

The Paperboy

Dav Pilkey
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New York: Orchard Books

COURAGE

U.S.A.
Realistic Fiction
Reading Time: 5 minutes

CONCEPTS

Courage
Self-reliance
Responsibility
Consideration

SUMMARY

In the starlit pre-dawn hours, a young boy becomes a quiet hero by doing his job and being considerate. The paperboy faces his responsibilities with courage, leaving a warm bed to deliver newspapers in the chilly darkness of his neighborhood. This story of a boy's self-reliance is enhanced by the author's beautiful illustrations of nighttime landscapes and bursts of color as a new day dawns.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss courage, self-reliance, responsibility, and consideration as they apply to the story and will explore ways to show consideration for others.

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Together, make a list of compound words related to people and their jobs such as "paperboy" and "policewoman."
2. Write a poem about things you know by heart. Follow the pattern on the page in the book about the boy's dog, e.g. "He knows which trees are for sniffing."

Begin with "I know my neighborhood by heart. Add lines such as:
Which flowers are for picking
Which homes are for visiting
Which trees are for climbing.

* Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for circular story paper outline.

3. *The Paperboy* is a circular story because it begins and ends in the same place. As a class, write a circular story that begins and ends in your classroom, e.g., a fieldtrip story.*

SCIENCE

1. Brainstorm ways to recycle newspapers. Select one as a class project.
2. Research what happens to recycled newspapers. (keyword: newspapers, recycle, kids)
3. Make paper from recycled newspaper.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Research changes in newspaper delivery. Find different ways newspapers are delivered. (keyword: deliver newspapers kids)

ART

Draw your house or apartment, including the surroundings. Make a copy of your picture. Color one picture as it would look before dawn with shadows and a nighttime sky. Color the copy as it looks in the morning. Online or in books, look at Monet's paintings of the same subject at different times of the day. (keyword: Monet Rouen Cathedral)

After the Story

The Paperboy

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think is difficult for the paperboy each morning? What are his responsibilities before leaving home? On the job? What is difficult for you to do each morning? What are your responsibilities?
2. Why do you think it takes courage to be a paperboy? Name other jobs people do while everyone else is sleeping. Which of these jobs take courage?
3. What does the boy think about as he delivers papers? How do his thoughts help him be brave in the dark? What skills does the boy need to be a paperboy? What skills do you need to do jobs at home?
4. How does he show consideration for his family and his dog? How do you think family members might help the paperboy on rainy or snowy days? How do you show consideration for family members?
5. The boy does things for himself without having anyone tell him what to do. This is being self-reliant. How is he self-reliant about bicycle safety? How are you self-reliant?

ACTIVITIES

1. As a class, participate in "Listen, Think, Pair, Share." Note: Students work in pairs and the teacher holds up one card at a time.
Listen: "Sometimes we are faced with situations when we have to take care of ourselves or others, such as when the lights go out during a storm."
Think: "Think of a time you were brave when you were in the dark or when you were alone."
Pair: "Share your thoughts with a partner."
Share: "Share your stories with the class."
2. Meet in small groups and list ways you can show consideration for family members, for teachers and classmates, and for neighbors. Try some of the ways you discussed and meet again to tell about them.
3. Draw pictures of yourself performing tasks you do every day that take self-reliance to get started, such as doing homework or picking up toys. Post on a bulletin board under the title "I Can Do It Myself!"

EXTENSION

1. Ask family members about jobs they have had that took courage. With permission, share with the class.
2. Talk with your family about self-reliance. Discuss responsibilities you can perform by yourself without being reminded by others.

WRAP-UP

1. Make a class "Courage Gazette."
Bring newspaper pictures or articles to class about people who show courage. Paste on large sheets of paper and staple into a booklet. Add newspaper articles during the school year and ones you and your classmates write.
2. In *My Heartwood Journal*, write a courage story about you or a classmate.

VOCABULARY

route
gazette
dawn

self-reliance
consideration