

Reading for Respect: Understanding Character Actions

Materials Needed:

- Short story or book chapter featuring clear examples of respectful/disrespectful interactions (Choose one appropriate for the student's reading level).
- Notebook or paper
- Pen or pencil
- Optional: Colored pencils or markers
- Optional: Chart paper or whiteboard

Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction: What is Respect? (10 minutes)

Begin with a brief discussion. Ask the student:

- What does the word 'respect' mean to you?
- Can you think of a time you showed respect to someone?
- Can you think of a time someone showed respect to you? How did it feel?
- Why is showing respect important?

Write down the student's definition or key ideas about respect on paper or a whiteboard.

2. Shared Reading (20-25 minutes)

Read the chosen short story or chapter together. You can take turns reading paragraphs or pages aloud.

As you read, pause occasionally to ask guiding questions:

- How is this character treating the other character right now?
- What words or actions show respect (or disrespect)?
- How do you think the character being treated feels? Why?
- What might happen next because of this action?

Encourage the student to jot down examples of respectful and disrespectful behavior they notice in their notebook.

3. Discussion: Analyzing Respect in the Text (15 minutes)

After reading, discuss the story more deeply:

- Who showed respect in the story? How did they show it? (Refer back to the text for evidence).
- Who showed disrespect? How? What were the consequences of their actions?
- Did any characters change how they treated others? Why?
- What do you think the author wants us to learn about respect from this story?
- How does respect (or the lack of it) affect the relationships between the characters?

4. Activity: Respect Scenario or 'Recipe for Respect' (15-20 minutes)

Choose one activity:

- **Respect Scenario:** Ask the student to write a short paragraph describing a situation where someone has a choice to be respectful or disrespectful. Then, have them write two different endings: one showing the character choosing respect and the positive outcome, and one showing the character choosing disrespect and the negative outcome. They can illustrate their scenarios if they wish.
- **Recipe for Respect:** Ask the student to create a 'Recipe for Respect'. They should list 'ingredients' (e.g., listening, kindness, understanding, patience) and 'instructions' (e.g., 'Mix listening with patience,' 'Sprinkle kindness liberally,' 'Avoid adding judgmental words'). They can write this out and decorate it.

5. Wrap-up and Reflection (5 minutes)

Review the student's activity (Scenario or Recipe). Ask:

- What is the most important ingredient in your Recipe for Respect, or the most important choice in your scenario? Why?
- How can we practice showing more respect in our daily lives, based on what we read and discussed?
- Revisit the initial definition of respect. Ask if the student wants to add anything based on the lesson.

Differentiation/Extension:

- **Support:** Provide a graphic organizer (like a T-chart) for listing respectful/disrespectful actions during reading. Pre-teach challenging vocabulary from the text. Focus discussion on more obvious examples.
- **Challenge:** Ask the student to compare and contrast how two different characters show respect. Have them analyze the author's techniques for showing respect (dialogue, actions, internal thoughts). Assign a longer text or a more complex story.