

Character Tree

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



The Character Tree: (Social Skills/Self-Acceptance)

Instead of always focusing on his limitations, this tree did everything possible to make himself happy and to be kind and helpful to others. Because of this, he was liked and admired by the birds and is used by them as the example of, "Having Character".

Character Tree Lesson Plan

A. Main Focus:

We frequent hear discussions around the concept of “Character” and how important it is for our success and happiness. But how can anyone really define “Character”?

B. The Main Concepts:

Our story of “The Character Tree” is an effort to help children understand the meaning of “Character” and its importance. There seems to be a lack of value placed on “Character” in our modern society.

Our “Tree” in the story has the accidental and some would say unfortunate fate of beginning life as a seed dropped on a barren mountain top. Unlike those trees of the valley, to which our Character Tree belonged, it would have a more difficult life. Despite its difficulties, the “Little Mountain Tree” worked very hard to provide fruit and comfort for the birds that fly over its mountain. It was his willingness to be helpful and his friendliness that seemed to impress others and what made him special.

The qualities that are illustrated in this story will frequently go unnoticed in our busy lives. We are quick to praise a good grade, an athletic accomplishment, an attractive appearance. But we often overlook the thoughtful comment, the kind word, the “turning the other cheek”, not realizing that those are the more important skills, attributes and qualities.

C. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

D. Listen to the Flip Book Story

E. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story

How did the one little nut end up on the rocky mountain? A Crow decided to take the nut to the rocks and drop it so that it would crack open and he could eat it.

Did this plan work? No, the nut did not crack open when it hit the rocks and the Crow lost it in the rocks.

Why was the little nut lost in the rocks so sad? Because he feared he would never be able to grow into a big beautiful tree since he was stuck there on the dry and rocky mountain.

But eventually, what happened to the little nut? He eventually did start to grow but was growing very, very slowly.

This now little mountain tree was again sad. Why was he sad now? Because he could tell that growing so slowly meant that he would never be like the trees in the valley.

Then one day what happened that started to cheer the little mountain tree up? A crow landed in his branches and told him how happy he was to have the lone mountain tree that he could rest in safely.

What happened the following year? The next year this same crow came back and brought along some friends to also take a rest in this little mountain tree.

What was it about the tree that impressed the birds? The tree's willingness to be helpful and his friendliness to all of the birds.

What did the valley trees think about this little mountain tree? They were jealous of how much the birds seemed to like the mountain tree and felt that they were better because they were bigger and had more fruits to offer.

The birds knew that the mountain tree had to work harder to provide them with shade and with fruit to eat, but the little tree never complained and was always happy to see them.

The birds commented that he has overcome many difficulties and limitations. That he was welcoming and generous even with strangers, and that he was a good example of character for all of us.

The lesson of this story is that we should never let any of our challenges or limitations limit us. That we should not be jealous or mean to others who have things easier or seem to be luckier. And that we should work to be kind and generous to others without expecting anything in return.

These were the qualities that made the little mountain tree so liked and so popular and these are the ways that the birds knew he had good character.

