

TEACHING ABOUT ASIA – CHARACTER BUILDING UNIT

AMY GRIFFIN – BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY

Level: Fourth Grade

Class: This lesson will be taught to two classes. Each class is made up of 22 academically average to above average students. This lesson/unit will be taught during the Language Arts time each day.

Time: Each class period lasts for 60 minutes.

Lesson Overview: This is the opening lesson on a week-long unit about the building of character in the Chinese culture and how they apply to our culture.

Objectives: Each student will hear and see more examples of positive ways to treat others and situations they are in. This will help them build strong character and hopefully apply it into their own lives. Throughout the entire unit, they will be able to compare Confucian teachings to Biblical and other common moral teachings they are familiar with.

Assessment: Students will be assessed throughout the week-long unit by class discussions, small group discussions, and in written responses. They will also be asked to write their own Confucian saying in that form that applies to situations in today's time.

References:

Ivanhoe, Philip J. and Van Norden, Bryan W., Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, 2nd ed. (Hackett Publishing, 2001).

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LESSON PLAN #1

1. Prepare Slides 1-3 for use through the mounted projector.
2. Open the lesson by showing the BGA Motto (slide one) and leaving it on the large screen. Give each child a hand-out with this image on their own paper. Ask them to take a few minutes and write what they think each word means out to the side. Then take a few minutes to discuss each word, giving the students chances to tell their answers and explain why they used those words. Cut these to size and use them to decorate the BGA bulletin board.
3. Ask the students why these three words were chosen as our school motto. What is so important about them that we put them all over our campus and on merchandise? What does it mean to you personally?
4. Give the students time to make a journal entry on what the school motto means to them and how they can apply it to their academics and life outside of school.
5. Ask the students to take a few minutes and write down some other words that they consider descriptive words of being a good person.
6. Show slide number two with the picture of Confucius. Ask the students if they know who this is. Then tell them his name and ask if they have ever heard of him. Ask what country they think he could be from.
7. Explain that Confucius was a Chinese philosopher who is still considered very powerful in the culture and in the thoughts of the Chinese people. Tell the students that there are books full of his sayings and teachings on being a good person.
8. Show slide number 3 with the Confucius quotes. Give the students time to read them quietly. Discuss the first one together. Break the students into groups and assign them their own saying to dissect and explain to the class. Give each group about five minutes to do this, and then give them time to present their quote and responses to the class.

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LESSON PLAN #2

1. Prepare slides 4-6 for use on the mounted projector.
2. Schema Questions:
 - a. Who is Confucius?
 - b. Where was he from?
 - c. What were some of the morals to his quotes?
3. Put the quotes from slide 3 on the screen to keep the focus on the sayings that we went over yesterday.
4. Ask what usually dictates the morals in America?
5. Show slide number 4 picture of Jesus. Ask them the same questions as were asked about Confucius from the previous lesson. Point out that in different cultures, different people are recognized.
6. Show slide number 5 with Bible verses on how to be good people as well as with other popular moral quotes from the American culture. Give the students time to read them and then compare with the Confucian sayings.
7. Discuss how we, as Americans, are taught to be good, moral people.
8. Discuss the way the Bible verses, common quotes, and Confucian quotes are written and give the assignment to work with a partner to create their own character building quote that is either timeless or one that will work for today.
9. Show slide number 6 with the brainstorming tips for creating their quote.
10. Give the pairs time to do a pre-writing page and then the final copy on self-decorated paper.
11. Share these with the class then add to the bulletin board titled “character.”

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LESSON PLAN #3

1. On the board, write the following website addresses:
 - a. en.proverbia.net
 - b. equotes.wetpaint.com
 - c. www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Confucius
 - d. www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/c/confucius
 - e. www.inspirational-quotes.info
 - f. www.quotedoctor.com/verses_about_character.htm
 - g. www.quotedoctor.com/honesty.htm
2. Give the students note cards to write their ten favorite character building quotes on.
3. Allow the students time to look through these websites on their tablet computers, and search through google and yahoo search engines to read more quotes from Confucius, the Bible, and other famous Americans.
4. Bind the note cards together with a ring and allow them to share their booklets with other students.
5. As a closure, gather the class on the carpet for a class meeting. Open the discussions for what they have learned on building character this week. Put emphasis on using these things in all aspects of life and trying to remember the positive ideas on being a person of good and strong character.

SLIDE 1



Character. Scholarship. Excellence.

SINCE 1889

SLIDE 2



Quotes of Confucius

1.1 “To learn, and then have occasion to practice what you have learned – is this not satisfying? To have friends arrive from afar – is this not a joy? To be patient even when others do not understand – is this not the mark of the gentleman?”

1.4 “Every day I examine myself on three counts: in my dealings with others, have I in any way failed to be dutiful? In my interactions with friends and associates, have I in any way failed to be trustworthy? Finally, have I in any way failed to put into practice what I teach?”

2.11 “Both keeping past teachings alive and understanding the present – someone able to do this is worthy of being a teacher.”

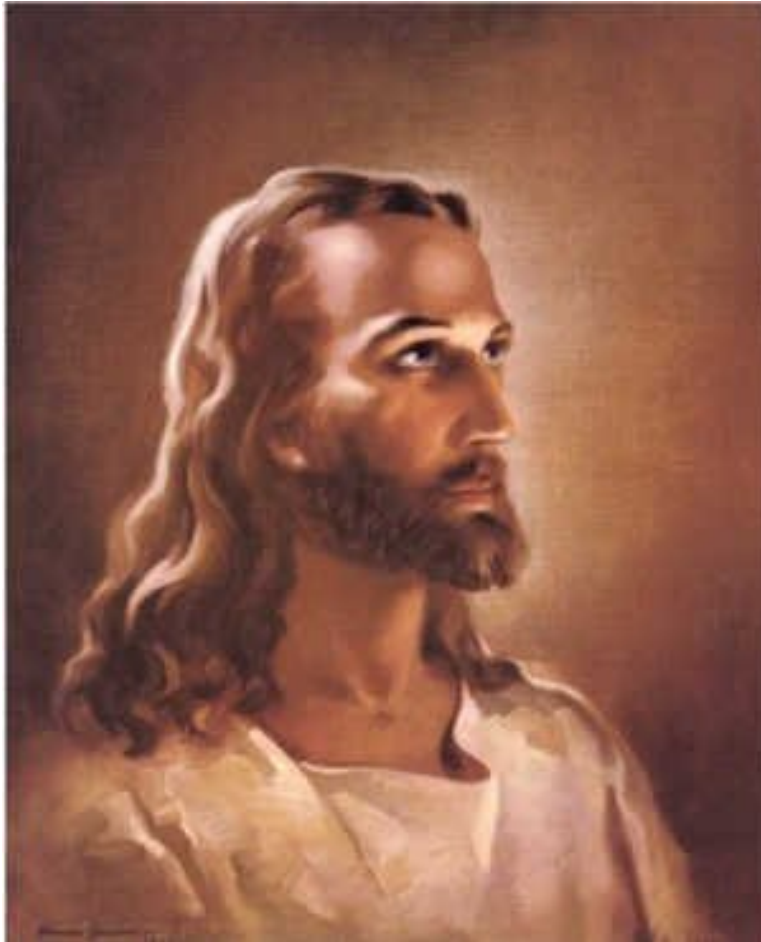
4.1 “To live in the neighborhood of the Good is fine. If one does not choose to dwell among those who are Good, how will one obtain wisdom?”

4.22 “People in ancient times were not eager to speak, because they would be ashamed if their actions did not measure up to their words.”

15.28 “When the multitude hates a person, you must examine them and judge for yourself. The same holds true for someone whom the multitude loves.”

15.30 “To make a mistake and yet not change your ways – this is what is called truly making a mistake.”

SLIDE 4



SLIDE 5

Proverbs 17:27 “A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.”

Proverbs 4:13 “Hold on to instruction, do not let go; guard it well, for it is your life.”

Proverbs 9:12 “If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”

Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

“If you have nothing nice to say, don’t say anything at all.”

“Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.”

“The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.”

Character Quote Brainstorm

Make a brainstorming WEB.

In the center, write the character trait that you are going to write your quote around.

In the surrounding circles, write other words that you may want to use in your quote.

Use this paper to write out the first draft.

Character Quote Final Copy

On the half sheet of white cardstock, use your best handwriting to write the quote that you and your partner worked on.

Once it is written, decorate the edges with a colorful border.

DO NOT FORGET YOUR NAMES!!!