



CHARACTER EDUCATION LESSON PLANS PART I

GRADE: 4-6

Abstract

CYSP Character Education Lesson Plans Part I, offers a robust and engaging approach to teaching core values such as respect, responsibility, kindness, and honesty. It is designed to foster positive character development in students through interactive lesson plans that include class activities, discussions, short stories, and video resources. Each lesson focuses on practical applications of key virtues, encouraging students to reflect on their actions and develop essential life skills like self-discipline, empathy, cooperation, and patience. By combining theoretical learning with hands-on experiences, these lessons aim to cultivate a well-rounded, ethical mindset in students.

Prepared by CYSP Regional Coordinators Team

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Contents

Respect for Others.....	2
Responsibility.....	3
Kindness.....	4
Honesty.....	5
Fairness.....	6
Self-Discipline.....	7
Empathy.....	8
Cooperation.....	9
Gratitude.....	10
Respect for the Environment.....	11
Anti-Bullying.....	12
Respect for Diversity.....	13
Patience.....	14
Listening Skills.....	15

1-Respect for Others

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Introduce the concept of respect and why it's essential for building positive relationships.
- Explain how respecting others' feelings, opinions, and belongings helps create a healthy, cooperative environment in school and in life.

Key Points:

1. Respect is recognizing the worth of others.
2. Everyone deserves to be treated kindly, regardless of differences.
3. Respect builds trust and strong relationships.
4. Listening and understanding are key elements of showing respect.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Respect Scenarios"

- Split the class into small groups and give each group a scenario involving respect (e.g., sharing materials, helping a classmate, dealing with disagreements).
- Each group will act out the scenario, demonstrating respectful and disrespectful actions, and discuss the outcome of both approaches.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" (teaches respect for honesty)

- [The Boy Who Cried Wolf](#)

Story 2: "The Giving Tree" (highlights respect for selflessness and caring for others)

- [The Giving Tree](#)

Video 1:

- [Power of Empathy](#)

Video 2:

- [Kindness](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- What does it mean to respect others in our daily lives?
- Can you think of a time when you were disrespected? How did it make you feel?
- How can we practice respect even when we disagree with someone?
- Why is respect important for a happy classroom and community?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students write about one action they can take this week to show more respect to those around them.
- Volunteers can share their thoughts with the class.

2-Responsibility

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Explain that responsibility is about taking ownership of one's actions and fulfilling obligations, even when it's hard or no one is watching.

Key Points:

1. Responsibility means taking care of your duties.
2. Being responsible helps people trust you.
3. It shows maturity and readiness to handle more freedom.
4. Responsibility involves making good choices for yourself and others.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Responsibility Chart"

- Students create a personal responsibility chart. It includes things they are responsible for at home, at school, and in the community (e.g., completing homework, taking care of pets, helping parents).
- Have a class discussion about why each of these tasks is important and what happens when they're neglected.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Tortoise and the Hare" (demonstrates how responsibility and persistence lead to success)

- [The Tortoise and the Hare](#)

Story 2: "The Little Red Hen" (highlights the importance of responsibility and hard work)

- [The Little Red Hen](#)

Video 1:

- [What Is Responsibility? \(Animated\)](#)

Video 2:

- [Responsibility Spot](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is it important to take responsibility for your own actions?
- What happens when people don't fulfill their responsibilities?
- How does being responsible benefit those around you?
- How can we encourage responsibility in others?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time when they were responsible and how it affected them and others.
- Discuss: How can you be more responsible this week?

3-Kindness

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Define kindness as the act of being friendly, generous, and considerate. Explain how simple acts of kindness can change someone's day.

Key Points:

1. Kindness is contagious—it spreads positivity.
2. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference.
3. Being kind helps build better friendships and communities.
4. Kindness creates a sense of belonging and happiness.


Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Kindness Tree"


- Have a large paper tree on the board. Each student writes one kind act they have done or plan to do on a paper leaf and sticks it to the tree. By the end, the class will have a "Kindness Tree" full of good deeds.
- Discuss how each kind of act helps improve the classroom environment.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Lion and the Mouse" (demonstrates the power of small acts of kindness)

-  The Lion and The Mouse.pdf

Story 2: "The Good Samaritan" (highlights kindness towards strangers)

-  Each Kindness.pdf

Video 1:

- [Random Acts of Kindness \(Short Film\)](#)
-

Discussion (10 minutes):

- How do acts of kindness make you feel?
- Can kindness make a difference in tough situations?
- What are some ways we can practice kindness every day?
- Why is kindness important in our community?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time someone was kind to them. How did it make them feel?
- Share how they can practice kindness more often.

4-Honesty

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Introduce honesty as being truthful in what you say and do. Emphasize how honesty builds trust and credibility with others.

Key Points:

1. Honesty creates trust and respect.
2. Telling the truth may not always be easy but is always the right thing to do.
3. Being honest includes owning up to mistakes.
4. Honesty helps maintain healthy relationships.

Class Activity (10 minutes):


“Truth or Tale”

- In pairs, students take turns telling each other one true statement and one made-up statement about themselves. The partner guesses which is true. Afterward, discuss why telling the truth is important and how dishonesty can affect relationships.


Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "Truthful Adventures in

Sunnyvale" (highlights the consequences of lying)

-  Truthful Adventures In Sunnyvale

Story 2: "Pinocchio" (focuses on the importance of truth and the consequences of lying)

-  Explorers for Pinocchio.pdf

Video 1:

- [Honesty is the Best Policy - Short Film](#)

Video 2:

- [Being Honest](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is it important to be honest?
- Can you think of a time when being honest was difficult but the right choice?
- How do you feel when someone lies to you?
- What are the consequences of dishonesty?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students write about a time they were honest, even when it was hard. How did it make them feel afterward?
- Volunteers can share their thoughts.

5-Fairness

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Discuss fairness as treating others equally and making decisions that are just and unbiased. Explain how fairness helps build a sense of justice and equality.

Key Points:

1. Fairness means treating everyone equally.
2. Being fair requires considering other people's feelings and rights.
3. Fairness promotes justice and cooperation.
4. Fair play is essential in sports, games, and life.


Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Fair Play"


- Organize a quick game (e.g., tag, relay race) with different rules for different players (e.g., some players get more turns). After the game, discuss how unfair rules affected the game and participants' feelings. Link this to the importance of fairness in daily life.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Golden Rule" (teaches treating others as you would want to be treated)

-  The Golden Rule .pdf

Story 2: "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" (highlights wisdom and fairness)

-  The Pied Piper of Hamelin.pdf

Video 1:

- [What is Fairness?](#)

Video 2:

- [Short Film: The Fairness](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is fairness important in our relationships?
- How do you feel when you are treated unfairly?
- How can we ensure fairness in everyday situations like games or group work?
- What are the consequences when fairness is ignored?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time when they were treated unfairly. How did it make them feel, and how was the situation resolved?
- Volunteers can share their experiences.

6-Self-Discipline

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Define self-discipline as the ability to control one's feelings and actions, especially in challenging situations. Explain how self-discipline helps in achieving goals and avoiding impulsive decisions.

Key Points:

1. Self-discipline helps in achieving long-term goals.
2. It involves controlling emotions and actions.
3. Self-discipline makes it easier to make responsible decisions.
4. Practice and patience are necessary to develop self-discipline.


Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Self-Control Challenge"


- Give students a task that requires patience, such as a small puzzle or waiting their turn for a reward. Discuss how self-discipline helps them focus and accomplish goals without getting frustrated or giving up.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Ant and the Grasshopper" (illustrates the value of hard work and self-discipline)

-  The Ants and the Grasshopper.pdf

Story 2: "Fish and Rice" (teaches the importance of delayed gratification and self-control)

-  Fish and Rice.pdf

Video 1:

- [Self Control: Teaching Students About Their Greatest Inner Strength](#)

Video 2:

- [Self-Discipline for Kids](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is self-discipline important in achieving goals?
- Can you think of a time when self-discipline helped you accomplish something?
- What are some challenges to practicing self-discipline?
- How can we improve our self-discipline in everyday life?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students write about a situation where they needed self-discipline. How did it help them, or what could they have done differently?
- Volunteers can share their stories.

7-Empathy

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Introduce empathy as the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Explain how empathy strengthens relationships and helps create a compassionate community.

Key Points:

1. Empathy is putting yourself in someone else's shoes.
2. Understanding others' feelings leads to kindness and support.
3. Empathy builds stronger, more caring relationships.
4. It encourages cooperation and reduces conflict.


Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Walk in Their Shoes"


- Students pair up and take turns sharing a personal experience or challenge. The listener must respond by explaining how they imagine their partner felt during that experience. This activity promotes understanding and emotional awareness.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss (teaches empathy and acceptance of differences)

-  The Sneetches.pdf

Story 2: "Wonder" (highlights empathy through the story of a boy with facial differences)

-  Wonder Summary.pdf

Video 1:

- [TED-Ed: What is Empathy?](#)

Video 2:

- [Empathy Short Film - "Kindness Boomerang"](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is empathy important in understanding others?
- Can you think of a time when someone showed empathy toward you?
- How can empathy help solve conflicts?
- What are some ways to practice empathy every day?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time when they felt empathy for someone. How did it change their actions or attitudes?
- Volunteers can share their reflections.

8-Cooperation

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Explain that cooperation means working together towards a common goal. Emphasize how cooperation helps in team-building and achieving tasks that would be difficult alone.

Key Points:

1. Cooperation involves working together for a shared goal.
2. It helps achieve tasks more efficiently.
3. Cooperation builds stronger teams and friendships.
4. Listening and compromise are important parts of cooperation.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

“Team Tower Challenge”

- Divide students into small groups and give them building materials (e.g., straws, paper, tape). The goal is to build the tallest tower within the time limit. Afterward, discuss how cooperation helped them complete the task and why teamwork is essential.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "Stone Soup" (teaches the power of cooperation to achieve something greater)

- [Read here](#)

Story 2: "The Ants and the Grasshopper" (highlights teamwork and preparation)

- [Read here](#)

Video 1:

- [TED-Ed: Cooperating With Others](#)

Video 2:

- [Short Film, Teamwork can make a Dreamwork](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is cooperation important in school and at home?
- Can you think of a time when working with others helped you achieve something?
- How can we improve cooperation in our class?
- What happens when people don't cooperate?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time when they had to cooperate with others to complete a task. What was the result?
- Volunteers can share their stories.

9-Gratitude

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Define gratitude as the act of being thankful and showing appreciation. Explain how expressing gratitude can lead to happiness and stronger relationships.

Key Points:

1. Gratitude means being thankful for what you have.
2. Expressing gratitude strengthens relationships.
3. Being thankful can improve your mood and outlook on life.
4. Gratitude fosters a positive and kind environment.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

“Gratitude Jar”

- Give each student a piece of paper and ask them to write down one thing they are thankful for. Place the papers in a “Gratitude Jar.” Read some of the entries aloud and discuss how focusing on gratitude can improve their perspective.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Gratitude Tree" (shows the power of gratitude in changing lives)

- [Read here](#)

Story 2: "Being Thankful " (teaches gratitude and appreciation for what we have)

- [Read here](#)

Video 1:

- [How to increase your happiness](#)

Video 2:

- [The Gratitude Experiment](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is it important to express gratitude?
- Can you think of a time when someone showed gratitude to you? How did it make you feel?
- How can we practice gratitude more often in our daily lives?
- What are some simple ways to show appreciation to others?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students write about one person they are grateful for and why. Encourage them to share it with the person afterward.
- Volunteers can share their thoughts.

10-Respect for the Environment

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Explain that respect for the environment means taking care of the Earth and its resources. Emphasize that we all have a responsibility to protect the environment for future generations.

Key Points:

1. Respecting the environment means reducing waste and conserving resources.
2. Small actions can make a big difference in protecting the planet.
3. Being mindful of nature helps preserve it for the future.
4. We must all take responsibility for our environment.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

“Trash Sorting Relay”

- Set up bins for recycling, compost, and trash. Divide students into teams, and give them items to sort (paper, plastic, food scraps). They must correctly place the items in the right bins. Discuss why proper waste disposal is important for the environment.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss (highlights the importance of caring for the environment)

- [Read here](#)

Story 2: "The Giving Tree" (focuses on the relationship between humans and nature)

- [Read here](#)

Video 1:

- [How to Take Care of the Environment](#)

Video 2:

- [Short Film on Respect to nature](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is it important to protect the environment?
- What are some simple things we can do to take care of the Earth?
- How does respecting the environment help future generations?
- How can we encourage others to respect nature?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about one thing they can do this week to show respect for the environment (e.g., recycling, saving water).
- Volunteers can share their thoughts.

11-Anti-Bullying

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Discuss what bullying is and the different forms it can take (physical, verbal, emotional). Explain the negative effects of bullying on both the victim and the bully.

Key Points:

1. Bullying hurts everyone, including the bully.
2. It is important to stand up against bullying and support others.
3. Kindness and empathy can prevent bullying.
4. Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

“Role-Playing Scenarios”

- In small groups, have students act out bullying scenarios (e.g., name-calling, exclusion) and demonstrate how to handle these situations by standing up for others or seeking help from an adult.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "Chrysanthemum" by Kevin Henkes (teaches kindness and the effects of bullying)

- [Read here](#)

Story 2: “Each Kindness”

- [Read here](#)

Video 1:

- [Protect Yourself Rules-Bullying](#)

Video 2:

- [Anti-Bullying Short Film](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- What should you do if you see someone being bullied?
- How does bullying make people feel?
- Why is it important to stand up for others?
- How can we create a bully-free environment in our school?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about one thing they can do to prevent bullying in their class or school.
- Volunteers can share their thoughts.

12-Respect for Diversity

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Define diversity as the differences that make each person unique (race, culture, beliefs, etc.). Explain that respecting diversity means valuing those differences and treating everyone equally.

Key Points:

1. Diversity makes our community rich and interesting.
2. Respecting differences helps create a more inclusive world.
3. Everyone deserves to be treated equally, no matter their background.
4. Celebrating diversity strengthens relationships and understanding.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

“Cultural Appreciation Day”

- Ask students to share something from their culture (a food, tradition, or story) with the class. Discuss how these differences make the class unique and special.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "The Crayon Box That Talked" (teaches respect for differences)

- [Read here](#)

Story 2: "Same, Same but Different" (explores cultural diversity)

- [Read here](#)

Video 1:

- [We are all different!](#)

Video 2:

- [Short Film: Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is it important to respect people who are different from us?
- Can you think of a time when you learned something new from someone different from you?
- How does diversity make our class/community better?
- What can we do to celebrate diversity more?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about one thing they've learned from someone who is different from them.
- Volunteers can share their reflections.

13-Patience

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Define patience as the ability to wait calmly in difficult situations. Explain how patience helps in problem-solving and building good relationships.

Key Points:

1. Patience means staying calm while waiting.
2. It helps avoid conflicts and makes problem-solving easier.
3. Practicing patience shows maturity.
4. Patience is important for building strong relationships.

Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Patience Circle"


- Have the class sit in a circle. Each student shares a time when they had to be patient, and how it helped or made them feel better afterward. Discuss the benefits of staying calm in frustrating situations.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "[The Tortoise and the Hare](#)" (teaches patience and persistence)

- Read here 

Story 2: "[Patience](#)" (shows the value of patience)

- Read here 

Video 1:

- [Patience](#)

Video 2:

- [Short Film on Patience](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is patience important in difficult situations?
- How does being patient help in solving problems?
- What can we do to be more patient in school or at home?
- How does patience improve relationships?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about a time when patience helped them solve a problem.
- Volunteers can share their stories.

14-Listening Skills

Grade Level: 4-6

Duration: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Explain that listening is more than just hearing. It's about understanding and respecting what others are saying. Good listening skills are essential for strong communication and relationships.

Key Points:

1. Listening means focusing on what the other person is saying.
2. Good listening helps avoid misunderstandings.
3. Listening shows respect and builds trust.
4. It's important to listen with empathy and understanding.


Class Activity (10 minutes):

"Listening Pairs"


- In pairs, students take turns telling a short story about their weekend or a favorite activity. The listener must then repeat what they heard. Afterward, discuss the importance of being attentive while listening.

Short Stories & Videos (10 minutes):

Story 1: "[The Talking Eggs](#)" (teaches the consequences of not listening)

- Read here 

Story 2: "[The Boy Who Didn't Listen](#)" (highlights the importance of listening)

- Read here 

Video 1:

- [TED-Ed: How to Listen Better](#)

Video 2:

- [Listening Skills for Kids \(Short Film\)](#)

Discussion (10 minutes):

- Why is listening important for communication?
- How do you feel when someone doesn't listen to you?
- How can we practice better listening in our classroom?
- What are some challenges to good listening, and how can we overcome them?

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Ask students to write about one way they can be a better listener at school or home.
- Volunteers can share their reflections.