

**TRUSTWORTHINESS**

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Linda Rajacich

Presentation Grade: 2nd

Topic:

Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Read the story, The Empty Pot to the students. In this story an Emperor needs to choose a successor to the throne. He calls all of the children of the land to him and gives them each a seed. He asks them to plant it and in one year to come back and show him what has grown.

One little boy, Ping, who loves to garden is very excited. He is sure that he will be the next Emperor. Throughout the year he tends his seed but nothing grows. All of the other children have beautiful flowers growing in their pots. At the end of the year he is embarrassed about his “empty pot” but goes to show the Emperor anyway.

He is chosen as the Emperor since he was the only trustworthy child. You see, the Emperor had cooked all of the seeds he gave out so that none of them would grow. Ping is the only child who did not switch seeds and return to the Emperor with a beautiful flower.

We then discussed what this story had to do with trustworthiness and why the Emperor wanted a trustworthy child to become his successor.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Kim Cochran  
Presentation Grade: 2nd  
Topic: Always Do The Right Thing  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

I made up an oral test called “The What Would You Do Test” where each question had a morally right answer (A) and then the wrong answer (B). I used their names, their teacher’s name, or examples that they would easily relate to.

Each child received a piece of puzzle with each (A) answer. By the time they were done most had four pieces that when stapled together made a ribbon that said, “I Am A Winner!”

Some children had answered (B) for laughs and afterwards I gave them the pieces they needed because I knew they were playing. I had cut the pieces of their puzzles out of construction paper and wrote the words on different places so that they would not know what it said until they were done.

In the end they were thrilled with their construction paper ribbons.

### Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Dennis Lawson  
Presentation Made to Grade: Third and Up  
Topic: Take a Lesson From History  
Pillar: Trustworthiness and Fairness

#### DETAILS:

Bring in history photos, articles, stories, etc. Get a discussion going regarding which pillar applies. Example: Did you know that 1/5 or 20% of the Northern Regiments fighting in the Revolutionary War were black and that slaves were offered their freedom for service?

Feel free to visit the school's Media Center (library) for resources. Be sure to introduce yourself to the Librarian.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Michael Clark and Members of the Community Partnerships for Children

Presentation Grade: 3rd

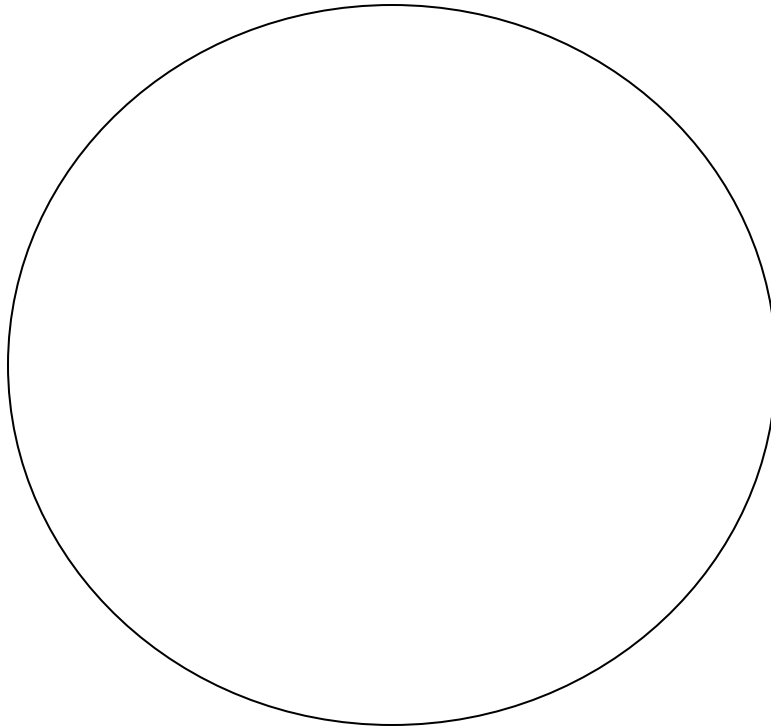
Topic: Be Honest With Yourself

Pillar: Trustworthiness

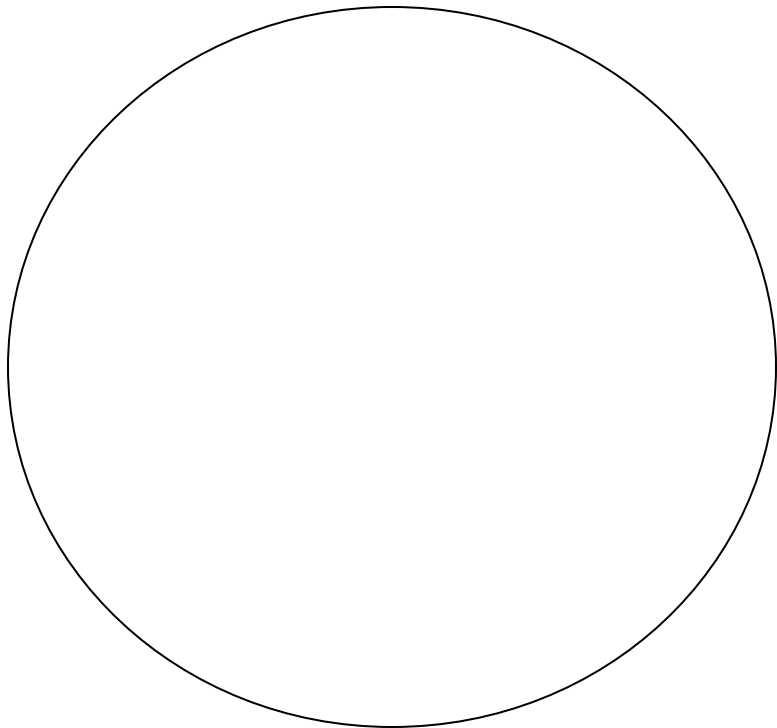
### DETAILS:

- I. Talk about trusting and then about trusting yourself.
- II. What does it mean to trust yourself?
  - a. Be honest about your strengths.
  - b. Know your areas of where you need improvement.
  - c. Be honest about yourself about mistakes.
- III. Being honest with ourselves is a great way to know more about ourselves and make improvements. There is absolutely nothing wrong with making mistakes if we are honest and try to improve on them.
- IV. Exercise – Ask students to draw two pictures in the circles below. One is something that they are very good at and the second is something where they would like to improve.
- V. Ask the students to talk about what they drew.
- VI. Compliment them on their great work and knowledge and honesty with themselves.

**STRENGTHS**



**AREAS WHERE I  
NEED  
IMPROVEMENT**



## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Michael Clark & Members of the Community Partnerships for Children

Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Topic: Your Advice Please

Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

1. Introduce Topic-Define or ask for definitions of advice
2. Winners ask for advice from other people.
  - a. None of us have all the answers. We all get help, direction, suggestions, comments from other people called advice
  - b. It is good to get advice because
    - i. More informed
    - ii. Other people's feelings about something
    - iii. Different beliefs
    - iv. Shows that you respect and trust others.
3. When someone offers you advice you need to take several steps
  - a. Listen carefully
  - b. Ask good questions
  - c. Thank them for offering their advice
  - d. Make a determination of how you are going to use the advice
    - i. Change your opinion
    - ii. Modify your opinion
    - iii. Not use
    - iv. Disagree with it
    - v. Get more opinions
    - vi.
4. Exercise
  - a. Panel of "Experts:" Ask for four people who have an expertise in an area (e.g. football, video games, school topics etc.)
  - b. The rest of the class are the "Winners" who know how to ask for advice
  - c. Have the class ask the panel questions
  - d. Have the panel (Experts) respond
  - e. Responses
    - i. Feed them some wrong answers
    - ii. Ask the class to say thank you.
    - iii. Ask the class if that matches what they had already thoughtAsk the class what they are going to do with the answers.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Michael Clark & Members of the Community Partnerships for Children

Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Topic: Develop Trust a Most Precious Trait

Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Introduce topic of the day. Ask question, “What is this month’s pillar?” talk about being Trustworthy – what does it mean to be trustworthy? Explain that it is important to trust others.

Exercise: Blind Fold Exercise:

Ask questions of those being blindfolded what it was like. Did anyone accidentally bump into someone despite trusting others? Other comments. Summarize and thank class.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Sara J. Davidson

Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Topic: Whom Do You Trust?

Pillar: Trustworthiness (Also Responsibility, Respect, Caring)

### DETAILS:

I blindfold a child and pick another child to be in charge of walking the blindfolded child around the room without bumping into anything. The blindfolded child feels how it is to trust and the caretaker experiences responsibility.

The students ask to do this over and over. I then try to relate it to working in groups.

## WINNERS WALK TALL PRESENTATION IDEA

Character Coach Name: Susan Clifford  
Presentation Grade: 3rd  
Topic: Wheel of Fortune  
Pillar: All

### DETAILS:

Practice gold balls are inexpensive and work well as alternatives to ping pong balls. With permanent marker, write on each ball so you have as many balls as kids in your class. Put the balls in a plastic painter's bucket – again cheap!

Draw a blank for each letter of our slogan on the board. It's a good idea to have the slogan in your hand so you can see how many of each letter. Give each student a number – it's their responsibility to remember the number and to pay attention!

Take turns pulling numbers out of the bucket – get the teacher to do that. The student with the number gives a letter, and you, Vanna, fill in the blanks. The first one to guess the slogan gets a prize.

I used part of a slogan and also gave a prize to the one who could finish it off.

For example:           The Buck Stops Here!  
                              What's right is right even if no one else is doing it!  
                              What's wrong is wrong even if everyone else is doing it!

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Michael Clark & Members of the Community Partnerships for Children

Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Topic: Never, Ever Lie – or Steal

Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Introduce Topic of the day

Ask question: “What does it mean to “Steal?”

Ask question: What does it mean to “Lie?”

Ask question: How does it make people feel if you lie or steal from them?

When you lie you have to remember what you said so you can keep up the lie.

Activity: The Liar Game (See the script below)

Ask for two volunteers

One person is: "the liar"

The other person is "the friend"

Have "the liar" read his/her script

Have "the friend" ask the questions.

Have "the liar" try to remember all of his/her lies

Conclusion: Remember lying and stealing hurts other people. We don't like to be hurt and we shouldn't hurt others. If we lie it is hard to remember a lie. It is easier just to tell the truth.

LIE List #1

- I have 26 cats
- I have 15 brothers and sisters
- My favorite color is yellow with black Pokka-dots
- My father is the president of the United States
- My favorite class is math
- I have 42 dogs, one beagle, 22 Dalmatians, and 21 Black Labs
- I make \$462.50 a week selling pizzas.

## Questions for Liar #1

- What is your favorite class?
- What kind of dogs do you have and how many of each?
- Exactly how much money do you make selling pizza?
- How many cats do you have?

## LIE List #2

- I have 23 sisters and 12 brothers
- I am from Seattle Washington
- My favorite food is Salad with French dressing
- I went to Spain 3 times last year.
- I live in a 563-room castle

## Questions for Liar #2

- Where are you from?
- How many times did you go to Spain last year?
- How many brother and sisters do you have?
- Where do you live, how many rooms does it have?

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jacki Cater  
Presentation Made to Grade: Third and Fourth Grades  
Topic: Telling the Truth  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Play the Gossip Game with the students. Start a three sentence message with a student. You must whisper in their ear. Each student has to repeat what was said to them the first time. No repeating the message from the whisperer.

I used this message with crazy results: Dragons lived millions of years ago. Eating platinum helped them to fly and breathe fire. They had flight bladders.

After the message reaches the last person, have them repeat what he/she heard. Let the children state what they heard as well. Then discuss with them the importance of speaking clearly, knowing your facts, and not jumping to conclusions. If you do not understand something, do not repeat it. Find out what the truth is. If you tell just one little lie, does this make you a liar? How many lies does it take before you are considered a liar?

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jacki Cater  
Presentation Made to Grade: Third and Fourth Grades  
Topic: Telling Lies  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Place some white eggshells in a clear jar. Cover with vinegar. Make a calendar chart with spaces for children to write short descriptions of what happens to the eggshells. This could take several months. So be sure to take several copies of the chart. Check with your teacher first if he/she will allow you to do this experiment.

Ask the children to take turns observing the jar of eggshells. Have them record what they see each day. Eventually, the eggshells should turn dark and break up into smaller pieces.

At the end of your experiment, discuss with the children how lies at first may seem not to make much of a difference in how people see you. But after awhile, lies eat away at people's opinion of you and your trustworthiness deteriorates just like the eggs.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Chuck Gerhardt  
Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Temptations  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

Trustworthiness is made of two words – trust and worthy. In other words, worthy of trust. To become worthy of trust you must have a reputation for being honest, reliable, and consistently doing the right things.

There are many things which you (the children in class) know you shouldn't do and know are wrong. Some of these things are in this "bag of temptations." (I hold up a canvas bag and start removing items, including a pack of cigarettes, a plastic bag of pills (Actually Tic Tacs), a can of beer, car keys, and a \$10 bill.

Also, included in the bag are some silly items such as a candy bar, rubber duck, sandwich in a plastic bag, and a little cloth mouse which I do not remove. I put all the "bad" items back in the bag."

Go to each table of children and ask one child to reach into the bag without looking and pull out an item. Then ask them to explain why it is a "Bad" or how it can affect them being worthy of trust. Ask others if they want to add any other reasons. The children do very well explaining why it is bad to smoke, et cetera, and everyone gets a laugh when someone pulls out one of the silly items.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Chuck Gerhardt  
Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Trusting Your Friends  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

In this presentation I use a blindfold and ask for two volunteers. I hold the blindfold behind my back and have the volunteers choose which hand has the blindfold. The winner gets to choose whether to wear the blindfold or not. I ask the child who will wear the blindfold whether he/she trusts the other child and then ask the child who will not wear the blindfold if he/she is trustworthy.

In the first exercise I have the blindfolded child put his/her hand on the other's shoulder and ask the unblindfolded child to lead the other around the room. Usually there are a few bumps but they eventually return to me.

I explain that this exercise is like a friend leading another friend around and you should be able to trust your friends. Minor mistakes are OK; we all make mistakes. But don't be "blind" and get misled. I ask the blindfolded volunteer if he/she thought the leader was trustworthy and would he/she trust him/her again.

In the second exercise, I use the same process to decide who wears the blindfold for two other volunteers. I ask the same questions, "do you trust him/her" and "are you trustworthy." After the unblindfolded child begins to lead the other child around the room I whisper to several others in the class to form an arch, or obstacle, and the unblindfolded child has to coach the blindfolded child to duck, step over the leg, et cetera.

As the children return to me I explain that things are not always simple and it is important to talk things over with your friends. Again, I ask the blindfolded volunteer if he/she thought the leader was trustworthy and would he/she trust him/her again.

In the third exercise, everything is done in the same way but as to the two volunteers get part of the way around the room I whisper to the leader to run away from the blindfolded child. The blindfolded child is usually bewildered and I ask him/her what he/she is going to do.

Following this, I explain that friends should not mislead or abandon friends. But if you find yourself in a difficult position, like being blindfolded and alone, take off your blindfold and find your own way – *trust in yourself*.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Chuck Gerhardt  
Presentation Made to Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Can Your Parents Trust You?  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

In the previous two presentations on trustworthiness, we used a “bag of temptations” (in it are a pack of cigarettes, beer can...) and the children were asked to reach into the bag without looking then explain why the item they picked was “Bad.” We did three exercises where one child led another blindfolded child around the room in varying circumstances.

In this presentation I ask for two volunteers and pick one to be Mom/Dad, and the other to be the son/daughter. I ask the son/daughter if he/she is trustworthy and then ask Mom/Dad if she/he trusts the son/daughter.

The Mom/Dad then put on the blindfold and the son/daughter takes something from the “Bag of temptations.” I ask Mom/Dad what she/he thinks the son/daughter has picked and then the blindfold is removed.

This exercise is repeated with coaching of the son/daughter’s second choice to demonstrate: two bad choices (can’t be trust), two good choices (can be trusted), a bad choice and a then a good choice (building trust), and a good choice followed by a bad choice (becoming untrustworthy). Conclusion – parents can’t watch you all the time (blindfold), and more and more they have to trust you.

Trust is an awesome responsibility – like in sports when you consistently carry the ball, you become trustworthy. And the longer you don’t make any mistakes, the more worthy of trust you become. After you earn the badge of being “trustworthy” we give it like a medal of honor and be proud of yourself.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Lisa Barnum  
Presentation Made to Grade: 6<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Honesty  
Pillar: Trustworthiness

### DETAILS:

I had each student go around the room and say either an honest or dishonest statement about him or herself. Then I asked how they felt making an honest statement (no worries, be truthful to others).

And then making a dishonest statement (uncomfortable, what if they ask me more questions, et cetera). Then we discussed times we may be tempted to be dishonest. I gave each group a time when we may be tempted to be dishonest and they came up with the consequences.

Example: Time we may be tempted – on a test – consequences getting caught and failing the test anyway.

## Good Ideas For Character Coaching Presentations

**Character Coach Name(s):** Brent & Linda Carroll

**Presentation Made To:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Topic:** Rumors

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility

**Presentation Idea:** Play the Whisper Game. It can be a real lesson in rumors. Have a couple of pieces of paper ready with a note on it that the coach prepared. Ask one student to silently read your note.

NOTE EXAMPLES:

- ❖ “The black cat had a nice dinner on Tuesday.”
- ❖ “We sometimes feed the dog late at night. Yesterday we forgot.”
- ❖ “I cleaned my room yesterday and now I cannot find anything.”
- ❖ “I did my homework as soon as I got home from school and we played games later that night.”
- ❖ “We are going to Cleveland to see the Orioles play the Indians in August this summer.”

Ask the student to whisper the message to the next student. Have each student whisper the message to their neighbor in the classroom. The last person to receive the message stands and says it out loud. After the laughing subsides, have the coach read the true message and compare the “rumors”. The end results are often very funny.

**PURPOSE** – To let kids know how rumors can be started and how words can be changed.

