

## Students in Action – Lesson Plan

# Friendship – Lesson Plan

**Introduction:** Friends are like pillars on your porch. Sometimes they hold you up and sometimes they lean on you. The one that you call “friend” is that first person that you call when you hear good news, that person who remembers that you don’t like pickles on your sandwich, and the person who will accompany you on the most boring of errands and make them seem like fun. Friendship is wonderful, but it takes time and effort. Friendship doubles your joy and divides your grief. True friends can grow separately without growing apart.

**Discussion** – Making friends and “fitting in” are usually at the top of list for goals when a student enters middle school. Friends help shape one’s values and actions. The need for peer acceptance is a key factor in choices that are made. Learning how to make and maintain friendships is an important part of one’s life during middle school. There are many qualities for a good friendship which include honesty, trustworthiness, loyalty, and unconditional acceptance. A friendship should make both parties in the relationship happy and both people should have fun when they spend time together. There is an old proverb that says, “A friend in need is a friend indeed.” That means that friends help and share with each other. Healthy friendships can be developed, but first you must know what role your friends play in your life and you play in theirs. Friends can motivate you, stand up for you, share similar interests, help you get what you want, boost your spirits, introduce you to new ideas, create positive change, or give advice and direction. Friendship requires many qualities- unselfishness, genuine care for the other person, and the ability to listen when the other person needs to talk. The greatest human relations principle is to treat others the way you want to be treated. Remember healthy friendships are marked by cooperation, kindness, trust, and mutual respect. It is also to remember that all friendships have their ups and downs and that occasional conflict is not a sign that this is an unhealthy relationship.

Questions:

1. Are friends more important to you now than they were in elementary school? Why?
2. There's an old saying that goes "in order to have good friends you have to be a good friend." What does that mean? Do you think it's true?
3. What's the difference between a friend and an acquaintance?

### Activity:

Discuss what you learned from each short story.

Don't criticize unjustly.

Linus (of Peanuts fame) appeared with his security blanket in tow and asked Lucy, “Why are you always so anxious to criticize me?” Lucy’s response: “I think that I have a knack for seeing other people’s faults.” Exasperated with that answer, Linus threw up his hands and asked, “What about your own faults?” Lucy didn’t hesitate: “I have a knack for overlooking them.”

Instead of being eager to dish out criticism all the time, take the humane, sensible approach and look for the good in other people. Encourage them. Build them up. Be a good finder, not a fault finder.

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Here is another story that communicates a message about friendship.

Once when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up and down upon him; this soon wakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O King," cried the little Mouse: "forgive me this time, I shall never forget it: who knows but what I may be able to do you a turn some of these days?" The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he lifted up his paw and let him go. Sometime after the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters who desired to carry him alive to the King, tied him to a tree while they went in search of a wagon to carry him on. Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the sad plight in which the Lion was, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right?" said the little Mouse.

Little friends may prove great friends.

### **Conclusion:**

To have good friends you must be a good friend. Here are some of the ways friends treat each other: Good friends listen to each other. Good friends don't put each other down or hurt each other's feelings. Good friends try to understand each other's feelings and moods. Good friends can disagree without hurting each other. Good friends are dependable. Good friends respect each other. Good friends are trustworthy. Good friends give each other room to change. Good friends care about each other. What kind of friend do you want to be?