



# Exploring Leadership

## SOCIAL AWARENESS: PERSPECTIVE

Empathy is at the heart of social awareness, and understanding perspective is a key part of empathy. Learning to see situations from others' perspectives helps build effective leadership, teamwork, and strong relationships. By doing so, we foster an environment of trust and collaboration, where everyone feels valued, heard, and a sense of belonging.

### CONVERSATION STARTER:

"Before you judge someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes." What does this well-known proverb mean to you? Share personal experiences that connect to this idea.

Perspective is how we see the world, shaped by our experiences. The challenge arises when people assume others see things the same way. Overlooking different perspectives limits meaningful interactions and reduces empathy. Understanding others' viewpoints is essential for building positive relationships.

## EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

**Make the Villain a Hero:** Participants will pretend to be a famous villain from a fairy tale. By sharing the villain's perspective, everyone can better understand their actions and might even see them as a hero.

### FACILITATION TIPS:

- Prepare for the lesson by watching the YouTube video provided in the "What You'll Need" box ahead of time.
- The Exploration Activity can easily be adapted to any well-known movie or book.

### KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Practice perspective by stepping into a character's point of view.
- Build empathy by exploring how different experiences shape how people think, feel, and act.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Computer or projector to watch this YouTube video ahead of time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqz7UcCgbLA> (2:50 minutes)
- Optional: Paper and writing utensils for the activity.

- Get ready to step into the shoes of a famous fairy tale villain!
- Choose a well-known villain and create a short monologue that explains your character's actions and motives.
- Guidelines: Speak in 'I' statements as if you are that character. Help us feel some sympathy for them by showing how they might actually be a misunderstood hero.
- Here's an example: "Ahoy, mateys! I be Captain Hook! Long ago, that pesky Peter Pan chopped off me hand and fed it to a crocodile! Maybe I should've seen a therapist, but that ain't the pirate's way! Can ye blame a captain for wantin' revenge? Imagine livin' with a hook for a hand all these years—sailing the seas ain't easy!"
- Allow 2-3 minutes to prepare the monologue. Optional: Allow participants to write notes to use for the monologue.
- Invite each person to present their monologue in character, bringing the villain's perspective to life.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How challenging was it to take on the role of the villain? Why do you think that is?
- What does it take to truly understand a villain when you step into their shoes, rather than just watching the movie or reading their story?
- Were you able to feel any sympathy for the villain? Is it possible there's more to the story than we realize? How does this shift your view of the story?

## APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- Why is it important to try to understand others' thoughts and feelings?
- Have you ever felt that someone did not try to see your perspective? How did that affect you?
- Can you recall a time when you tried to see things from someone else's perspective in real life? What was the outcome?



## CONCLUSION:

Until you see things from multiple perspectives, you don't know the whole story and may find it difficult to empathize fully. Understanding different perspectives can improve your leadership, teamwork, and relationships. When you take time to listen and learn from others, you build a stronger community where everyone feels valued. This approach helps you become more compassionate and open-minded, allowing you to connect more deeply, creating a sense of belonging within your group.

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## REFERENCES

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- Empathy in leadership: Perspective is the secret sauce <https://www.insperity.com/blog/empathy-in-leadership/>
- Villain or Victim? 5 Disney Villains Who Are Actually Good <https://medium.com/@hccb/good-villains-aa54a15d812d>