

Generosity

Syllables

gen•er•os•i•ty

Pronunciation

jen-uh-ros-i-tee

Definition

Willingness to give without expecting anything in return.

(*Displaying his usual generosity, Seth put two dollars in the collection box.*)

Simply put: Not being like Ebenezer Scrooge.

Related Terms

Charitable: Giving.

Fundamental Question:

Is generosity always about money?

Students will investigate the idea that while generosity sometimes involves giving money, it can mean freely sharing everything from encouragement, respect, and compliments, to energy, emotional resources, knowledge, time, and attention, too.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Identify a real-life situation or problem that could be improved through non-monetary generosity; and
2. Display personal generosity in response to that situation or problem.

Before you begin

- Gather several copies of recent newspapers and news magazines; and
- Print out a copy of *Generous Helpings* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Generosity (Discussion Idea)

Is it possible to be *too* generous or to share *too* much? Explain your answer.

Taking It to the Next Level

Founded in 1990 as part of the Points of Light Foundations, Kids Care Clubs works to develop compassion, service efforts, and philanthropy in children. Kids Care Clubs provides youth with hands-on opportunities to help others. To find out more, click onto <http://www.kidscare.org/index.jsp>.

Generosity

Procedure

1. Distribute newspapers and newsmagazines to your students. Have them look for and cut out as many articles as possible about major worldwide situations that directly and adversely affect children their own age. Articles might be about hunger, homelessness, poverty, draught, famine, abuse, war, or poor education, among others. Assist them in compiling these into a single list.
2. Allow each student to select from the list a personal cause or, if you would prefer, have the group reach a consensus about one cause on which to work together.
3. Help the children narrow the focus of the cause(s) to make assistance efforts more manageable. For instance, if the cause were “hunger,” the students might investigate needs and programs related to feeding the hungry in your local community or in a particular town or village far away.
4. Using Internet resources such as the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (<http://www.servicelearning.org/>) as a starting point, have your children find out what they can actually do to help the situation without donating money. Suggestions might include food drives, letter-writing campaigns, informational meetings, and so forth.
5. **Follow Up:** Assist the children in their generous activities.

Name _____

Reminder: Generosity means willingness to give without expecting anything in return.

Generous Helpings

Pretend you are Crabby, the advice columnist for the local newspaper. How would you answer this writer's question?

Dear Crabby:

I feel SO guilty. I know that I should be willing to help others without expecting anything in return, but I HAVE BEEN getting something in return! I've been getting a really happy feeling when I give generously to others.

Please, Crabby, what should I do?

Signed,

Dew Moore

Dear Dew:

Signed,

Crabby

Today's Thought: *You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money, unless you have done something for someone who cannot repay you. – Ruth Smeltzer (Suzanne Ruth Smeltzer Giesemann), Author*