

CHARACTER COUNTS

Focus of this Lesson

- Character Traits
- Drawing Conclusions
- Connect Experiences

Connecting With Your Students

- Show the fiction book to your class and share with your students why you chose to read this particular book today. Talk about the different reasons why you read books (i.e., for enjoyment, to find information, to learn something new). Also discuss how you select which books to read.
- Ask your students how they decide to which books to read. [Record the ideas your students suggest and create a poster with their answers. You can title this poster “How to Select a Good Book” and keep it displayed in the classroom.]
- Read the story out loud to your students.
- After reading, ask your students whom this story was about. Together, come up with some important traits that would describe this character. (e.g., respectful, polite, giving, thoughtful, kind, playful, smart, talented, etc) As character traits are suggested, create a list so that students can read back through their words and refer to it at a later time.
- From the list you generated together, ask your students to select the trait that best describes the character. Print that trait in the circle then discuss what it means.
- Finally, think of examples where you would see this trait exhibited. Have students describe the situations in each of the four squares. As they explain how this trait was or could be demonstrated, print their words inside each square. Encourage your students to describe what would happen in each situation and what people would do to demonstrate this particular character trait.

Fiction
Activity 8

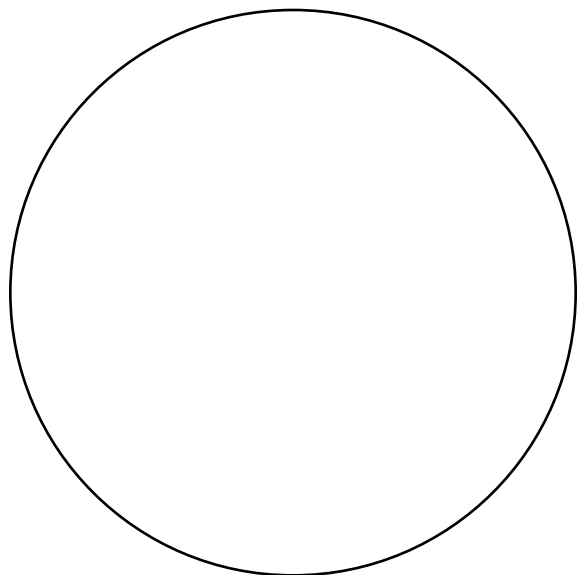
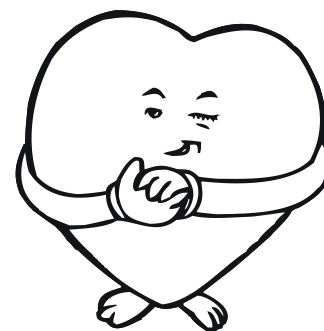
Once you believe your students understand the concepts of drawing conclusions and making connections, they will be able to use these strategies independently. If some students continue to struggle, work with them as a group and **slowly release** the students to engage in independent monitoring.

Practice Time (small group, teacher-student, independent reading)

- Allow students to pick their own fiction book.
- After the book has been read, ask them to select a word that describes the main character.
- As you write this word inside the circle, discuss what this word means.
- Ask your students to give examples of where and how you would see this character trait displayed. Record their explanation.
- If students prefer to draw pictures of their situations, allow them that opportunity. They can draw in the box or on a separate piece of paper.
- After students have had the opportunity to create their own Character Counts scenarios, come back together as a large group and discuss the different describing words each student used. Add any new words to your original list of character traits.

**MODIFY
AS
NEEDED**

Character Counts



Write an important character trait in the circle.

Then explain what your word means.

Give examples of where you would see this character trait.

in your book

at your house

at school

at the playground