

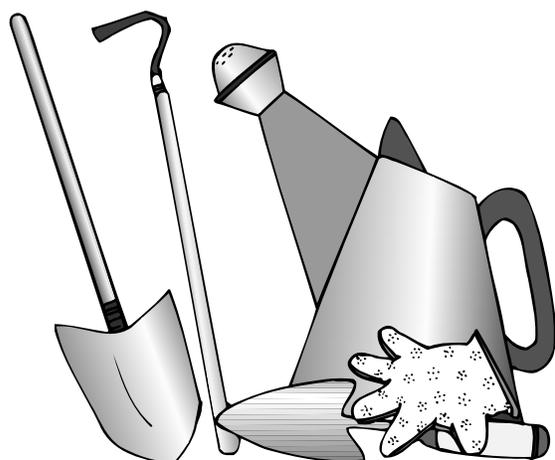


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A Day's Work



Summary

Francisco's grandfather has just moved to California from Mexico. He does not speak English, so Francisco speaks for him and helps him get a job. Problems occur when Grandfather does not know how to do the job. The boss discovers that Francisco was not telling the truth about Grandfather's abilities. Grandfather teaches Francisco a valuable lesson about being honest.

Before Reading

Talk about people not being able to speak the language of the country in which they live.

While Reading

-  Read to the part of the story in which Ben takes Grandfather and Francisco to the high bank with six big, black trash cans.
-  Why is Grandfather worried that Francisco told Ben that Grandfather is a gardener? What could happen?
-  Grandfather and Francisco begin to work.
-  Why is Grandfather so happy and proud of Francisco?
-  How will they know which are weeds and which are flowers? Later when Ben returns, he yanks off his Lakers cap and slams it against the van.
-  Why can't Francisco look at Grandfather when he speaks? What will Ben do? What will Grandfather do?
-  Finish the story.
-  What important things does Ben *not* have to teach Grandfather? What does Francisco learn? What is the result of a lie?

After Reading

What values do students recognize in this story? What other stories are similar to this one? How are they different? What real-life incidents touch on the same issues?

Friendship
Giving
Perseverance
Self-Discipline
Compassion
Responsibility
Respect
Honesty



A Day's Work

Extension Activities

Solving the Problem

Using the chalkboard or chart paper, record ideas generated by a discussion.

What is the problem? Analyze what Francisco does. Is it right or wrong? Why? List Francisco's other alternatives in getting Grandfather a job. List the pros and cons of each plan.

Hat Day

The Lakers cap plays a role in the story. Discuss the importance of admiring a team as a role model. Ask students to wear a ball cap (or a T-shirt) with the logo of a favorite team. Provide extras for those who do not have one. Teachers should participate.



Honesty Badges

Create honesty badges from construction paper. Use a badge model for younger students to trace. Students who can, may create their own. Generate ideas by studying the T-shirt and cap logos that everyone is wearing. As a class, write some examples: *Honesty* means "happiness." Being honest is being a friend.



Weeds or Flowers?

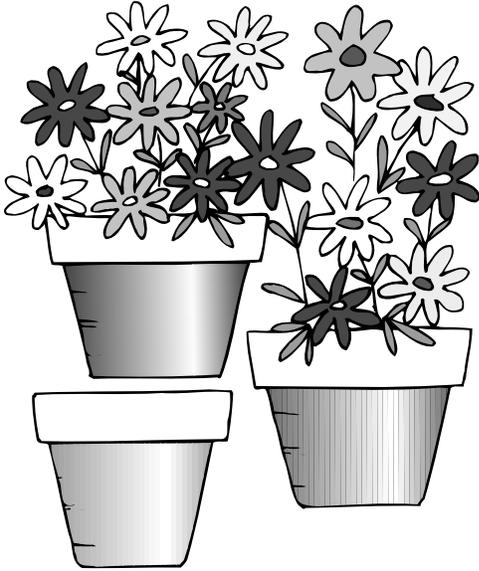
Go for a walk on the school grounds and neighborhood to observe plants. Try to decide which ones are weeds and which ones are flowers. A city or school grounds crew worker could visit to discuss the job of maintaining the grounds.

Friendship
Giving
Perseverance
Self-Discipline
Compassion
Responsibility
Respect
Honesty



The Empty Pot

A Case of Honesty and Perseverance



Summary

Ping loves flowers and is such a good gardener that anything he plants “bursts into bloom.” When the elderly emperor needs a successor, he calls all the children in the land to the palace. They are given special seeds to plant. They are to return to the palace in a year to show the emperor their best attempt. Ping works and works. He tries everything he knows, but the flowers do not grow. He returns in a year with an empty pot. All the other children have beautiful pots of flowers. Because Ping has been honest, he is chosen to be the emperor’s successor. You see, the seeds were no good and only an honest person could succeed the emperor.

While Reading

-  Read to the part of the story in which Ping has planted the seeds and is waiting for them to grow.
-  What is the problem here? How does Ping feel? What should Ping do? List all the solutions students suggest. Examine the consequences for each of the solutions students suggest.
-  Read to the point of the story in which Ping is ashamed of his empty pot. His friend suggests he can’t go to the Emperor with an empty pot.
-  Ask the problem-solving questions above with the new information gained from the story.
-  Read to the part of the story in which the Emperor asks why Ping has brought an empty pot.
-  Ask the problem-solving questions listed above again. Listen carefully to students’ responses. Try not to be judgmental.
-  Finish the story.
-  Match students’ responses to the author’s responses.

After Reading

What values do students recognize in this story? What other stories are similar to this one? How are they different? What real-life incidents touch on the same issues?