

Lesson 7 – Tolerance of others - Empathy

Discussion Questions

- How do you feel when you are working with someone who you feel is not contributing good ideas?
- Are there fellow students that annoy you? What annoys you about them?
- Do you have difficulty learning from a teacher or adult who you do not respect?
- Do you ever feel you are better than some people?
- Do you think being gifted gives you an advantage over others?

What is the difference between better at and better than?

Do activity where students go around the room and say their situation.

Many times it comes down to a lack of empathy

Questions to consider:

- What is empathy? Why is it important?
- What are some things you can do to show empathy?
- What does it mean to put yourself in someone else's shoes?
- Have you ever hurt someone's feelings? How did you know and how did you feel?

Rate Yourself - Are You Empathetic?

1. *I often think about other people's feelings.*
2. *I don't make fun of other people because I can imagine what it feels like to be in their shoes.*
3. *I listen to others about what they're going through.*
4. *I try to understand other people's point of view.*
5. *I am aware that not everyone reacts to situations the same way I do.*

Robert Greene for his book **Mastery** conducted many interviews with accomplished individuals and studied the biographies of numerous influential figures, such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Charles Darwin, Ben Franklin, 50 Cent and so on.

Suffer fools gladly, and don't take criticism seriously or personally from people who don't know what they're talking about.

Finish with the Someone Else's Shoes activity again, only this time listening for empathy.

Someone Else's Shoes

Take one character card, pair up with a classmate, and read your card aloud while your partner practices being an empathetic listener. Then, switch roles: practice being empathetic as your partner, as his character, tells you what he is experiencing.

Marcus is a star quarterback on the school football team. During one of the final games of the season, he was injured badly, so badly that he couldn't play in the rest of the games, nor could he go to school for three months.

All of Violet's friends are constantly talking about the prom—the dresses they're going to buy, how they're going to do their hair, where they're going to eat. Violet wants to go, but the tickets are expensive, and her mom just lost her job.

Chen always admired her friend Lucy's wardrobe. One day, when they were hanging out at Lucy's house, Chen asked to borrow Lucy's expensive blue sweater. Lucy said she could, but then made fun of Chen, telling everyone at school that Chen couldn't afford her own nice clothes.

Rochelle was one of five students selected to represent her school in a national math competition. The final showdown was between Rochelle's team and another school. The score was tied with only one question remaining. The question went to Rochelle, who got it wrong, allowing the other team to win.

During a school field trip, Juan had a seizure in front of his entire class. He came out of it to find all his classmates staring at him. His doctors told him he has a condition where he could have a seizure anytime.

Lenny has worked at the same pizza place for over a year and has always done a great job. One day, he overcharged a customer by accident. The new boss thought Lenny did it on purpose to pocket the difference and fired him.

Anita's best friend confided in her about a surprise birthday party she had planned to throw for her brother. Anita accidentally let the secret slip, and now her best friend won't talk to her.

Shaun's brother's ex-girlfriend kissed Shaun at a school dance last weekend. Shaun didn't kiss her back, but he decided not to tell his brother about the incident just to be safe. Shaun's brother found out anyway and is angry with him.

After practicing for months, Kelsey tripped and fell during her routine for the school talent show. One of her classmates, who was using a cellphone to videotape the show, posted the clip of Kelsey's fall on the Internet the next day.

Micah emailed Emily, admitting his crush on her. Emily forwarded the email to all of her friends, some of whom then teased Micah on a social networking site about his crush on Emily.

Bali found out that a nasty rumor being spread about her was started by a former friend.

Alex discovered that his teammate cheated by copying from his paper during the Spanish final.