



ARTS + ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS

GRADES 1-2: LITERACY/DANCE

Ruby Bridges: The Strength of Character

Character traits are not how you feel, they're who you are. They're who you choose to be. Come explore different ways that we can express character, as we recount the story of Civil Rights icon Ruby Bridges through movement, music, words, and choices.

CONNECTED OBJECTIVE: Students will learn how to connect frozen dance poses to character traits of themselves and Civil Rights leaders.

MATERIALS NEEDED DURING EPISODE: none!





ARTS + ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

E:P-2:1: Solve movement problems by responding to stimuli. (e.g., nature, feelings, personal experience)

ARTS EXTENSIONS

Character frozen poses:

As a class, create a character trait bank for characters in a story or text. Teacher reads a trait from the list and all students strike a pose they believe shows the character trait. Shake it out. Now ask students to do another for the same trait. Consider levels (high, middle, low) and other ways to change such as wide, curved, twisted, etc

Choreography:

Choose a student to demonstrate their pose for a trait. Who wants to demonstrate their frozen pose for (ex: proud)? Everyone practices that one pose. Do the same for 3-4 words, using suggestions from different students. Repeat them in a sequence as the teacher reads the words and then put them to music like they did in the episode. End by doing the choreographed sequence very fast.

Guess my trait:

Ask one student to think of a character trait (without telling anyone) and make a frozen pose that expresses that trait. Ask other students to guess what the trait is. The student who guesses correctly gets to do the next pose.



ARTS + ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS

ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS:

Unjust vs. Unfair:

Teacher leads students in a discussion of the difference between unjust and unfair. As a class or individually, students can make a list of things they believe fall under either definition. As a class, discuss examples students have put in either category and why

See, Think, Wonder:

This is a video of the book referenced in the episode: [Ruby Bridges, My True Story](#).

It contains photographs from her life and from the struggle for Civil Rights. Pause on some of these photos and ask students to describe what they see, think, and wonder.

Leaders:

As a class, make a list of leaders. They can be famous, local, historic, or current. Lead a discussion of what defines a leader.

Once you have a list of names, ask students to identify character traits for each. Ask students to make a frozen pose for each trait. Add parameters like what height of pose, or what kind of pose.