

750

Classroom Connections & Additional Activities

1. Feeling the vibrations - have the class stand or sit on bleachers. Experience the vibrations when feet are pounded on the seats. Try pounding softly, and in unison. **SCI** **PE**
2. Using classical music or recorded sounds of nature, move like wading birds (long legs, long neck, tall steps, graceful and quiet). **MUSIC** **PE**
3. Learn several words in sign language (I love you, clapping in sign language, please and thank you). Use them in the classroom. **LA**
4. Talk about and identify table manners. Plan a tea party. Each student invites a guest (perhaps the person in the picture frame) and demonstrates his or her respect for that person by showing good manners. **SS**
5. List manners we use to show people we respect them. (Phrase the entries in positive terms.) Post the Good Manners List and refer to it regularly, making additions and reinforcing good manners in the classroom. **SS** **LA**

Silent Lotus

Jeanne M. Lee
1991
NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux

RESPECT
Kampuchea (Cambodia)
Reading Time: 5 minutes

CONCEPTS

Respect
Hope
Love

SUMMARY

In this story set in ancient Kampuchea, a child who can neither hear nor speak finds respect and a means of expression through dance. Lotus' supportive, encouraging parents provide the opportunities for her to explore her talents. Illustrations inspired by the temple at Angkor Wat capture Lotus' grace and serenity as she dances the traditional court ballet.

OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss respect, hope and love as they relate to this story. The student will be able to identify ways to respect and be respected by others.

After the Story

Silent Lotus

DISCUSSION

1. How could Lotus' parents tell what Lotus was feeling even though she couldn't speak? How did Lotus "say" her name?
2. What made Lotus happy? What made her sad? What was special about her? Why do you think the other children ignored Lotus? How could you have made friends with her and respected her?
3. How do you think Lotus could dance when she couldn't hear the music? How did Lotus' life change at the temple? Why did she have friends there?
4. Who loved Lotus and respected her throughout the story? You are special to a lot of people. Share how they show you love and respect.

ACTIVITIES

1. Help each student create a sign for his/her name. Learn to sign each other's names and continue using them throughout the year.
2. Brainstorm ways to show respect such as handshakes, high fives, curtsies, or bows. Form concentric circles or two lines moving in opposite directions. As students pass each other, exchange greetings using the different signs of respect.
3. Help students choose story characters or real people they respect. Pretend to be that person for a day at school. Children may come to school dressed as that person, and try to act and talk like that person does. Set aside a time for sharing why they chose the person they did.

WRAP-UP

In My Heartwood Journal, draw a picture of yourself doing something others would respect.

EXTENSION

1. Share your name sign with your family and help your family members create name signs of their own.
2. Discuss special names that you might have for each other in your family. How did they originate? Would anyone like to change theirs? Why?
3. With help from a grown-up, make a list of ways your family members show respect to each other.

VOCABULARY

egret
heron
crane
temple

offering
pavilion
vibrations