

Becoming Courageous

Notice: Lesson 6a

Gifts

Objective:

1. To introduce the concept of *Gifts* (meaning a talent or aptitude that you share with others)
2. To encourage students to explore their own gifts.

Rationale:

1. The word “gifts” is used to describe talents and aptitudes because it encourages students to focus less on themselves and focus more on how they can use their talents and aptitudes to give to others.
2. When a child’s gifts are recognized, it not only encourages the child to use that gift, it also encourages them to discover other gifts they possess and to look for the gifts of others.

Alignment to the British Columbia Core Competencies:

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity: Personal Strengths and Abilities:

1. I can identify my individual characteristics
2. I can describe/express my attributes, characteristics, and skills
3. I can reflect on my strengths
4. I understand I will continue to develop new abilities and strengths to help me meet new challenges

Supporting Literature:

1. [The Path to Discovering Your Talents and Passions](#) with Sir Ken Robinson

Materials and Resources:

1. Courage Journals. Exercise books, or any type of book or journal. Courage Journals are used to reflect on the content of the day’s lesson. Each child should have their own.
2. Smartboard, or projector and speakers (to show videos in the lesson)
3. Books: *Ruby the Copycat* by Peggy Rathman
Ish by Peter H Reynolds

Lesson (approx. 1 hour)

Becoming Courageous

Introduction:

1. As the teacher, share with the students something that you are good at, and how you share this skill/aptitude with others. For example, you are kind and you share that with others by being kind and caring about other people. It can also be a skill, like sewing. You can share this with others by sewing something for them or by teaching them how to sew. These things that we can do well are called “gifts” because we can share them with others.
2. Go around the circle and have student share a gift they have with others. After they name the skill, ask them why it is a gift. You can help them if they can't think of a reason. Allow the students to pass on the first round, and then go back to them after everyone has shared. If they still can't think of a gift, ask another student to volunteer to name a gift they have noticed in that person. (really important to choose carefully, because some students will be sarcastic, and this will really hijack the lesson)

Main Activity:

1. Introduce “Ruby the Copycat”. Ask the students if they have ever been copied, and if they have ever copied someone. Is copying bad? What about when we are learning something, like art?
2. After reading the book, have a conversation about why Emily was frustrated that Ruby kept copying her. Has anyone ever felt that way? Why do people not like to be copied?
3. Turn the focus back to Ruby. What is the gift that Ruby gave to the class?

Reflective Activity:

In the Courage Journal write a list of 5 (or so) gifts that you have. Make sure to explain what makes it a gift. (that you can share it with others).

Students will then choose their favourite gift, and offer it to the class. Have students make a “gift card” (looks like a business card, see template below. Students add their name and the gift they are offering to the class) advertising their gift and hang them together in a place in the classroom where the other students can refer to them. Encourage students to look at the cards and consult their classmates about the topics covered in the “gift cards” For example, if a student has put down math as their gift, other students can go to this student and ask for help with their math.

Becoming Courageous

Extensions: Students can make multiple “gift cards” and offer their services to fellow classmates on a variety of topics.

Story Books: *ish* by Peter Reynolds. Main idea: things don't have to be perfect to be beautiful

Creative Activity: Fingerprint Writing. Students think of their gifts and write about them in a fingerprint template. These can be made more beautiful by using pencil crayons for the writing or by adding little drawings to the fingerprint. Lesson plan and templates can be downloaded by clicking on the “creative activity” button.

Materials:

- Fingerprint Templates
- Pencil crayons

Examples (scroll to next page)

Becoming Courageous



Becoming Courageous

my gift is

my gift is