

Character For Life For Teachers

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From The Author

The majority of teachers choose the field of Education because they believe they can make a difference in the lives of our youth. Teachers know that they will help shape the thinking, careers and the character of those who will one day become the leaders and citizens of our communities, society and our Country or even our free world. No matter what kind of educational preparation one undergoes to become an educator, nothing prepares that individual for the classroom like the classroom itself. After my many years of being party to a smorgasbord of classroom management and instructional training workshops, I believe that having a model, a visual to follow in the form of storytelling will help parents and teachers, and especially new teachers, better execute effective classroom instructional models. This colorful, eye catching, easyto-read Character For Life Teaching tool offers mental and visual models and strategies that demonstrate effective classroom management strategies. For most of us learning best takes place when it can be personalized and delivered in a lighthearted, relevant, and vet practical manner.

This book is ideal for all teachers, but especially teachers who are new to the classroom. Anyone new to teaching more than anyone else will benefit from these classroom management models. With parents and everyday ordinary citizens assuming the role of teacher or mentor as well, this book is designed to help with classroom management and teaching strategies. No matter who you are, if you employ these teaching models, you will be a more effective teacher and mentor.

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This Book Embraces and Promotes:

- An Intense Focus on Student Achievement
 High Performing and Dedicated Teams
- Safe Learning and Working Environments

• Efficient Operations

Make It About the Students

Mr. Robinson wanted to take his students on a field trip to one of his favorite local parks. But after discussing it with them, he decided that they would benefit more from visiting the newly constructed Science Center they suggested.

Establish a Good Rapport

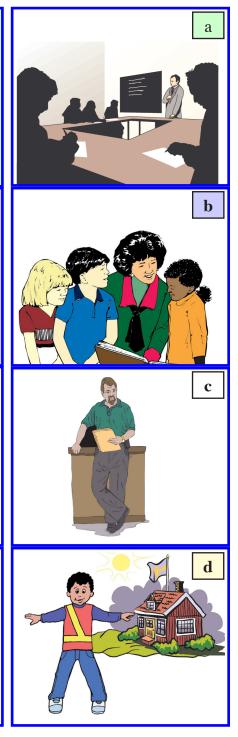
At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Jones devised a project that helped her know, understand, and establish a great teacher student relationship. The project also taught students how to communicate and work well with one another.

Know Your Students

Mr. Adams listens carefully and pays close attention to everything his students do and say. He realizes that the more he knows about each one, the better he can serve them. He has a way of learning a great deal about his students without them realizing it.

Safe Learning Environment

Center Street School is a very safe school because teachers record all incidents between students as well as staff. They often make the records available to the Safe Team and the Dean of Students. They often review and practice drills and effective classroom safety procedures.



Teach The Way They Learn

Mrs. Whitedove tried teaching a history lesson from a boring book. Far too many students were not interested. So, the next day she brought in some related visuals so the students could see, touch, and handle them. Students found history much easier to relate to.

Encourage Open Discussions

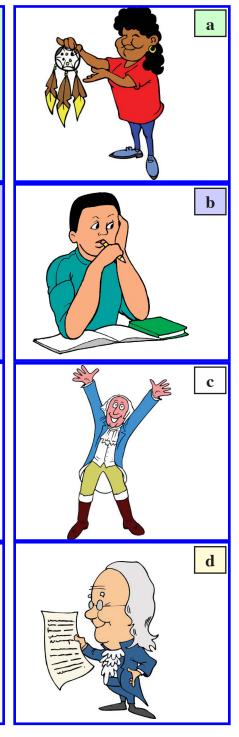
Ralph's teacher required students to turn in a weekly notebook with a subject-related quote for the week. The students were asked to stand, share their quote, and explain it leading to class discussions.

Boost Student Confidence

Whenever a student answered a question or had something to share during a discussion, Mr. Franklin got excited. He had a way of making every student feel like whatever they said or contributed was important.

Establish Ground Rules Early

When students arrived for class on their first day, Mr. Briggs gave them code of conduct handouts to begin his orientation. The handouts always included class rules, expectations, a syllabus and calendar. Mr. Briggs's students understood early their responsibilities for the year.



A Positive Atmosphere

When students walked into Mr. Hawkins's classroom, they saw inspirational quotes on every wall. They also saw a list of things that would earn them extra points. He was always cheerful and upbeat with a smile on his face. Students called him the happy teacher.

Make Assignments Clear

Ms. Harper would clearly explain all of her assignments to her students. But she noticed that far too many of them were not clear on her assignments. She decided to provide samples, do demos, and give written instructions. Then she would explain the lesson again.

Make Learning Fun

Mr. Adams realized that class time went by much faster and was much more exciting when students enjoyed their class time. So he came up with several ideas that would keep students guessing and wondering about what he would do next.

Show Your Human Side

Mr. Bradford was careful to share with his students some of his life challenges and victories. He thought it was important for students to realize that he experienced many of the same life challenges they faced. He believed this would encourage and strengthen his teacher student relationship.



Model Acceptable Behavior

Mrs. Wong followed all school rules. She was always on time, treated coworkers and students fairly, and was also very caring and giving. She was an excellent teacher and employee. She expected and encouraged her students to always be and do their best as well.

Make Teaching Personal

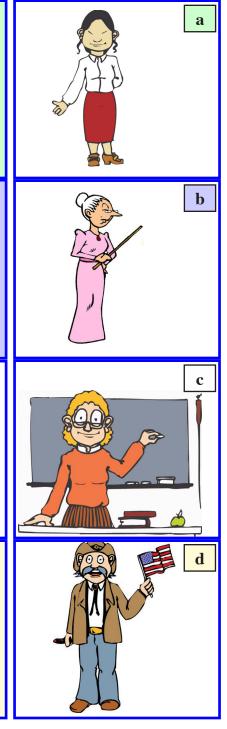
Mrs. Thomas often thought about her own experiences in the classroom when she was a child. She planned and taught her lessons based on what she remembered about her own school days. She thought about what worked best for her, and what might have worked even better.

Make Repetition Perpetual

Whenever Mrs. Rosewood taught a lesson, she taught it at least 2 to 3 different ways. She shared short stories, used object lessons, everyday life experiences, and used classroom teachable moments. She found ways to reinforce lessons throughout the class period.

Ask Probing Questions

When Mr. Hoover wanted to make sure his students understood the lessons he taught, he knew how to ask the right probing questions. He asked questions that made them think, that reinforced what he taught, and provoked them to problem solve.



Teach Them to Think

Students in Mr. Eastland's class were always challenged by him to think more. His Motto was, "When you think you've thought all you can think, think some more."

Mr. Eastland never answered questions without having students ponder the possibilities themselves.

Be a Good Listener

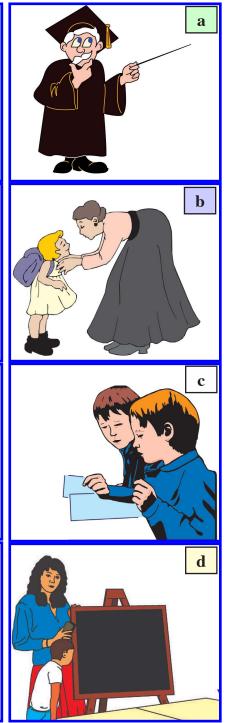
When Mrs. Ford's students spoke to her, she stopped everything she was doing and looked them in the eye. When they had concerns or questions, she didn't want to miss a word they said. Because she was a good listener, it helped her realize questions students were not asking.

Let Students Teach Students

A student asked a classmate why Mr. Lovett asked other students to help teach? The student told him that Mr. Lovett knows that sometimes students relate better one to another, and it reinforces the learning for both students and teaches teamwork and leadership skills.

Vary Your Teaching Style

Mrs. Taylor plans her lessons and projects so that students experience visual, tactile/kinesthetic and auditory learning. She knew her students had different learning habits and styles. She is good at preparing lessons based on the individual needs of her classroom.



Make Teaching Continual

When students had questions, made mistakes, did something right, or wrong, Mr. Smith turned it into a teachable moment. He believed in teaching not only his program subject matter, but he took every opportunity to teach daily, simple, practical life lessons as well.

Be Inspiring

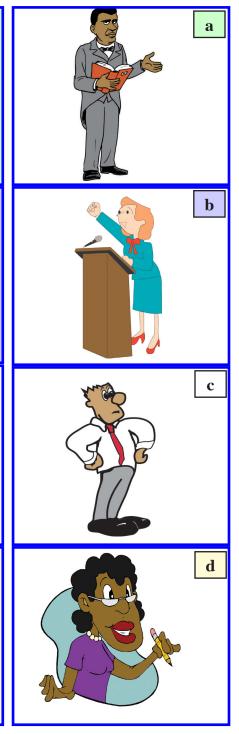
Mrs. Albright started each morning with one of her motivational short stories or quotes. The students looked forward to hearing them each day. They shared in the excitement that was obvious whenever Mrs. Albright explained the moral or life lesson in each.

Teach by Wandering Around

Mr. Tims found that opportunities to help students learn was greater when he moved throughout the classroom. It worked out better for the students because rather than raising their hands or calling out to him, they knew he was already there or headed in their direction.

Respect Your Students

Students felt good about Mrs. Riley. She often addressed them as Mr. or Ms. and asked them to help develop class projects and lessons. Mrs. Riley treated all student suggestions and ideas as if they were as important as her own.



Be Consistent

Mrs. Brown enforced the same class rules and had the same expectations every day. Students knew that if she said yes or no regarding an issue today, she would respond the same way the next day. They knew exactly what to expect from her because she practiced consistency each and every day.

Make Teaching Relevant

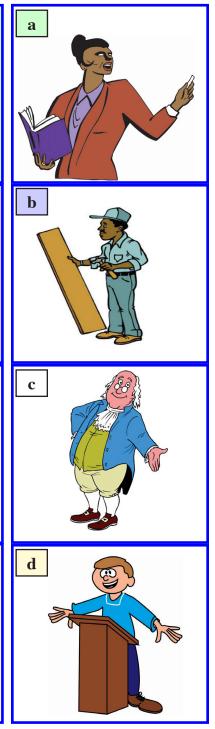
Mr. Rogers often dressed in costumes when he taught about a particular profession. When he talked about carpentry, he dressed like a carpenter and if he taught about doctors he dressed like a doctor. It made students more interested, engaged and helped create more excitement about the subject.

Personalize Teaching

Mr. Washington realized that all of his students were different each having their own goals. So he customized lessons, training and expectations for each one. He knew that if he did not do all that was within his power to help students learn, he would end the day with questions about his commitment.

Empower Your Students

Mrs. Simon asked Jerry to demonstrate to the rest of the class something new he had learned. All of her students were allowed to go to the front of the classwhenever they felt they had learned something interesting and helpful to share with the rest of their classmates.



Encourage Creativity

Mr. Right is always looking for ways to encourage creativity. He comes up with thinking projects and brain exercises that provoke imagination.He keeps a closet full of interesting things he picked up that he thought would help spark creativity.

Encourage Risk Taking

Mr. Anderson wanted his students to be ok with making mistakes, so he often shared mistakes he made with his class. He thought that if the students knew he made mistakes without feeling like a failure, they would be willing to try more, take risks and ask more questions.

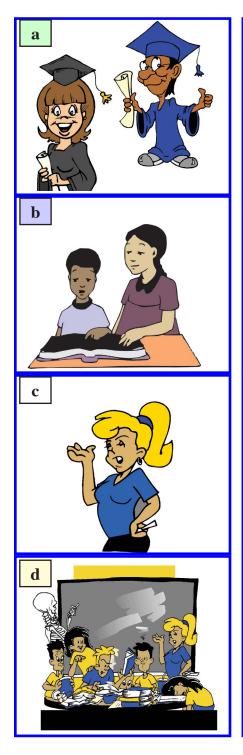
Make Learning Interesting

To make learning more exciting the teacher asked students to come up with ideas that would make class time fun and motivating. They used role play, music, and games to add flare to the lessons, activities and assignments. then she developed lessons to include their ideas.

Manage Disciple Problems

Mr. Carson set classroom ground rules early at the beginning of the year. He explained to all of his students what his expectations were and that if they had any special challenges they should make him aware of them. He realized that the longer he waited to set standards, the more difficult it becomes.





Never Stop Learning

Mr. James and Ms. White often signed up for workshops and extra classes. They realized that the needs of students were all so different. Anything new that they could learn would be helpful for their students.

Never Stop Caring

Ms. Melody is a new teacher and everyone can tell by the way she interacts with her students. She cares for and wants the very best for each of them. Students know how much she cares by the way she speaks, works with and treats them.

Never Stop Trying

When students are hard to manage or are just not doing their best, Mrs. Watson comes up with one strategy after another. She never seems to give up on any of them. She uses several lessons and strategies that she has borrowed, developed, and learned from workshops.

Never Stop Rewarding

Mr. Coleman finds it easy to motivate his students. He looks for any number of ways and reasons to reward them. He has a "Good Student Award" he gives twice a month along with other incentives to encourage them to do and be their best.

Always Be Present

While working with students many teachers are faced daily with distractions. Their minds are on day-to-day challenges, but not Mrs. Simpson. She knows how to manage distractions and focus on the needs of her students when she is in class.

Always Be Fair

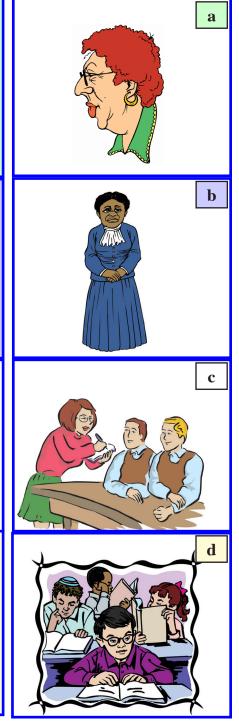
Students had only good things to say about Ms. Tubman. Students knew she would treat all of them fairly and respectfully. When they deserved a pat on the back for something good, she praised them. When they earned a grade, she gave it to them.

Always Be Honest

Sarah was a new teacher right out of college. She often made mistakes, but always admitted them and never tried to hide them from her students. Instead, she used her mistakes as object lessons and teachable moments.

Always Be Perceptive

Students were very careful to follow all of Mr. Jones instructions. They knew that Mr. Jones was always paying attention to what they were saying and doing. Mr. Jones knew he had to give the impression that he was paying attention to everyone even when he could not.



Maintain a Great Attitude

Sam Bell sees the positive side of almost everything. He never complains or appears to be upset. He is pleasant and easy to get along with, which makes it easy for students, co-workers and Administrators to say yes to him when he has a request.

Be Organized

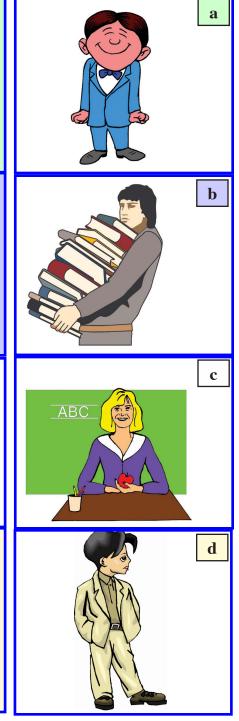
Mr. Butler filed and kept everything in its proper place. Being organized made it easy for him to meet deadlines, make meetings, and keep up with paperwork. He never had to worry about being frustrated because of not being able to find something he needed.

Be Patient

Students in Ms. Olson's class often needed extra time answering questions and turning in assignments. Several of them had special needs. She had a reputation for giving a reasonable amount of time for students who needed it.

Be Dependable

As a teacher, Paul Williams knows how much his students and the Administration count on him to be at school every day and on time. He has not been absent or late in over 20 years.



Be Approachable

In her Graphic Communications program students are always made to feel safe and at ease. Mrs. Rodriguez's calming personality makes it easy for students to feel good about her and the classroom.

Be an Effective Communicator

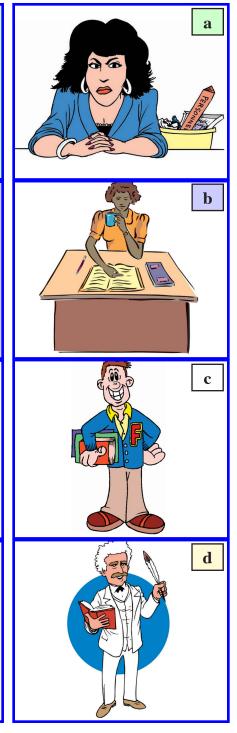
Rosa White used every teaching method she could think of in order to explain a lesson to her students. She once tore yellow pages from the phone book to make a point.

Exercise Self-Control

Unlike some teachers at the UFN School, Mr. James never lost his cool no matter what happened in his classroom, Mr. James never lost his temper, got loud, used distasteful language, or mistreated his students.

Always Be Helpful

Students and co-workers of Wess High School knows that Mr. Einstein is always available to his students. They do well in his class because he is always present to answer questions and give additional instructional support during class.

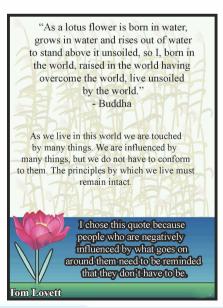


Teach your students to think by using quotes.

Have them create their own inspirational self-motivating 12 page quote booklet. Each page should consist of three components.

- 1. The quote they chose
- 2. What the quote means to them
- 3. Why they chose that quote

See Sample quote page below



Fold three eight and one half $(81/2 \times 11)$ sheets of paper in half for a 12 page booklet. Add one additional folded sheet for the cover and back page.

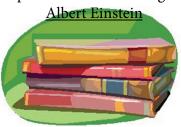
1.) "Treat students as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming." <u>Goethe</u>

2.) "Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three." Confucius

- 3.) "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." <u>William Butler Yeats</u>
- 4.) "The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist." <u>Maria Montessori</u>

5.) "It is not what is poured into a student that counts but what is planted." <u>Linda Conway</u>

6.) "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."



7.) "The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." <u>Sydney J. Harris</u>

8.) "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." <u>Ralph Waldo Emerson</u>

9.) "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn." John Cotton Dana

10.) "The secret of education lies in respecting the student." Ralph Waldo Emerson

11.) "Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together." <u>Scott Hayden</u>

12.) "[Kids] don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are." Jim Henson



13.) "Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition." <u>Jacques Barzun</u>

14.) "A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron."

Horace Mann

15.) "The great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers rather than to fill it with the accumulation of others."

Tyron Edwards

16.) "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." <u>Benjamin Franklin</u>

17.) "If someone is going down the wrong road, he doesn't need motivation to speed him up. What he needs is education to turn him around."<u>Jim Rohn</u>



18.) "When you study great teachers... you will learn much more from their caring and hard work than from their style." <u>William Glasser</u>

19.) "Teaching is only demonstrating that it is possible. Learning is making it possible for yourself." <u>Paulo Coelho</u>

20.) "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." <u>William Arthur Ward</u>

21.) "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow." John Dewey

22.) "People become what habitually in their conscience and subconscience minds or in their hearts they think." <u>Norman V. Peal</u>



23.) "Men do less than they ought, unless they do all that they can." <u>Thomas Carly</u>

24.) "Whether a man thinks he can or thinks he can't, he's right." <u>Henry Ford</u>

25.) "Man becomes what he thinks about all day long." <u>R. W. Emerson</u>

26.) "Men never plan to be failures, they simply never plan to be successful." <u>William A. Ward</u>

27.) "I think and think, for months, for years and ninety nine times the conclusion is false, the hundredth time I am right." <u>Albert Einstein</u>



28.) "Excellence is not an act but a habit. The things you do the most are the things you will do best." <u>Marva Collins</u>

29.) "There's a lot of talk about self-esteem these days. It seems pretty basic to me. If you want to feel proud of yourself, you've got to do something you can be proud of." Osceola McCarty

30.) "The image you have of yourself is important. If you feel like a failure, chances are you'll fail. If you think you'll succeed, you'll be successful." <u>Diana Ross</u>

31.) "Remember, luck is opportunity meeting up with preparation, so you must prepare yourself to be lucky."
<u>Gregory Hines</u>

> 32.) "Conversation enriches the understanding, but solitude is the school of the genius." <u>Edward Gibbon</u>



18

33.) "Persistence and a positive attitude are necessary ingredients for any successful venture."
<u>L. Douglas Wilder</u>

> 34.) "Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." <u>Malcolm X</u>

35.) "Man's greatest gift is his mind. It analyzes, compares, chooses. It creates, visualizes, foresees, and generates ideas." <u>Napoleon Hill</u>

36.) "My move upward, started with great books. There is nothing more gratifying than satisfying the desire to know." <u>Douglas Wilder</u>

37.) "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you too, can become great." Mark Twain



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item# C.I.05T-01

