- globe (respect for all cultures)
- thank-you note (good manners)
- ear (listening is key to respect)
RESPONSIBILITY

- dog being fed (responsibility to look after animals)
- Benjamin Franklin
- track and field (responsible in sports)
- responsibility (key value)
- light switch (responsible use of energy)
- car at road sign (responsible for safe traffic practices)
- signature (taking personal responsibility for our actions)
- putting trash in can (responsibilities to clean up after ourselves)
- pin board (managing our responsibilities)
- dog with bone (self-control)
- planner (being organized)
- savings bank (financially responsible)
- guard (responsible for other people)
## FAIRNESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Symbolism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="arrows.png" alt="arrows" /></td>
<td>arrows (give and take)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="fair.png" alt="fair" /></td>
<td>fair (core value)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="clouds.png" alt="clouds on head" /></td>
<td>clouds on head (open mind)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="sandwich.png" alt="sandwich in half" /></td>
<td>sandwich in half (sharing equally),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="handshake.png" alt="handshake" /></td>
<td>Handshake (honoring your word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="orange.png" alt="orange" /></td>
<td>orange (the symbol and color of the Fairness Pillar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="blindfolded.png" alt="blindfolded head" /></td>
<td>blindfolded head (not judging others unfairly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="pie.png" alt="pie" /></td>
<td>pie (divided into equal parts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="gifts.png" alt="giving gifts" /></td>
<td>giving gifts (sharing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="scales.png" alt="scales of justice" /></td>
<td>scales of justice (being just)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="giraffe.png" alt="giraffe" /></td>
<td>giraffe (from the Character Carousel of animals, Guisto)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="friends.png" alt="friends" /></td>
<td>friends (good friends play fairly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="milkshake.png" alt="milkshake with two straws" /></td>
<td>milkshake with two straws (sharing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="tape_measure.png" alt="tape measure" /></td>
<td>tape measure (objective fairness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="daisies.png" alt="daisies" /></td>
<td>daisies (same number of petals on each flower)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CARING

right-side-up box (being careful with property)

hearts (a sign of love)

gift (generosity)

watering a tree (caring for plants)

kangaroo (from the Character Carousel of animals, Karina)

flowers and envelope (gift of flowers and cards)

hands reaching out (give a helping hand)

care (core value)

reprimanding (being gentle with our words)

mother and child (caring for children)

Mother Teresa

seed (caring for plants)

cat and person (caring for animals)
CITIZENSHIP

referee (following rules)

pledge of allegiance

U.N. flag (global citizenship)

liberty bell
(key part of the history of the U.S.)

volunteer T-shirt (volunteering)

recycle arrows

helping an elder across the road
(be a good neighbor)

the White House (symbol of democracy)

citizen (core value)

Ghandi

planting a tree
(caring for the environment)

ballot box and paper

bear (from the Character Carousel of animals, Kupa)