

Perseverance

Syllables

per•se•ver•ance

Pronunciation

pur-suh-veer-uh ns

Definition

Steadfastness.

(Both the little engine that could and the little red hen showed perseverance when they carried out long, difficult jobs.)

Simply put: Stick to it!

Related Terms

Endure: Persist.

Fundamental Question:

Could the person getting in the way of your goals be you?

Students will investigate the idea that it is important to keep a positive attitude (stay motivated) about reaching goals, not to give up too easily, and to resist those who might prevent them from reaching their goals.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Find examples of and report about people in history who “never gave up”;
2. Identify one or more examples of perseverance from his or her own life;
3. Relate examples of people who or events that supported this perseverance;
4. Evaluate how his or her perseverance affected the attainment of a goal; and
5. Participate in a class-wide perseverance-based social-action project.

Before you begin

- Secure the approval of the school administrator to guide your class through a one-time adopt a highway/road clean-up project ... rain or shine, hot or cold; and
- Print out a copy of *Plan on It* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Perseverance (Discussion Idea)

Discuss one or more of the following: a time when you worked extra hard to accomplish a goal; a time when you felt like giving up on a task; something that almost always motivates you to keep going; people or events that help you persevere; and/or how you feel when you accomplished a difficult task.

Taking It to the Next Level

Identify and interview someone who “never gave up.” If it is possible to interview this person in real life (face-to-face, by phone, email, or snail-mail) do so. If this is not possible, do some research to find out as much as you can about the individual and write up a report in the form of an interview. Share your findings with your class.

Perseverance

Procedure

1. Tell the class that they will serve as teachers for short lessons about perseverance. Briefly describe lesson planning. Distribute copies of *Plan on It* to the students.
2. Divide the class into three groups. Distribute one or more copies of *The Little Red Hen* by Byron Barton to the first group, *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss to the second group, and *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper (or others) to the third.
3. Assist the groups in preparing, gathering materials for, and carrying out their lessons in perseverance.
4. **Follow Up:** For a real-life lesson in perseverance, “adopt” a stretch of roadway, several public gardens, or the like. As a group, set up a goal to make the area a more pleasant place (by picking up trash, digging weeds, etc.) Work long and hard (rain or shine) to complete the project ... and this lesson in perseverance.

Name _____

Reminder: Perseverance means steadfastness.

Plan on It

Name of the story: _____

Author: _____

Brief description of the story: _____

This story taught about perseverance by _____

By the end of this lesson, each student will be able to _____

This is how our group will teach the lesson (step by step):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

These are the materials we will need to teach this lesson: _____

Important questions: In the story, who persevered? If you were the character who persevered, how would you have convinced the others to help you? Why do you think that character persevered and didn't quit? Write any other questions on the back of this sheet.

Today's Thought: *Many of life's failures are people who do not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.* — **Thomas Edison, inventor**