

LEARNING FOR LIFE

UPLIFTING STUDENTS · BUILDING CHARACTER · DEFINING LEADERSHIP

THEME: ACCEPTING CONSEQUENCES

COURAGE

GRADES: 4th and 5th

Core Curricula: *Supplements language arts and social studies*

Focus: *Self-esteem and Self-confidence*

Overview: Frequently, people will complain, blame, and credit others with what happened to them, rather than accepting the consequences of their actions. The purpose of this lesson is to show students how to be responsible and accountable for what happens to them.

Goals: Students will learn what it means to be responsible and accountable for their choices and what happens as a result.

LESSON PLAN:

Activity 1: Explain these terms to the students:

- *Accountable, consequences, responsible, victim.*

Discuss the following with the students:

- Name some ways that we are responsible.
- Name some responsibilities that you have each day.
- What are the consequences if you do not take care of these responsibilities?

How can we be victims? (If we allow others to make decisions for us, particularly unhealthy decisions; if we are not responsible for our own actions; if we are unwilling to accept the consequences of our decisions/choices.)

Discuss these concepts with the students until you feel that they understand them.

Activity 2: Read the following dilemma to the class and then complete the discussion questions

Jessica and Cedric had been playing all afternoon with the hardball *in* the alley. Mrs. Draper yelled out the window at them. The ball bounced on her windowsill. She told them to get out of the alley and play in the park across the street before they broke a window. The kids kept on playing. They

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chose to remain in the alley. Harry, an older boy, showed up and roughed them up a little bit. Cedric threw the ball pretty hard. He wanted to hit Harry. Instead, the ball hit Mrs. Draper's window. It broke. Harry ran. The kids were caught red-handed.

Cedric yelled over and over “that big kid did it”. “it wasn’t my fault”, Jessica yelled, it was Harry’s!

Mrs. Draper was angry -” I told you this would happen”.

Ask students:

1. **What happened?**
2. **What choices were available to Jessica and Cedric?**
3. **What happened after they made their choice?**
4. **What consequences occurred?**
5. **Who is responsible?**
6. **Are Jessica and Cedric being victims?**

Activity 3-Write the following situations on the board:

1. Your mother told you to be careful with your new coat. You loaned it to your friend, who lost it.
2. You got a new bicycle for your birthday. You left it outside overnight, and someone stole it.
3. Your teacher has collected money. She put it in a drawer until she could take it to the office. She left the room for a few minutes and you saw one of your classmates take the money. The classmate offered you some money so you wouldn’t tell.

Give the students writing paper. Explain that they are to pick one of these situations and write what choices are now available; what the consequences of those choices are; who is responsible; if there are any victims, and if so, who and why; how you can be responsible for your choices; and how you create positive consequences.

Reflection: Tell students: In order for us not to become victims, we must learn to make our own positive, healthy decisions. We must also learn to accept the consequences of the decisions or choices we make.

Ask students: *Who is affected by the choices you make? How many people other than yourself are affected by your choices? Is it possible that others have to accept the consequences for your actions regardless of their involvement? Can you think of some examples? Is that fair to them?*