

Topic:

Leadership/Authority
Individual Rights

Time:

30-45 minutes

Grade:

K-4

Core:

K: 6000-0301

4: 6040-0301

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Distinguish good from bad leadership qualities.
2. Recognize their own feelings about leadership and leaders.
3. Realize that some leaders take away individual rights.

Procedure:

1. Read the story, Yertle, the Turtle, by Dr. Seuss to the children.
2. Discuss the story with the children using the following questions:
 - a. Who was the leader?
 - b. What did he do?
 - c. What was good about what he did?
 - d. What did he do that was bad?
 - e. How did the other turtles feel about Yertle?
 - f. What would you do if you were the bottom turtle? (Count the number of turtles on top of him in the story.)
3. Have a few of the children imitate the stack of turtles by lying on top of each other. Discuss with the one on the bottom how he/she feels. Give as many children the opportunity to participate as you wish (and they wish!).
4. An extension activity could be to have the children look at the turtles and try to give them names. Discussion could follow to see if they can guess how the turtles feel by looking at their expressions.

Additional Resources:

Other children's books on leadership or authority (available in most school media centers):

1. 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins by Dr. Seuss
2. Trig Sees Red by Robert Newton Peck
3. The Kings Fountain by Lloyd Alexander
4. I Wish Laura's Mommy Was My Mommy by Barbara Powers
5. Anansi, the Spider by Gerald McDermott
6. Lost in the Museum by Miriam Cohen
7. Mark of Conte by Sonia Levitin
8. Aaron's Door by Miska Miles

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