

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL SKILL: SELF-MOTIVATION

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: *The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*

Author: Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls

Publisher and date of publication: Schwartz and Wade Books, an imprint of Random House, 2015

ISBN: 978-0-449-81744-5

Number of pages: 30

Reading level: 2-4

Interest level: K-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This is the true story of Emmanuel, a boy from Ghana who could only use one leg. After his father left his family, his mother told him that he could have anything but he would have to get it by himself. With this knowledge, he learned how to do many different things. He even hopped two miles each way to get to school. At first kids did not want to play with him, but when he showed that he could play soccer using old crutches, he earned their respect. He also learned to ride a bike. When his mother got sick, he was determined to earn money so he took a bus into the city to find work. After being told by many to go out and beg, someone finally offered him a job and a place to live. His mother eventually died and he wanted to honor her wish for him to never give up. He wrote to a foundation in California who then sent Emmanuel bike gear. Emmanuel trained hard and with the blessing of the king, a taxi with water, a camera, and his friends, Emmanuel rode his bike around Ghana, 400 miles in ten days. On the journey, Emmanuel talked with people from all walks of life, including those with and without physical challenges. Able bodied people ran along with him and people with disabilities came outside, some for the first time. The young man once thought of as cursed was becoming a national hero.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will learn that even when they have setbacks, if they work hard, they can achieve their goals. Setting a goal, and then working hard, even when it is difficult, will allow them to achieve their dreams.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials:

- paper with shirt on it
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc
- Scissors

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Ghana: Country in Africa

Doubt: Not believing in something

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Tell the students that this book is a true story that takes place in Ghana. Show the students the cover and ask them what they notice. Talk about what might be difficult to do if you only had one working leg.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Emmanuel did not become a famous bicyclist overnight. What kind of habits did he start when he was younger?

Throughout the book, who did Emmanuel rely on for support? Who can you rely on to support you as you work towards your goals?

Some of the people in the book did not believe in Emmanuel and assumed he was a beggar. What can you say to the people who doubt you?

What did Emmanuel have to do to achieve his goals?

POST READING ACTIVITY

In the book, Emmanuel wears a shirt with the colors of the Ghana flag and “the disabled person” written across the chest.

K-1: Have students cut out a “shirt” **from the template** and decorate it with pictures of things they are trying to do: ABCs, math symbols, making friends, sports, etc. Have them color it with red, white, and blue.

2-6: Have students write across the chest a word that makes them different, but that they are learning to be proud of. If they can’t think of anything, have them write a word/phrase that represents what they are trying to do. Have them color it with red, white, and blue.

Alternative: If the student is from another country and feels comfortable with it, have them color it with their country’s colors and share the flag with their classmates.

CLOSURE

“Even though Emmanuel had a physical disability and many people who did not believe in him, Emmanuel was able to achieve his goal of riding around Ghana to show that people with disabilities can keep up with people who don’t have disabilities. By working hard, relying on people we trust, and not letting doubt get in the way, it is possible to achieve our goals. I challenge you to think of a goal you want to work on and I will check in with you this week to see how it is going.”



“In this world, we are not perfect.
We can only do our best.”
- Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah