

Babushka's Doll – Patricia Polacco

CHARACTER TRAITS AND THEMES

GRADES: 1 AND 2

Primary Character Trait:

Respect - Acting in a way that shows that I am valuable, you are valuable and we as a group are valuable”

Secondary Character Trait:

Kindness - Thinking and acting in ways that show you care

OBJECTIVES

The learner will:

- Develop a further understanding of the Character Traits: Respect and Kindness
- Compare and contrast two characters in the story
- Develop an understanding of connecting text-to-self through written responses

GRADE LEVEL CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

First Grade

R.NT.01.05 Respond to individual and multiple texts by finding evidence, discussing, illustrating, and/or writing to reflect, make connections, take a position, and/or show understanding.

R.NT.01.03 Identify problem/solution, sequence of events, and sense of story (beginning, middle, and end).

R.CM.01.01 Make text-to-self and text-to-text connections and comparisons by activating prior knowledge and connecting personal knowledge and experience to ideas in text through oral and written responses.

R.CM.01.03 Compare and contrast relationships among characters, events, and key ideas within and across texts to create a deeper understanding by mapping story elements, graphically representing key ideas and details, and asking questions as they read.

Second Grade

R.NT.02.05 Respond to individual and multiple texts by finding evidence, discussing, illustrating, and/or writing to reflect, make connections, take a position, and/or show understanding.

R.CM.02.01 Make text-to-self and text-to-text connections and comparisons by activating prior knowledge, connecting personal knowledge, experience, and understanding of others to ideas in text through oral and written responses.

R.CM.02.03 Compare and contrast relationships among characters, events, and key ideas within and across texts to create a deeper understanding by mapping story elements, graphically representing key ideas and details, and asking questions as they read.

RESOURCES

Trade Book: ***Babushka's Doll*** by Patricia Polacco

Other Trade Books:

- Polacco, P. (2001). ***The Keeping Quilt*** Aladdin
Polacco, P. (1997). ***Thunder Cake*** Putnam Juvenile
Polacco, P. (1998). ***Chicken Sunday*** Putnam Juvenile

ESTIMATED TIME PARAMETERS

- One day More than one day Mini-unit

INTRODUCTION

Class Meeting – Kindness

(See class meetings – *The Classroom of Choice*)

Start off the class meeting by reading the definition of kindness. **Kindness is thinking and acting in ways that show you care.** Tell the students that you are going to read a story to them about a girl who learns a lesson about being kind to others.

Define:

What does it mean to be kind?

Personalize:

1. Tell about a time when you were kind to someone. How did that feel?
2. Tell about a time when you were unkind to someone. How did you feel afterwards? Did you do anything about that?

Challenge:

1. Should you be kind to people who aren't kind to you?
2. What are some words we use to show kindness?
3. What would our room look like if everyone was kind?

INSTRUCTION

Read aloud the book, ***Babushka's Doll***. As you are reading, stop to discuss how the main character is changing throughout the story.

When finished, ask the students the following questions: *Was the little girl kind to her grandmother in the beginning of the story? Was she kind to her grandmother in the end of the story? What made the little girl treat her grandmother differently? Do you think the little girl will continue to treat others kinder than she did in the past?*

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Make Your Own Doll Activity

Materials: gingerbread man pattern, colored card stock, hole-punch, yarn (cut in 2 feet lengths), crayons, stuffing, scissors

Advanced Preparation – Have two doll cut-outs copied on card stock to pass out to each student. This can be a simple gingerbread man design. **Materials can be listed above.** You will also need

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several pieces of yarn 2 feet in length, scissors, a hole-punch, crayons, and stuffing. (Kel – can you look in Art Explosions and see if you can find a basic doll outline?)

This is a simple activity to go along with the story. When finished, students will have their own dolls to play with.

- Pass out two doll outlines to each student.
- Have students color one outline as the back of the doll, and the other outline as the front of the doll.
- Have students cut out their dolls. When they are finished, go around and hole-punch each doll around the border outline.
- Next, pass out a piece of yarn to each student. Tell the students to place the doll pieces together so the colored side is facing out. Students can thread the yarn through both pieces of cardstock.
- When the students have only 4 holes left, tell them to raise their hands. Go around and fill the center of each doll with stuffing. After the stuffing is in, students can finish sewing their dolls closed.

Compare and Contrast Activity

As a class, compare and contrast the little girl's behavior to the doll's behavior using a Venn diagram. How did they act the same? How were their actions different? Next, discuss as a class what the little girl learned from her experience with the doll. How do the students think the little girl will treat the grandmother in the future?

Respect – Journal Entry

Discuss with the students the definition of respect. Talk about how the little girl in the story not only learned to be kind to her grandmother, but she also learned to be respectful. Ask the students to choose one of the following entries to write about in their journals.

- Tell about the people in your life that you respect. How do you treat them?
- Has there ever been a time when you were disrespectful to someone? What did you do? How did that make you feel?

Guided Writing Activity

Have students create a story about a toy of their own that comes to life. Students may use the dolls that they created as inspiration as well. Have students draw a picture to go along with their stories. When finished, post these stories somewhere in the room.

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

1. Successful completion and understanding of the Venn diagram and the Compare and Contrast activities will assess students' abilities to compare and contrast characters in text.
2. Appropriate answers in the class meeting can serve as an understanding of the character traits of kindness and respect.
3. Appropriate answers in the class meeting as well as the journal entry can serve as an assessment of students' abilities to make connections with the text as a whole.

