

Honesty Lesson

The Empty Pot

Introduction:

When students choose to steal, cheat, or lie, they must accept the negative consequences of their dishonest behaviors.

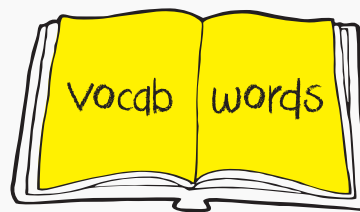


Essential
Question:

How do we show
honesty in school
and at home?



materials



vocab words

The Empty Pot by Demi

Plastic cups

Story Sheet

betray

cheat

honesty

Note to teachers:

The Connect with Kids video “Honesty” shows older children doing dishonest things. Preview the video to see if it is appropriate for your group. If not, you can choose to only do the pre-viewing game before the activity and adapt the discussion questions to the experience without showing the video. The lesson stands alone and can be done without having seen the video.

Pre-viewing:

The following can be asked/done before watching video.

- Say: Let’s play a game called, “The Honesty Game.” I will tell you a scenario (a short story about something that could actually happen), and you tell me how to be honest.
- Give any of the following scenarios and discuss the students’ advice for being honest in each situation:
 - I accidentally break a picture frame on my mom’s table.
 - My grandmother asks who ate the last cookie; I did.
 - I don’t know the answer to a question, but my friend next to me does.
- Let’s watch a video (or read a story if not watching the video) about being honest.

Discussion Questions:

The following can be asked/done after watching the video.

- Azia's mother says he is almost always an honest, good kid. What do you think made him do something so dishonest?
- Why do you think it will take time for Azia to earn back his mother's trust?
- Why do you think some students cheat or steal or lie?
- What should be the consequences if a student cheats or steals or lies in school?
- Is it ever acceptable to be dishonest? Why or why not?

Notes:

Procedure:

Introduction:

- Introduce the book The Empty Pot by Demi. Ask students what they notice about the illustration on the cover.
- Ask students to predict what will happen in the story based on the title and the illustration on the cover.

Direct Instruction (I do):

- Picture walk through the story first, pointing out interesting details, describing facial expressions, etc.
- Read the story, pausing to ask clarifying questions. Be sure most of your questions begin with “Why...” and “How...”

Guided Exploration (We do):

- Ask the students to stand up and find a personal space in the room. Give each child a cup, and tell them they are going to use their bodies to pose – to make a statue – as if they are one of the children in the picture where all the children are bringing their plants to the emperor. The cup will be their pot with the big, blooming flower.
- Tell the students you will tap them on the shoulder and ask them questions about their plants. Some questions might include: What do you have in your hand? What does your flower look like? How did you grow your plant?
- Ask students if they are being honest.
- Why would the children in the story about their plants?

Procedure Continued:

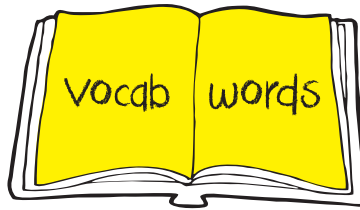
Independent Practice (You do):

- Now tell them to pretend the cup is the empty pot and they are Ping carrying the pot to the emperor. The teacher will be the emperor.
- The children should think how to be honest and tell the truth to the emperor about the empty pot.
- The emperor walks around the group and asks each Ping why s/he has an empty pot.
- Each child says his/her speech.
- After visiting each child, congratulate them on telling the truth and tell them how proud you are of each of them because sometimes telling the truth is not easy.
- Give everyone applause for their portrayals of Ping and for choosing to be honest.

Conclusion:

Ask: Is it always easy to be honest and tell the truth? Why or why not?
How do we show honesty at home and at school?

Vocabulary & Definitions



betray (v.) Definition: to hurt a friend or relative by not giving help or by doing something wrong

Context: Vanessa felt Ezra had betrayed their friendship when he chose to join the other team even though they had been mean to him before.

cheat (v.) Definition: to break a rule or a law to gain advantage or win something

Context: “You cheated!” Siggy shouted at his sister when he saw her move her game piece ahead when Mom wasn’t looking.

honesty (n.) Definition: the act of telling the truth; the quality of being what you appear to be so that you say what you think, show what you feel, etc.; fairness and straightforwardness of conduct

Context: Howard’s honesty led his classmates to elect him class treasurer.