

# Books to teach fairness

Check out some of our favorite books to help teach kids fairness!

---

## If you were arrested for kindness

**“WE ARE MADE KIND  
BY BEING KIND.”**

**- ERIC HOFFER**

@THERAYCENTER  
#CHARACTERCOUNTS

F  
r  
o  
m  
o  
u  
r  
g  
u  
e  
s  
t

*contributor Michael Josephson.*

If you were arrested for kindness, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Some people cheer up a room by entering it, others by leaving it.

What do you bring to your interactions with workmates, friends, and family?

Is it encouragement, optimism, or kind words? Or is it pessimism, criticism, or cynicism?

People often forget what we say and usually what we do, but as Maya Angelou said, "They always remember how we made them feel."

Here are some other wise words about kindness:

"Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away."

– Sir Arthur Helps

"You will regret many things in life, but you will never regret being too kind or too fair."

– Brian Tracy

"Don't wait for people to be kind. Show them how."

– Anonymous

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

– Oscar Wilde

"That best portion of a good man's life: his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

– William Wordsworth

"Kindness is loving people more than they deserve."

– Joseph Joubert

"We are made kind by being kind."

– Eric Hoffer

"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

– Benjamin Franklin

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how

soon it will be too late.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.”

– Theodore Isaac Rubin, M.D.

“Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true.”

– Robert Brault

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



*Michael Josephson is an influential and internationally renowned champion of character education for youth and ethical conduct in business, government, policing, journalism, sports, healthcare and law. He is credited by many as the person most responsible for reviving and professionalizing the character education*

*in school and youth-serving organizations. In 1992, under the auspices of the Josephson Institute he created CHARACTER COUNTS!, the world's most widely implemented character development initiative based on a common language of shared values – the Six Pillars of Character) and Pursuing Victory With Honor (1996), a companion program promoting ethics in sports.*

Learn more about character education.

---

# “You’re only cheating yourself”



F  
r  
o  
m  
o  
u  
r  
g  
u  
e  
s  
t  
c

Contributor Michael Josephson.

It's in the news all the time – kids are cheating in school in new ways and at unprecedented rates.

One of the reasons is the way schools and parents deal with or ignore the underlying issues of integrity and character. For instance, to discourage kids from cheating, adults commonly say, “You’re only cheating yourself.”

Of course cheating damages credibility and character, but it's also dishonest and unfair. Cheaters don't just cheat themselves. They cheat everyone affected by their cheating, including honest students, who are put at a competitive disadvantage, and college admission officers and employers who think a student's grade accurately reflects his or her competence. What's more, cheaters dishonor their families, teachers, and schools.

When we tell kids they're cheating themselves because they aren't learning the material, we have to remember that most kids who cheat think what they're asked to learn is unimportant. They're quite comfortable not knowing the value of X or the capital of Zimbabwe. As to mastering skills, cynical and coldly pragmatic students believe that learning to cheat is more useful than learning the material.

Finally, it's dangerous to promote self-centered, cost-benefit calculations about cheating in a way that ignores or minimizes the crucial moral issues of honesty and honor. Nearly two-thirds of high school students cheat on exams because they're not afraid of getting caught and they get better grades.

To address the problem, we must promote integrity, not self-interest, and we must tell kids that whether they get away with it or not, cheating's wrong.

Of course, it helps if we really believe that.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.



*Michael Josephson is an influential and internationally renowned champion of character education for youth and ethical conduct in business, government, policing, journalism, sports, healthcare and law. He is credited by many as the person most responsible for reviving and professionalizing the character education in school and youth-serving organizations. In 1992, under the auspices of the Josephson Institute he created CHARACTER COUNTS!, the world's most widely implemented character development initiative based on a common language of shared values – the Six Pillars of Character) and Pursuing Victory With Honor (1996), a companion program promoting ethics in sports.*

Learn more about character education.

---

# How to be a great role model

Every time you point someone in the right direction, you're not only making a distinctive contribution to his or her life . . . you're passing the torch to someone who'll likely pay it forward.

---

## When parents behave badly

Parents behaving badly is a timeless problem, but there's a modern-day category of ill-behaving Moms and Dads who could easily earn membership in the Parents Wall of Shame.