

Exploring Leadership

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP: DEPENDABILITY

One of the most important traits in team members is Dependability – being reliable so that people can count on you. This is true in school, family, business, and life. Dependability means your teammates or co-workers can count on you to be on time, meet deadlines, take initiative, handle important details, follow the rules, communicate, and work well with others.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- When was the last time you told someone “You can count on me!”? Are you a dependable person? Give an example of why or why not.

Dependability is one of the most important character traits of successful people, and without it, it is unlikely you will be able to hold down a job for very long.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Interpret the moral of a parable about Dependability.
- Identify the quality of Dependability in oneself as well as others.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A Copy of the Parable called “I Can Sleep Through a Storm” (Appendix)

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Have a good reader read the parable called “I Can Sleep Through a Storm” aloud. Discuss the moral of the story and how it relates to Dependability with these below questions offered by The Character Council of Cincinnati.

FACILITATOR TIP:

- The Character Council of Cincinnati offers a plethora of hands-on activities under the topic: Dependability.

- Did you understand the meaning of “I Can Sleep Through a Storm” when it was first said?
- How do you think the farmer and his wife felt toward the new farm hand after the storm?
- How do you think the farm hand felt when he woke up after the storm?
- As a student, how can you prepare for storms? (not waiting until the last minute to do chores or homework, stay focused on important things, ask for help when you need it, offer help when you can give it, learn from mistakes/storms how to better prepare the next time, looking ahead and anticipating problems.)



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What does “I can sleep through a storm” actually mean? [I am dependable.]
- How do you think the farmer and his wife felt toward the new farm hand after the storm?
- How do you think the farm hand felt when he woke up after the storm?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- Do you consider yourself a dependable person?
- Name some people who depend on you and what they depend on you for.
- Name some people you depend on and what you depend on them for.
- Can you “sleep through a storm”?



CONCLUSION:

The best we can ask for in a friend, a coworker, or a leader is that they do what they say they will do -- we can count on them. Dependability is a trait to develop in yourself so that you and the people in your life can sleep through the storm.

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REFERENCES

- <https://smallbusiness.chron.com/dependability-important-person-workplace-15463.html>
- <https://www.nhsd.net/Downloads/PE%20Packet%2002.pdf>
- <https://charactercincinnati.org/in-school/activity/dependability-activities/>



APPENDIX:

"I Can Sleep Through a Storm" -- A Parable Author Unknown

A young man applied for a job as a farmhand. When the farmer asked for his qualifications, he said, "I can sleep through a storm."

This puzzled the farmer, but he liked the young man. So he hired him.

A few weeks later, the farmer and his wife were awakened in the night by a violent storm ripping through the valley. He leapt out of bed and called for his new hired hand, but the young man was sleeping soundly.

They quickly began to check things to see if all was secure. They found that the shutters of the farmhouse had been securely fastened. A good supply of logs had been set next to the fireplace.

The farmer and his wife then inspected their property. They found that the farm tools had been placed in the storage shed, safe from the elements. The bales of wheat had been bound and wrapped in tarpaulins.

The tractor had been moved into its garage. The barn was properly locked tight. Even the animals were calm and had plenty of feed.

All was well.

The farmer then understood the meaning of the young man's words: "I can sleep through a storm."

[Don't read this part aloud. Let them figure it out. Moral: Because the farmhand was dependable when the skies were clear, he was prepared for any storm. So when the storm did actually break, he was not concerned or afraid. He could sleep in peace.]