

# Character Value Lens Presentation



EDGR 502: Developing Character Through Curriculum  
6/27/2013

# Definition



The Oxford American Dictionary defines respect as a “feeling of deep admiration for someone or something; to admire someone or something deeply as result of their abilities, qualities or achievements; having due regard for feelings, wishes, rights and traditions; agree to recognize and abide by”. It can be used as a noun or a verb.

Lickona (1991) expands on this definition by further explaining that respect means showing regard for the worth of someone or something and that it includes respect for oneself. Respect keeps us from hurting what we should value (p 67). To educate with regards to respect is to educate for character (p 68.). He writes respect taking on three major forms: respect for self, respect for others and respect for all forms of life and the environment (p 43).

# Major Elements

- **Respect for Oneself** : The respect for self entails that we should treat our own life and person as having inherent worth; therefore, it is wrong to engage in self destructive actions such as drugs or alcohol abuse.
- **Respect for Other People**: Respect for others requires us to treat all other human beings as having dignity and rights equal to us.
- **Respect for all Forms of Life and the Environment**: Respect for the whole complex web of life forbids cruelty to animals and requires us to act with care towards the natural environment which is a delicate ecological unit on which all life depends. Additionally, there are other forms of respect derived from these such as respect for property and respect for authority (Lickona, 1991).

“A more refined understanding of respect requires separating three strands: dignity, equality, and autonomy” (Goodman, 2009, p.4 ).



## Dignity

“Respect emerges naturally from our own sense of personal dignity and has such force within our consciousness that people feel internally compelled to will the good of others” (Goodman, 2009, p.6 ).

**Example in classroom:** Teacher informs children she respects their ability to choose their own challenging research topics.

## Equality

“The increasing attention to multiculturalism with its emphasis on mutual tolerance to differences in race, gender, sexuality, ability, race and national origins adds to mere equality of opportunity an appreciation of the various forms through which human dignity is expressed” (Goodman, 2009, p.7).

## Autonomy

Through “respect for moral law,” a teacher encourages individual autonomy by “leading children towards a state of well-informed independence” (Goodman, 2009, pp. 5-7). Upon establishing a respectful classroom climate, the teachers and students learn in safe environments and form respectful, meaningful relationships.

# When and How is Respect Taught in the Classroom?

“In order for teachers to foster respect among students, teachers need to reflect on their own values and biases, consider the contexts of student lives and ponder what it is they are teaching their students” (Sanville, 2003, as cited by Miller and Pedro, 2006, p. 295).

## When?

### Teachers implement respect in the learning environment by...

- **Establishing** and posting rules and expectations
- **Maintaining** continuous observation of student behavior
- **Motivating** and engaging students in the learning process
- **Creating** positive relationships between teacher expectation and student achievement
- **Nurturing** a caring classroom atmosphere
- **Respecting** students' feelings
- **Arranging** “materials and equipment in an attractive and useful manner” (Miller and Pedro, 2006, p. 293).

## How?

### Teachers model respect through...

- **Politeness** in communication
- **Listening** to others
- **Challenging** students to achieve
- **Acceptance** of students' ideas, personalities, background, cultures
- **Encouragement** of students to take responsibility for their own learning and behavior
- **Appreciation** of students' individuality
- **Enforcement** appropriate behaviors
- **Recognizing** student worth and dignity
- **Learning** about their students

## Instructional Strategies

### Teachers can teach respect through...

- **Modeling** respect
- **Reading** literature that fosters respect towards peers, family members, and communities
- **Student centered discussions** about the respectful actions of people, characters, social groups
- **Cooperative learning groups** to “expose students to and encourage respect and working well with others” Miller and Pedro, 2006, p. 297).

# Key Figures/Proponents

I. Kant



Kant explained that people must never be used simply as a means to the ends of others.

D. Hume



Hume described the passion of respect and contempt.

J. S. Mill

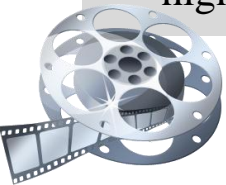


Mill stressed self-respect.

# Protagonist Illustrates Respect



- ***To Kill a Mockingbird***: Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his kids against prejudice. Starring Gregory Peck (1962)
- ***The Blind Side*** : The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family. Starring Sandra Bullock (2009)
- ***The Help***: An aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s decides to write a book detailing the African-American maids' point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis. Emma Stone (2011)
- ***Stand and Deliver***: The story of Jaime Escalante, a high school teacher who successfully inspired his dropout prone students to learn calculus. Edward James Olmos (1988)
- ***Dangerous Minds***: An ex-marine teacher struggles to connect with her students in an inner city schools. Michelle Pfeiffer (1995)
- ***Remember the Titans***: The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit. Denzel Washington (2000)



# Historical Origin



## Historical origin of word as defined in Merriam Webster dictionary

**Origin of Respect:** Middle English, from Latin *respectus*, literally, act of looking back, from *respicere* to look back, regard, from *re-* + *specere* to look — more at *spy*. **First Known Use: 14th century:**  
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/respect>

## Historical Background in Relation to Character Education

“For Confucius [551-479 BCE], the most effective way to teach people to be virtuous is through personal example” (Huang, 2011, p. 141). Teachers need to model respect in order to teach respect.

“In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Plato and Aristotle called for education that considered the training of good and virtuous citizens” (Miller and Pedro, 2006, p. 299). People need to be respectful towards one another.

“In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, John Locke, believed that learning was secondary to virtue” (Skinner, 2004, as cited in Miller and Pedro, 2006, p. 299).

Our founding fathers believed that people needed to develop “respect for the rights of individuals, regard for law, voluntary participation in public life, and concern for the common good” (“What,” p. 1).

“For philosophers Kant, Mill, and Rawls, whose influential theories span three centuries, respect includes appreciation of universal human dignity, equality, and autonomy” (Goodman, 2009, p.3 ).

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