

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: SELF-CONFIDENCE

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: Roberto Clemente

Author: Jonah Winter

Illustrator: Raul Colon

Publisher and date of publication: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2005

Number of pages: 31

ISBN: 978-0-689-85643

Reading or interest level: 2-4

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This is the story of Roberto Clemente who grew up in Puerto Rico very poor and practiced baseball with all kinds of objects. He eventually joined the MLB on the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates. He played so well and with so much style that kids looked up to him. Eventually he led the Pirates to win the World Series. While reporters were racist towards him, when he went back to Puerto Rico, he played baseball with kids. He led the Pirates again in the next year's World Series and no reporter could deny that he was an incredible baseball player. The next year, during the last game of the season, Roberto hit his 3000th ball and people cheered for him for minutes. And the game was stalled. At the end of the season he prepared to go back to Puerto Rico to help victims of earthquakes. The plane took off and then crashed in the ocean. Even though Roberto died, his spirit lives on in the kids who play baseball and in the charities he created for the poor in Puerto Rico.

The book could be used to help students understand that they can use their strengths to achieve their dreams and help others. Students can understand that when they have a strength they can be confident in that strength despite what others may say.

This book could be useful in lessons that discuss racism or in math lessons about division (batting averages).

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to recognize their strengths. They can understand that they can feel confident in that strength even if others doubt them and that they can use their strength to benefit others.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

K-2 Materials

- A bunch of bottle caps
- A ruler
- A piece of construction paper for each child
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons for each child

3-6 Materials

- A bunch of bottle caps
- A ruler
- A cup
- A softball
- A baseball

3-6 Advance preparation:

- Write the following questions on the board
 - o What is one of your strengths?
 - o How can you face opposition with this strength? How can you help others with this strength?

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Racism: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior

Legacy: Anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask a child to throw bottle caps to you like a baseball while you try to hit the caps with a ruler. Do this a few times and then ask the class why it would be hard to play baseball this way. Ask them, what if it was a bat hitting the bottle caps, how much easier would it be? What if you discovered you were really good at playing this way. Would you feel motivated to keep trying and try hitting other things until you had a ball? Explain to the class that this book is about someone who was so poor he could not buy a baseball. But he knew that he was talented so he kept trying.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the class why they think Roberto kept trying even when he did not have a baseball. Ask them what they think it took for him to get to the MLB? Ask the class what kinds of things they think they have strengths in? What kind of work do they have to put in to become even better?

Ask the class what kind of opposition he faced? Ask them what may have helped him face it? Ask them what helps them face opposition? Explain that when we are proud of our strengths, we can handle people looking down on us.

Ask the class what it would feel like to work so hard against so much opposition and achieve your dream? Ask the class what it means that Robert's spirit lives on. Ask them what kind of legacy they would want to leave that reflects their strengths?

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Ask to divide the paper in half. On one half, the students should draw a picture of themselves doing something they are good at. On the other half, they should draw a picture of themselves using that ability to help others. Ask the students to share.

3-6: On the board have the following questions listed: What is one of your strengths? How can you face opposition with this strength? How can you help others with this strength?

Have the students get into a circle. Start by having the students pass around a bottle cap, then, when you feel it is appropriate, pass around a cup, then a softball, and eventually a baseball (or a ball about the size of a baseball). When the object is passed to them, the student should choose one of the questions to answer. They then pass the object to the next person who answers one of the questions and so on. If a child gets passed to twice, they should answer one of the questions that they did not choose before.

CLOSURE

Remind students that they have many different strengths and that the harder they work on them, the more they will achieve. Explain that others may doubt us or be against us, but we can still have confidence in ourselves. We can use our strengths to benefit others. Ask the students to think about their strengths this week and use them to feel more confident and to help others.



"Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do."
- Dr. Benjamin Spock