

Character Videos

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Revised October 1, 2009

In Search of Character Series

In Search of Character spotlights ten core virtues that help teens develop into caring, respectful, responsible people who make choices based on what is right, rather than what is easy. In this series, viewers take a fun, behind-the-scenes peek at the Dr. Mike Radio Show, where callers explore different aspects of character with Dr. Mike and his co-host, Anika Noni Rose. Listen in on the lively, thoughtful and revealing discussions of high school students from around the country. Watch inspiring documentary profiles of young people who exemplify the power of good character in the real world.

Trustworthiness, v. 1 (cc)

Trust is the basis of all good relationships and a cornerstone of good character. This program shows what it means to be a person others can trust. We learn that trustworthy people keep their promises, are honest, reliable, principled, and never inappropriately betray a confidence. And to help understand how trusting relationships are developed, we look at a documentary about a high school peer counseling program, where trusting and being trusted are the keys to a healthy school community.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-151

Respect, v. 2 (cc)

This program shows how treating people with respect helps us get along with each other, avoid and resolve conflicts, and create a positive social climate. We see that respectful behavior means treating others with civility and courtesy, accepting personal differences, listening to what others have to say, and refraining from ridiculing, embarrassing or hurting others. And to demonstrate that each of us has a role in creating a respectful climate, we see an inspiring documentary about a biracial teenager's initiative to promote interracial respect.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-152

Responsibility, v. 3 (cc)

Responsibility is often regarded as a burden, but here we discover that it is actually a great source of personal power. It is the key to taking charge of our lives. As a case in point, we see the remarkable example of a young woman who grew up in poverty but transformed her life by taking complete responsibility for shaping her own future. We learn that responsible people do what needs to be done, fulfill their obligations, are accountable for their actions, use good judgment, and don't let people down.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-153

Fairness, v. 4 (cc)

Nothing makes people bristle like injustice, but often it's difficult to know what's fair and what isn't, or what to do when faced with injustice. This program helps young people understand how to live by the golden rule, what it takes to be a fair and just person, and how much our personal actions do matter. As a stunning example of individual effectiveness, we see the inspiring story of a teenage boy whose action in response to injustice launched a worldwide campaign to bring an end to exploitative child labor.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-154

Caring, v. 5 (cc)

Caring is not just a way of feeling, it's a way of behaving. This program teaches that what makes us caring people is doing caring things. We learn that caring people respond selflessly to the needs of others and treat others with kindness, concern, and generosity. And we see the stirring account of a teenage girl whose exemplary acts of caring have enriched the lives of disadvantaged children in her community.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-155

Citizenship, v. 6 (cc)

Citizenship, at its core, is social responsibility in action. This program considers what it means to be a good citizen – including doing your part for the common good, serving your community and helping make our democracy work. And as proof that one person can make a big difference, we see the remarkable adventure of a teenage boy whose modest efforts at community service snowballed into legislative action that changed the way the state of Florida feeds its needy.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-156

Honesty, v. 7 (cc)

This video begins with the surprising account of two boys who triggered a fire storm of criticism by committing a simple act of honesty. But as we see from their experience and the teen discussions that follow, choosing to be honest or dishonest does something to our character. Lying makes us liars. Cheating makes us cheaters. But being honest frees us to be real. Not only do honest people have stronger, better relationships with others, but their honesty makes them better people and it makes our world a better place.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-157

Courage, v. 8 (cc)

It takes a lot of courage to stand up for what's right when we stand alone. Or to do what's right despite disapproval and negative peer pressure. Or even to take risks that are for our own good. In this program we learn what it means to be morally courageous and how that empowers our lives. And we see proof positive in the courageous story of a teenage boy who broke from a gang and changed his friends so he could succeed in school and turn his life around.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-158

Diligence, v. 9 (cc)

Imagine what life would be like if we approached each important task with discipline and focus. If we always did our best. If we persevered even when things became difficult or discouraging. In this program we look at what it means to be diligent and what a potent force diligence brings into our lives. As a case in point we see the poignant story of a teenage girl with cerebral palsy, whose diligent approach to living has enabled her to pursue and attain ambitious goals despite her disability.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-159

Integrity, v. 10 (cc)

Being a person of integrity means you are solid, principled, true to your very best self. It means you walk your talk by living up to your highest ethical values. It means you always try to do what's right even in tough situations, and you don't let temptation compromise your values. This program reveals the subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) ways that life puts our integrity to the test, and profiles six teenagers whose integrity has proven to be a gift to themselves as well as to the world.

Grades 6-12 30 min. 1999 V-160

LifeSteps Series with Michael Pritchard (cc)

This 12-part video series combines age-appropriate comedy, exciting dramatizations of real-life moral dilemmas, and insightful, problem-solving sessions to help students develop the necessary social and emotional skills to become responsible, knowledgeable, caring and successful in life. Michael Pritchard uses his uncanny ability to foster lively, spontaneous, teen-centered discussions to give students insight on how to become the best people they can be.

The ABC's of Emotional Intelligence, v. 1

Success in life requires a complex set of intellectual, emotional, social and ethical skills. This introductory program outlines the key elements of emotional intelligence - Assets, Balance, and Character - as students discover they have the power to bounce back, balance emotional and academic demands, and make positive choices.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5101

Knowing Who You Are, v. 2

This video helps teens think about their behavior, learn from experience, develop a realistic sense of their strengths and weaknesses, and understand and express their emotions. Moral knowing, a key element of good character, is explored as students discover the benefit of knowing their values, and living by them.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5102

Taking Charge, v. 3

To become independent, teens must incorporate a range of social and emotional skills. This program focuses on the emotional side of responsibility as students explore the key elements of self-control: coping with stress, avoiding impulsive behavior, delaying gratification, and managing anger.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5103

Bouncing Back, v. 4

Resiliency is perhaps the most important skill teenagers need to bounce back from the common disappointments of adolescence. In this program, they learn essential resiliency skills: developing realistic expectations, identifying obstacles, persisting and maintaining a sense of self-worth and optimism. More complex issues such as depression and suicidal thoughts are also discussed.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5104

Empathy, Caring and Compassion, v. 5

This video explores the skills that build empathy, the importance of compassion, and the moral imperative to help others in need - particularly the victims of bullying. Teens learn how labeling, prejudice, and cynicism impede the development of caring relationships.

Teens 27 min. 2003 DVD-5105

Creative Problem Solving, v. 6

This video presents our eight-step problem-solving approach. Highlights include: naming the problem, brainstorming, evaluating options, and choosing the best solution. Viewers are taught the basic skill of cause-and-effect thinking and the benefits of a positive problem solving attitude.

Teens 26 min. 2003 DVD-5106

Getting Along With Others, v. 7

In this program, teens discover positive ways to assert themselves, express complaints, handle misunderstandings and block rumors. They learn specific social skills - mediation, negotiation, active listening, and messages - and how to apply these skills to cooperative-learning groups and student-led activities.

Teens 29 min. 2003 DVD-5107

Building Character, v. 8

As teens in this program grapple with the common problem of friends who make bad choices about substance abuse, viewers learn that character means recognizing the need to make a change and having the courage and will power to stick to tough choices. Teens learn that the key to making good choices is to listen to their conscience and to the feelings they experience when their actions violate their values.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5108

Respect, v. 9

This video explores respect as a fundamental social value that allows us to resolve conflicts, prevent violence and bridge cultural differences. Barriers to respect, such as prejudice and bigotry, are explored as students learn that empathy and respect are the basis of healthy, successful relationships.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5109

Responsibility, v. 10

Teens learn the first rule of responsibility: to do no harm to themselves or others. The program also explores sexual responsibility, dependability, and trustworthiness, as teens are taught to ask themselves the guiding question: What is the most important thing I need to be doing right now?

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5110

Developing Healthy Relationships, v. 11

Healthy relationships are fundamental to emotional well-being. In this program, teens learn to build their own personal support system, recognize true friends, and develop positive refusal skills. The video emphasizes the importance of trust and caring in successful relationships and highlights the critical skill of negotiating with parents.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5111

Doing Your Best, v. 12

This program explores the intellectual and emotional skills essential to success: coping with anxiety, setting goals, identifying obstacles, maintaining self-esteem, and identifying personal resources. An appreciation of excellence is emphasized as students learn the importance of resourcefulness, perseverance and an optimistic view of life.

Teens 30 min. 2003 DVD-5112

Put Yourself In Someone Else's Shoes: Building Character

Empathy is a vital human quality, and young children often need help understanding the importance of "putting themselves in someone else's shoes." Empathic kids get along better with peers and adults, can see things from differing points of view, bring sensitivity to their interactions with others, and can more readily resolve conflicts.

Grades 3-5 14 min. 2001 V-5063