

# Character Education Resource Center

## *News You Can Use*

August 2019

### Using Character Quotes in the Classroom

Quotations are often a time-effective instructional strategy to engage your students to “think about thinking” (meta-cognition). Quotes lend themselves to critical thinking, application to lessons in life, a conversation starter for home and classrooms, and a character/behavior guide.

In addition, quotes meet Common Core State Standards for ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R2, CCRA.R8, CCRA.R9 ([Mensa Education & Research Foundation](#)) To You Their Teacher: It’s up to YOU to answer four questions about this lesson: (1) Do you want to use it? (2) If so, do you need to modify it? (3) How much time will you give it? (4) How will it be extended?

Objectives: After this lesson students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast quotations
- Find information about the author of each quote
- Determine the meaning and implication of each quote
- Write/draw how the quote may apply to what they do and say
- Discuss the meaning of the quotes with their classmates, friends, family.

*Everything in life comes to you as a teacher. Pay attention. Learn quickly.*

- Cherokee Saying

*At any given moment, you have the power to say: This is not how the story is going to end.*

- Christine Mason Miller

*None of us is as smart as all of us.*

- Ken Blanchard

*The trouble with anger is, it gets hold of you. And then you aren’t the master of yourself anymore. Anger is.*

- Jeanne DuPrau

*The time is always right to do what is right.*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

# Getting Ready for a New School Year

## 4 Worth Reading

### [How Parents Can Hit the Pause Button on Screen Time](#)

Making time for open, unstructured, unplugged play improves relationships and helps children build self-management skills.

*Mark Bertin, June 5, 2018*

### [5 Ways to Manage Difficult Parent Conferences](#)

Respond quickly and privately, start conversations with something positive, listen first, be sensitive, not defensive, and help students who don't have parental support.

*Kendra LeRoy, March 12, 2019*

### [3 Things Edtech Can't Do](#)

Technology can't provide higher-order feedback, can't get to know students, and can't care about a student.

*Thomas Arnett, April 16, 2019*

### [How Teachers Can Adopt a Positive Behavior Support System in Classrooms](#)

A classroom checklist: organize your physical classroom space, set rules and routines, establish rewards to reinforce positive student behavior, and create engaging instructional opportunities.

*Nneka A. Bennet*

## Teacher Quotes

"The moment character education was introduced; the special education students were immediately drawn to the service learning aspect. This gave the students a sense of not only belonging but a sense of leadership as well."

*-Ruth Ann K., Special Education Teacher*

"Our character-driven school has made the day to day experiences better. I see less self-centeredness and see students more aware of people around them."

*-Heather B., 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies*

"The character education program has had a powerfully positive effect on the CMS community. These programs help the students identify our similarities and celebrate our differences, which builds a strong school community."

*-Heidi C., French Teacher*

"The greatest change I have experienced since implementing CE is how students, parents, and staff work together to become more responsible and respectful members of our community."

*-Sara S., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and CE Team Member*

"Character Ed in the classroom has evolved over time from the basic teaching of traits to a 'bucket-filling' philosophy to PBIS. As a result of planned, taught, and extended lessons, students are happier, kinder, more tolerant, more compassionate, and more respectful in their daily interactions with both peers and adults. Discipline problems have decreased creating an environment conducive to learning and cooperation."

*-Kristie H., 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher*

## Character Education Recommended for School Safety

The Federal Commission on School Safety has officially recommended Character Education. Six pillars of effective character education were highlighted as part of the report.

1: *Prioritize character education*

2: *Build healthy relationships.*

3: *Foster intrinsic motivation*

4: *Model good character*

5: *Empower all school stakeholders*

6: *Take a long-term developmental perspective*

## Student Mistakes

Tell students that all mistakes are good; we learn from mistakes. While that may be true, not all mistakes are worth pursuing. Some mistakes are just sloppy and others are made in such a high-stakes environment. Reflecting on these kinds of mistakes can improve performance next time, but they aren't necessarily the most fruitful kinds of mistakes. Mistakes that lead to the most learning are the ones made when students are stretching outside their comfort zones to grasp an idea that's just out of reach. Or, when someone has an "aha" moment after doing something she thought was right but then realized it was a mistake based on new information. Reflecting on these mistakes, and formulating a new plan of action based on them, is what makes them powerful.

- Katrina Schwartz

## National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

The teacher turnover rate in the United States has risen to 16.8 percent recently. In urban schools it is over 20 percent, and, in some schools and districts, the teacher dropout rate is actually higher than the student dropout rate. The problem is especially acute for young teachers at the beginning of their career. 46% of all new teacher in the United States leave the profession within five years. The Permanente Journal (Winter 2014)

## Ideas For Thought

In Japanese schools, the students don't get any exams until they reach the fourth grade. Why? Because the goal for the first two years of school is not to judge the child's knowledge or learning, but to establish good manners and develop character. The Japanese scholars teach manners before knowledge. Should this be implemented worldwide?



We are a resource center which means that we are here to meet your needs and interests in the character education of children and youth. Please reach out to us if we can assist you in any way.

Our Motto: If we don't have it, we can get it or create it.

What do you think of this month's NUCU? We'd love to hear your **thoughts, questions** and **feedback**: [character@sandiego.edu](mailto:character@sandiego.edu)

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