



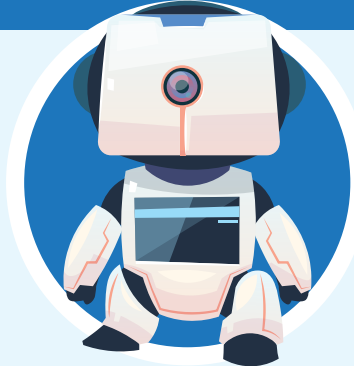
charactercounts.org/CI

CI COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER AND ETHICS

CI.2 Importance of Character

The road to success is always under construction.

The same is true for your character!



Understand that good character is more important to success, meaningful relationships, self-respect, and the esteem of others than other commonly valued attributes. This includes intelligence, beauty, talent, money, and status. Character not only defines who you are; it determines your future.

1. What does the 'road to success' mean?

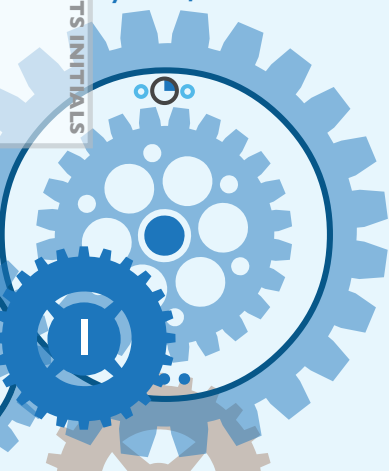
2. Why do you think this 'road' is always under construction?

3. In what way is your character also always under construction?

4. "I'm not as good as I ought to be. I'm not as good as I want to be. I'm not as good as I am going to be. I'm just thankful I'm a little better than I use to be." How does this statement apply to the quotes in the picture?

5. Construction implies there is work to be done. How does this apply to you as a student? How about in the future?

6. Do you ever stop learning? Why or why not?





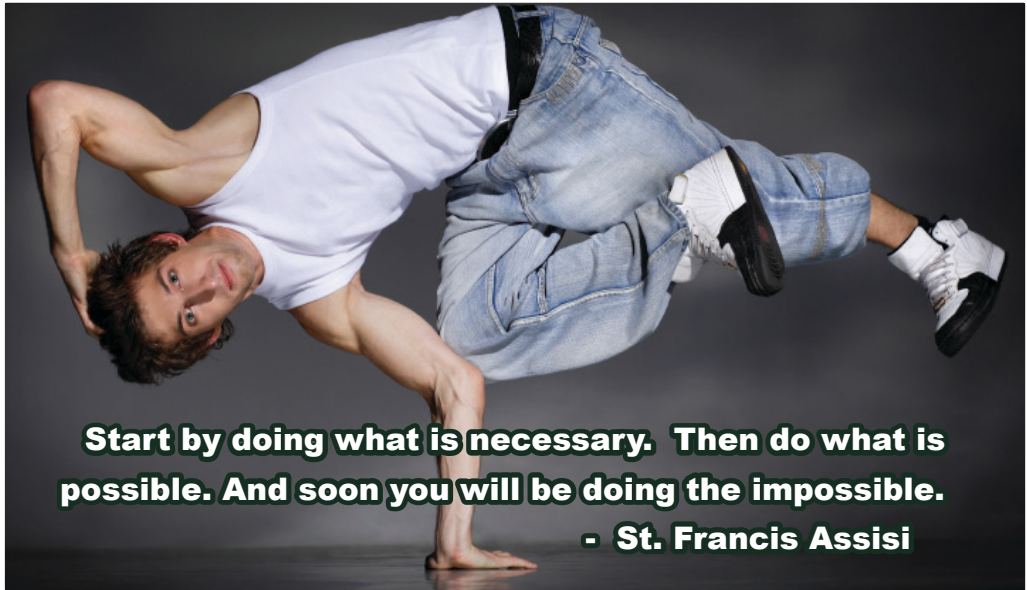
charactercounts.org/A2

A2 CONFIDENT AND DILIGENT LEARNERS

A2.2 Growth Mindset



You are in control of your own learning. Try as hard as you can and make sure that you don't give up. Then you will find that you're unstoppable.



Start by doing what is necessary. Then do what is possible. And soon you will be doing the impossible.
- St. Francis Assisi

Read the following story:

The Steven Thompson Memorial Centipede is a cross-country meet unlike any other. Each seven-member team runs as a unit, holding a rope for the first two miles of a three-mile course. At the two-mile mark, the team drops the rope and finishes the race individually. Each person's time is, therefore, a combination of the pace the team kept and his or her own speed. A strategy used by some teams is to put the fastest runner at the front and the slowest right behind her. The goal is for the strongest runner to be near enough to speak words of encouragement to the slowest runner.

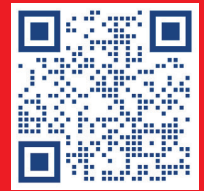
1. You can learn anything you want to learn. All it takes is effort and persistence. Effort is how hard you are willing to try. When was the last time you really had to try hard to learn something? What was it?

2. What is the connection between the story and the quote by St. Francis Assisi?

3. Persistence means not giving up. Have you ever felt like giving up? Write at least three sentences about a time when you wanted to give up on something.

4. What would you do differently if you were in a similar situation?

5. In thinking about your hardest subject, what is the difference between talent and effort?



charactercounts.org/SE4



Statute of Anne Frank

Read the following story:

Miep Gies was born on February 15, 1909, in Vienna to Austrian parents. Because of illness and poverty, she was sent to the Netherlands for care. There, she bonded with a foster family. Miep married a Dutch man and worked for Otto Frank. While being employed, she became close with his family. By May 1940, the Franks were trapped in Amsterdam by the German occupation of the Netherlands. As persecutions of the Jewish population increased in July 1942, Miep and her husband Jan helped the Franks by hiding them in some concealed rooms behind a bookcase. Two years later, the Nazis captured the Frank family. Miep rescued Anne Frank's diaries and later returned them to Otto Frank, the sole survivor of his family.

1. What does the story have to say about moral courage?
How about resilience?

2. Character is not something we are born with. How do you grow and change over time as a person of character?

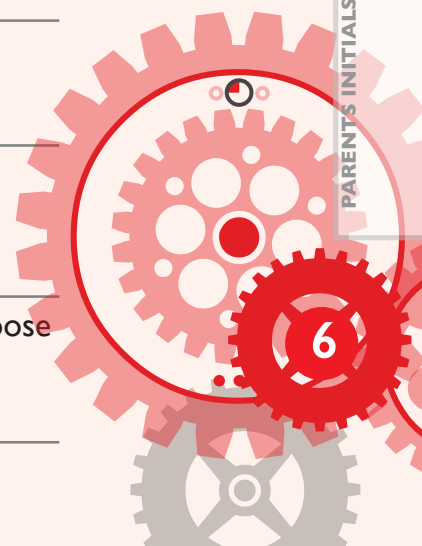
3. What does Frank's quote have to say about our character?

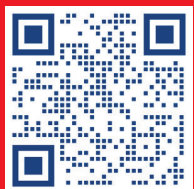
4. You have been asked to be a peer tutor to a student in 4th grade. What would you tell this student about character?

5. Which character trait is most important to you? Why did you choose this trait?



You are able to safeguard your integrity and show character by exercising moral courage. Be firm in the desire to do the right thing even when it is difficult. You can do the right thing even when it costs more than you may want to pay.





charactercounts.org/SE2

SE2 SELF-MANAGEMENT

SE2.2 Self-Discipline



No one said it was easy. But try to recognize impulses to act rashly or the urge for immediate gratification. Resist the temptations and social pressures to engage in self-defeating, unhealthy, unethical or illegal behavior.

Don't ever do anything just so someone will like you for the moment. Soon, the moment will be over and you may have done something that will change your life.

— Michael Josephson

Read the following story:

In the children's novel "Where the Red Fern Grows", the main character, Billy, tries and fails to trap a raccoon until his grandfather teaches him a foolproof method: drill a hole into a log, place a shiny object at the bottom, and then drive nails into the hole at a downward angle. This allows the raccoon to reach its hand in, but keeps it from pulling its hand back out so long as it is holding the trinket. The trap works because raccoons are too greedy to let go of shiny things.

1. What is the connection between the story and the quote?

2. Instead of a raccoon and shiny object, what would be an example of this situation for someone in middle school?

3. Have you, or someone you know, done something wrong just to try and gain a friend? If so, please explain.

4. Who has had the greatest influence on your character? How did they do it?

5. "No matter how many good things you do in life, you may be judged by your last worst act." What do you think this means? How does this quote apply to the one in the picture?
