

TO TELL THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Learning Objective(s): The students will

1. Examine the importance of honesty or truth as a characteristic of good citizenship.
2. Understand the consequences of not being truthful.
3. Express their ideas through the use of graphic organizers, pictures, writing, and verbal communication.

TEKS: SS K.14B, 15A&b, 1.13A&C, 17B, 18A&B, 2.13A&C, 18B&E, 9A&B; LA K.22A, 1.19C, 28A, 2.19C, 19A

Materials: A copy of the “Honesty” attachment for each student in the class, *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire* by Diane deGroat, a large sheet of paper, crayons or markers

Vocabulary: honesty, lie, truth

Teaching Strategy:

1. To introduce the lesson, give each student in the class a copy of the “Honesty” attachment. Explain the directions and give students adequate time to complete the sheet.
2. Lead a discussion concerning the information students recorded on their “Honesty” sheets.
3. Read the class the book *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire* by Diane deGroat. Debrief the story by discussing the following questions:
 - In what ways was Gilbert dishonest?
 - What lessons do you think Gilbert learned from this incident?
 - One of the characteristics of a good citizen is a belief in truth. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest, how would you rate Gilbert in the area of being truthful? Why?
 - Gilbert said, “I cannot tell a lie. I’m starving!” What is a lie? (To say something that is not true.)
 - Why do you think people tell lies?
 - Does telling just one lie make you a liar? How many lies can you tell before you are considered a liar?
 - In the story, Gilbert said, “I cannot tell a lie. Lola is a big copycat!” This remark made his sister cry. Do you think it is ever okay to tell “little white lies” instead of telling the truth? Why or why not? Give examples.

- In the story, Philip almost got in trouble for taking the hat. When Gilbert remained silent, was that the same as telling a lie? Why or why not?
 - How does it make you feel when you are dishonest?
 - How does it make you feel when you are honest?
4. Print the following stem sentence on a large sheet of paper and have students complete it, in graffiti style, using various colors of crayons or markers: “A Good Citizen should be honest and tell the truth because....”

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Tell students that the page about Mrs. Byrd opening the shopping bag containing the hat that Gilbert’s mother brought to school is missing from your *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire* book. Have students write a new ending to the story that teaches children that “it is better to tell the truth than to lie.”

HONESTY

Explain what honesty means to you?

Tell about a time when someone was not honest with you.

Explain how it made you feel.

I felt _____
because _____

Draw for a symbol for
HONESTY.

The most honest person I know
is _____
because _____

Draw for a symbol for
DISHONESTY.

