

# Dedication

## Syllables

ded•i•ca•tion

## Pronunciation

ded-i-key-shuhn

## Definition

Extreme loyalty.

*(When Jock Gray died in 1858, he was buried in Greyfriar's Churchyard.*

*His dog, Bobby, refused to leave Jock's grave for 14 years! Now that's **dedication!**)*

**Simply put:** Sticking with something even when the going gets tough.

## Related Terms

Devotion: Loyalty.

Perseverance: Endurance (staying power).

## Fundamental Question:

**How can you stick with an obligation even when it becomes very difficult?**

**Students will investigate the idea that** dedication involves a sense of commitment or loyalty, and within a community it also involves a commitment to shared goals and values.

## Objectives

Each student will:

1. Identify things in his or her life that are so important (s)he is willing to stick with related obligations even when the tasks become difficult;
2. Suggest differences between individual goals and values and shared goals and values;
3. Identify things in the community or nation that are so important citizens are willing to stick with related obligations even when the tasks become difficult; and
4. Devise a list of synonyms for attributes and themes related to dedication.

## Before you begin

- Print out one copy of *The Th-ING About It* for each student.

## Suggested Sidebars:

### Speaking of Dedication (Discussion Idea)

**Discuss:** Can a person become too dedicated to something?

### Taking It to the Next Level

Identify a problem (example: some local people with little or no money lack basic necessities like soap, shampoo, and toothpaste; or, there is graffiti on a building near the school). Develop a list of several possible solutions. Select one and see it through to the end. Share thoughts about your experience with others.

# Dedication

## Procedure

1. On the board write *family* or *my students* (or other words of significance to you as they pertain to this lesson). Pointing to the word(s) on the board say: “This is something that is so important to me, I’m willing to dedicate lots and lots of my time and effort to it. What are some of the things in your life that are so important to you – that you are so dedicated to – that you are willing to work at them no matter what?” (Record responses on one side of the board.)
2. Say: “What about our community (or nation)? What are some of the things that are so important to us that we are willing to work *together* at them no matter what?” (Record responses on the other side of the board.) Ask: “Do you think that every person in the whole community (nation) shares the same level of dedication to all of these things? (Discuss briefly, but don’t lose the main thread of the lesson.)
3. Say: “Look at the two lists. What do you notice?” (One list has individual goals and values, but the other has shared goals and values; some are things we can do by ourselves, but others we have to do as a large group; many of the goals and values are the same, but on different scales; and so forth).
4. Ask: “So how can you show your dedication to the important cause we listed?” (Give them my best efforts; finish what I start; focus on my goals; take my obligations seriously; and so forth.)
5. Distribute the *The Th-ING About It* sheets and review the directions with the class. Instruct them to think of as many interesting and unusual words as possible.
6. **Follow Up:** Eleanor Stackhouse Atkinson (1863-1942) was an author, journalist, and teacher. In 1912, she wrote the children’s classic *Greyfriars Bobby*. Read the book aloud to your class and discuss Bobby’s unusually strong dedication to Jock.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Th-ING About It

Think of as many “-ing” words as you can to describe dedication.

1. Devoting

2. Contributing

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

You may continue on the back of this page if you need more space.

Today's Thought: *Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice. It will be an exhilarating experience because it is an intense effort applied toward a meaningful end.* — **Thomas Dooley, physician and humanitarian**