

The Space Painter

Tolerance, It's in the Air CURRICULUM GUIDE

Dear Educators,

My hope is that the questions and activities that follow will be stepping-stones into your curriculum so that you may tap into the enthusiasm that usually accompanies my visit. If you have any questions either before or after the visit, please call or write: Tom Sparough, 4228 Delaney St., Cincinnati, OH 45223.
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Purpose of the Show

This show is designed to help foster character education. It specifically addresses issues about bullying and offers insights and techniques to positively deal with such behavior.

This Show Teaches These Character-Building Traits:



Respect

Respond

Restrain

Kindness

Truthfulness

Pride

Humility

Courage

Patience

Word Study

Play on Words



How is the title *Tolerance, It's in the Air* a play on words?

It's a play on words because it has a double meaning.

1. The phrase "It's in the Air" means it's everywhere, or very common.
2. This is a juggling show and things are tossed into the air. So the show is "in the air."

The two meanings make the title a play on words.

Tolerance Definition—The acceptance of the differing views of other people, and the act of putting up with something or somebody irritating or otherwise unpleasant, and finally, the **acceptance of people who are different in some way than you.**

The Three Rs of Tolerance—Tolerance really only has one **R**, but the three Rs are often thought to be the most important parts of school. Here are three of the most important parts of the idea of tolerance.

Respect—Respect yourself, and others, respect your property and others' property, and respect ideas that are different than your own.

Respond—Respond to unfair situations. When it comes to bullying, be a person who responds. Do something. Tell a teacher. Tell the bully to stop. Talk to the person who has been bullied and tell them you saw what happened and offer your support.

Restrain—Restrain yourself from joining into things that you know you shouldn't. Try not to be tempted to join your friends when they are doing something that looks fun, or exciting, when it is against the rules. And bullying is always against the rules.

Before the Show

One Person Can Make the Difference—Ask your class how one person can make a difference when it comes to bullying. This is a central topic of the show.

The Heroes of Tolerance

Character Education. This presentation focuses on six virtues that balance each other. They are the qualities present in the heroes of tolerance.

1. Truthful
2. Kind
3. Proud
4. Humble
5. Brave
6. Patient



Discussion questions about the six virtues and balance...

Truthful and Kind

Someone can be truthful, but unkind, wanting to use the truth to embarrass someone else. So, kindness balances truthfulness.

In a similar way someone might want to be kind and so does not tell the truth. But, then that person wouldn't be truthful. The two virtues work together. In the kindest way, we need to tell the truth.

What are some ways we could be kind and still tell the truth?

1. Not be judgmental as we tell the truth. For instance, we don't say things like, "The stupid bum stole the lunch money." We say, "I saw him take the money."
2. Tell the truth to an adult in private, rather than in front of the whole class.
3. Recognize that not every little thing that happens has to be told.

Proud and Humble

When someone is proud of him or herself that is a good thing. But, too much of a good thing is never good. So we need to be humble as well as proud. Otherwise, we are full of ourselves, egotistical, or even conceited.

Why is it good to be both humble and proud?

1. If we are only humble, we might not think that we are capable of doing important work. We must also be proud and try to recognize our capabilities.
2. When we do something good we are right to be proud of ourselves, but we must also recognize that there are other talented people in the world. We do that through our humility.
3. If we are overly proud of ourselves when we make mistakes we have a hard time dealing with them. We blame others because we think we are too good to make mistakes.

Discussion questions about the six virtues continued...

Brave and Patient

It is a good idea to be patient as well as brave, because otherwise we might jump into something at the wrong time. Patience is an ability that allows us to wait for the right moment.

We need to be brave though, otherwise when the right moment comes, we might not act. Then, we miss the opportunity we have been waiting for.

What is an example of being patient and brave?

1. During P.E. you wait your turn to try something that you are brave enough to try, but others might be scared to try.
2. At the cafeteria, someone is eating an unusual food, like a pomegranate. Your friends immediately conclude it must taste terrible, but you are patient and watch the person eat it, then are brave enough to try it yourself.
3. During break someone is playfully picking on someone smaller. You don't go running to the teacher right away. But, when it becomes clear that this situation is no longer playful and that someone is being bullied, you then are brave enough to tell the person to stop, or go and tell the teacher.

History and Civics—A discussion or essay topic

Why does it matter that we be tolerant to people we don't like? And what must we do when people are being intolerant of others?

These questions are rich with historical and current examples. Consider:

Freedom of Speech—Our government grants the right for people to speak their mind even when the majority of people disagree with the content being stated. Why?

World War II—Many wars are fought because one group of people is not tolerant of another group. Allied Forces had to join together to fight globally intolerant behavior.

Ethnic Cleansing—the practice of putting people to death because of their race or religion is a real life example of the horrors of intolerance.

Slavery and Apartheid—These are two well-known forms of intolerance. Much of our Civil War was fought to stop this intolerant behavior.

Columbine High School Shootings—The tragedy at Columbine revolved around kids who felt unaccepted by others and who were in turn ruthlessly intolerant.

English—Practice writing in the *first person* using *dialogue*, while helping your class to better understand bullying and its consequences.



In the presentation there is a true story shared about bullying.

As a writing assignment divide your class in half. Have half write about a time they were bullied, and the other half write about a time they bullied. The pieces can be real or imagined and should be told in the first person. The piece should also include some dialogue.

This is not just a writing exercise. Especially when some of the pieces are read out loud and discussed, this can help boost understanding.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and Web Resources

101 Tools For Tolerance, by the National Campaign for Tolerance, www.Tolerance.org

Starting Small, Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades, by the Teaching Tolerance Project, 1991, Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery.

The Bully, The Bullied, and the Bystander by Barbara Coloroso, 2003, Harper Collins, New York.

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center at:
<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/bullying.asp>

International Bullying Prevention Association at:
<http://www.stopbullyingworld.com>

Tolerance.org at:
<http://www.tolerance.org>