

Character Education and Diversity Connections

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Lakes, streams, rivers and seas are connected just as we are!

Never Give Up

Study the pirate's persistence. He would not give up. He "searched the lakes and followed the streams, which led to the rivers and out to the sea . . . he braved the stormy weather and even a hurricane." He vowed not to stop looking until he found his peg leg. We can follow our goals and dreams in the same way. Make a list of class goals and choose one to work toward together. (You could have students and even families choose a goal to meet as well.) Talk regularly about how you can be persistent like the pirate. These goals could lead to a variety of writing activities. You could write interactively as a class about your experiences or ask students to reflect on their own or in groups. If you are raising money for a cause, this could lead to math studies. Practice identifying coins and their values, counting money, adding, subtracting, using calculators, etc . . . all toward reaching your goal. You might think about accomplishing a project that supports an organization which helps local waterways.

Diversity Activity

Students learn to respect others and support diversity by first understanding and supporting one another. Have your students bring a meaningful article (or picture of an item) to share with friends at school. This article should be one they would want to pass on to a son or daughter someday. Why is it important to them? What makes it special? What is special about the pirate's peg leg? Why does he want to pass it on to his own son or daughter? Ask students to share their pictures and stories. How would they feel if they lost these special items? Make connections to the pirate's peg leg and his persistence in finding it. Talk about how people are different, but we all have special people, memories and objects in our lives.

Character Connections

The Riddle in the Bottle taught us how moving water is connected between lakes, streams, rivers and seas. Talk with students about how you are all connected. Work together to meet a school goal and focus on how working together helps you all meet your goals—landscaping projects, school gardens, raising money for school or community causes, etc. Talk and write about how working together helped you meet and understand new people. Write an article or invite your local paper to write about the work you are doing.

