

Courtesy

COURTESY is the ability to be considerate and nice to others. A courteous person uses good manners and is polite.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **COURTESY**. Write the following situations on the board and ask the students to rank each from 1-4, one being most courteous and four being least courteous.

- **Telling a secret to a friend in front of another classmate.**
- **Giving up recess to help a classmate who is having trouble with a math problem.**
- **Inviting a friend over and then ignoring him when a neighbor wants to play.**
- **Standing up for a person who is being teased by several classmates.**

As time allows, have the students constructively debate their rankings.

School/Home Link Tell the students to discuss the importance of showing courtesy with a family member.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **COURTESY**. Explain that an important part of being courteous is being considerate of others. Read: **Your baseball team just won the championship and your coach is treating you to pizza. You are seated at a table with 3 other team members and an 8-slice pizza is delivered to your table. Would it be courteous for you to eat 3 slices of pizza?** Lead a discussion of courteous behavior in this situation.

School/Home Link Tell the students to discuss ways to be courteous at the dinner table with a family member.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **COURTESY**. Explain to students that courtesy is catching. Have students "Play Courtesy Forward" by doing courteous acts for classmates. Explain that every time a student experiences a courteous act from a classmate, that student should then deliberately perform a courteous act to another classmate and so on until everyone is experiencing courtesy. For example, Student A holds the door for Student B; Student B gives Student C a compliment; Student C offers Student D a seat in the gym and so on. Encourage students to be courteous for the sake of being courteous. Teach students that one of the best ways to be courteous is to treat others with the kindness and respect they hope others will give to them.

School/Home Link Tell students to "Play Courtesy Forward" at home with family members.

LESSON 4

Review the meaning of **COURTESY**. Instruct students to write a crazy paragraph about a mealtime disaster. Tell them to use descriptive words in their funny paragraph about something that happened in the lunchroom or at home while their family was having dinner where no one used proper manners. As time allows, have students read their stories aloud. Ask other students to then offer suggestions about how the mealtime disasters could have been averted.

School/Home Link Tell students to tell a family member about their mealtime disaster and discuss ways it could be avoided through showing courtesy.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **COURTESY**. Read the following quote by Harriett Woods, **"You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims."** Call on students to interpret it. Emphasize that a courteous student follows the **Golden Rule**. (Treating others as you want to be treated.) As time allows, ask students how they could be courteous in the following situations:

1. **Your friend compliments you for making a good grade on your science test.** (Smile and say "thank you".)
2. **A classmate is feeling sad and lonely.** (Introduce him to your friends and include him whenever possible.)
3. **You are very hungry and could eat everything in your lunch by yourself, but your friend doesn't have a lunch of her own.** (Share.)
4. **You step on your classmate's toes when you are rushing to go home.** (Stop, make sure your classmate is okay, and say "I'm sorry".)

Teach students that one of the best ways to be courteous is to treat others with the kindness and respect they hope others will give to them.

School/Home Link Tell students to share the quote with a family member.

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-2-M6, ELA-4-M2, ELA-4-M4, ELA-4-M5, ELA-4-M7, ELA-7-M2, LA-1-M1, ELA-1-M4, ELA-7-M1, ELA-3-M, C1-A-M7, C1-B-M5