

Topic:

The Giving Tree

Time:

Two 45-minute sessions

Grade:

2-6

Core:

2: 6020-0201 6: 6060-0404
3: 6030-0401
4: 6040-0301
5: 6050-0501

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the concepts of individual rights, love, and taking advantage.
2. Students will learn what individual rights are guaranteed under the Constitution.

Procedure:

- 1, Read The Giving Tree and have the students think about the rights of the tree and the boy. Decide if you think any rights were violated.
2. State the purpose of the United States Constitution by discussing the reasons for the Constitution stated in the preamble as follows:
 - a. To have a better government than under the Articles of Confederation,
 - b. To have everyone treated fairly,
 - c. To keep peace within the country,
 - d. To defend the country from enemies,
 - e. To live comfortably and well, and
 - f. To keep people free both now and in the future.
3. Compare our government with other countries' forms of government. Discuss current issues in the news surrounding individual rights of people. Distinguish different types of leaders and how they affect individual rights.
4. Discuss in detail the six reasons for the Constitution focusing on b. -- To have everyone treated fairly. What is fair? Who should decide? The story ends with "and the tree was happy." What if the tree weren't happy and decided to take the boy to court?
5. Set up the roles for a mock trial. Allow time to prepare. Hold the mock trial in class.
6. Ask students to describe a situation either at school, home, or play when he/she felt his/her rights were violated. Refer to the six reasons the Constitution was formulated. How would he/she change the situation if he/she could. Set up a mock trial of the event. Think about outcomes.

Additional Resources:**Author:**

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