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What's A Good Citizen Anyway?



SUMMARY:

Antoine and his mother are in the post office when Antoine notices the pictures of men hanging on the wall. He asks his mother who they are and she tells him that they are men wanted by the FBI. His mother stresses that these men are not good citizens. This leads to a discussion defining citizenship. His mother points out that we are citizens of families, classrooms, communities, states, nations, and the world. She stresses the importance of abiding by the established rules and laws so that our society will be peaceful.



ACTIVITIES:

1. Share the book:

What's a Good Citizen Anyway?

Lead a discussion of the meaning of the word citizen.

According to Webster's Dictionary, a citizen is:

- (a) formerly, a native or inhabitant, especially a freeman or burgess.
- (b) loosely, a native, inhabitant, or denizen of any place.
- (c) a member of a state or nation especially one with a republican form of government, who owes allegiance to it by birth or naturalization and is entitled to full civil rights.

2. Prepare and display this poster:

Citizenship is:

- Having good manners
- Respecting authority
- Using kind words
- Accepting responsibility for your actions
- Doing what you can to make your home, school, and neighborhood a better place.

3. Good Citizen Quilt:

Give each child an 8" by 8" square of paper. Have him/her draw a self-portrait on the paper. On the bottom of the paper, have him/her write a sentence telling what he does that shows he/she is a good citizen. Put the pictures together to make a Good Citizen quilt to display in your classroom or an adjacent hallway.

Good Citizenship Counts

These books were written to help students become more aware of the rights and responsibilities they have as citizens of families, schools, communities, states, countries, and the world. It is my belief that we must teach our children that all people are equal and worthy of their respect. We must teach them that by working together and practicing good citizenship, our world can be a happier, healthier and safer place to live.

How To Use The Program

This program is designed to be used by parents or in a classroom setting. It contains ten individual stories that deal with ten different aspects of citizenship. The stories can easily be read by upper elementary school students or shared orally in the lower elementary grades. Each story is followed by thought provoking questions that can be used by the educators or the parents. Varying activities such as games, story and poem writing, discussions, or music are included for each story in the program.

What's A Good Citizen Anyway?



Being a Good Citizen

Citizen Choices:

Read each sentence. Circle Yes if you think a good citizen would act this way. Circle No if you do not think a good citizen would act this way. Then, on the back of your paper, rewrite each NO statement so that it becomes a YES statement.

1. Bet asked Lib if she could jump rope with her at playtime. Lib said, "No, you miss too much."
Is Lib being a good citizen? Yes No
2. Vicky sees that Billy has no more glue. She says, "Here, Billy, you may use my glue." Is Vicky being a good citizen? Yes No
3. Bobby always has to be first in line. Is he being a good citizen? Yes No
4. Sue's school is voting on new school uniforms. Sue says she does not have time to vote. When the uniforms are chosen, Sue does not like them. She complains. Is she being a good citizen? Yes No
5. Trace borrowed Bailey's airplane and lost it. He apologized and offered to pay for it. Was he being a good citizen? Yes No
6. Mrs. Blake asked Don to take a message to the office for her. Don runs in the hall even though he knows it is against school rules. Is he being a good citizen? Yes No