

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Created by: Robyn Orr

BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: Freedom on the Menu

Author: Carole Boston Weatherford

Publisher and date of publication: Dial Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 0-8037-2860-3

Number of pages: 29

Reading level or interest level: 2-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The narrator, Connie, explains that she is not allowed to sit at the white counter or use facilities made for white people. Her aunt once used a drinking fountain that was labeled "white" and a man scolded her for it and would not use it. One day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited and Connie's brother and sister joined the NAACP. Connie then observed that African Americans were sitting at the lunch counters and a manager came back with a policeman to get the protestors out of the store. She finds out that it was not to get food but to be treated fairly. Her brother and sister decide to join the protest, which is happening around the south. Connie's sister gets arrested but refuses to leave jail. When she finally gets out, Connie begs her sister to stop protesting but her sister says she cannot stop. Later that summer, Connie went back to the lunch counter and her family and other African Americans were allowed to eat there. The waitress looked nervous but smiled at her.

This book could be used to help students develop respect for others, especially people who may not look like them or seem different than them. By understanding the hardship that comes through exclusion, students can understand that respecting others makes life easier on others.

This book would be especially relevant to read while students are learning about the Civil Rights period.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal for this lesson is for students to understand that they should treat others the way they want to be treated. They should understand that developing respect for others, especially people who do not look or seem like them, is important for getting along.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

K-2 Materials

- Game money for each child
- Enough candy for each child to buy
- A sign that says, "July through December birthdays only"

3-6 Materials:

- Markers for each student
- Poster board for each student
- Game money for each child
- Enough candy for each child to buy
- A sign that says, "July through December birthdays only"

Advance preparation

- K-2: Decide ahead of time what students will be in each group of six

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Segregation: The separation or isolation of a race by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted areas.

Discrimination: Treatment against a person based on the group that they belong to, rather than merit.

NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that was found to fight prejudice, lynching, and segregation

Protest: An expression of disapproval, often in opposition to something a person is powerless to avoid

Sit-it: A form of protest in which demonstrators occupy a place, refusing to leave until their demands are met

Lunch counter a small restaurant where a person sits on a stool and the server is on the other side. These were common in department stores

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Hand out a fake dollar bill (game money) to each child. Explain that you have candy to sell for a dollar at your desk and you just happen to take fake money. Explain however, that you will only sell it to students who were born during July to December. The rest of the students have to just wait and watch.

After exchanging the money, ask the students who could buy the candy what they were thinking and feeling. Ask the students who could not buy what they were feeling. Explain that after the Civil War, African Americans were not allowed to do many of the same things as white people, including eating food at the lunch counters. Explain that all people wanted and could buy the food, but the law would not allow it. Ask the students if that was fair? How was it disrespectful to African Americans? Explain that the book is about a girl who is watching this law change.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the students if the girl eating the banana split and Connie were being treated the same? How did that feel for Connie?

Show the class the picture of the man watching Connie's great-aunt drink out of the white water fountain? Did he show respect? What could he have done differently? The mom says that some rules have to be broken. What kind of rules is she talking about? What kind of rules should we keep and should we break?

Show the class the picture of the old white lady. Ask them how she showed respect to African Americans? What can we learn from her? Show the class the picture of Connie eating the banana split and reread the part about the waitress. Ask the class how she showed respect? Explain that sometimes we may have to learn that people deserve respect when before we had been taught they did not. Explain that by showing respect we start feeling that love and respect and we want to respect more.

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Divide students into groups of six. Five in each group are four-legged animals and one is the snake. Have students role play this situation: five animals want to play firemen but the teams are uneven. The snake approaches but no one wants him on their team because he has no arms or legs to climb up the ladder. Ask students to act it out in their groups while you monitor the classroom. Explain to the class that the group should let the snake play since the snake has unique abilities. Ask the class to role play it again, this time letting the snake play. After the role plays, reinforce correct behavior, identify prejudicial attitudes and reenact role play with corrections. Without behaving in a negative way or making issues of the difference, emphasize that everyone is unique

3-6: Ask students to come up with a slogan to help promote respect at your school or community. Ask the students to think of a way that they can better show respect to others, and then decorate a poster with that slogan and decorations that support it. Ask the students to share what they made.

CLOSURE

Ask the students born from January to June to come to your desk and buy a candy. Explain that just as you could not change the disrespect that you had given, you could start showing respect right now. Ask the class to practicing showing respect to everybody, especially those that they may have previously disrespected.

“Leave everybody a bit better than you found them.”

- Anonymous

