

Integrity

INTEGRITY means complete honesty. A person of integrity does the right thing even if it is hard to do.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **INTEGRITY**. Read: **When you have integrity, you are honest with yourself and others. However, integrity involves more than just speaking the truth. Having integrity means you “talk the talk” and “walk the walk.” Your actions match what you believe.** Have students copy the following illustration on paper and discuss what it means.



As time allows, invite students to tell what it means to “walk the walk” and “talk the talk.”

School/Home Link - Ask students to show and explain the illustration to a family member.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **INTEGRITY**. **When you have integrity, it means that your actions match your thoughts and words.** Read the following sentences and instruct students to clap each time Brad shows integrity. Have students explain how Brad should respond in the scenarios where he does not act with integrity. **1) Brad says he likes John, but talks badly about him behind his back.** (no clap - discuss) **2) Brad forgot to do his homework, so he told his teacher that he lost it.** (no clap - discuss) **3) Brad sees his classmates being mean to the new boy in school and stands up for him.** (clap) **4) Brad forgot his pencils on the bus, so when Carolina is not looking, he takes hers.** (no clap - discuss) **5) During a math test, the most popular boy in class asks Brad to let him copy his answers. Brad says “no.”** (clap) Encourage students to make their actions match their thoughts and words.

School/Home Link - Ask students to talk to a family member about how to live with integrity.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **INTEGRITY**. Write the word **chameleon** on the board. Read: **The chameleon is a curious lizard-like reptile. It changes colors so it can blend in with its surroundings. How do you think people could be like chameleons?** (Examples include: They could change their beliefs or behavior depending on who they are around. They could act nice to someone's face, while saying unkind things behind his or her back. They could pretend to be something they are not.) Read: **People can be like chameleons by changing their behavior to please whoever they are around. “Human chameleons” are not true to their own beliefs. They do not have integrity.** Write the following statement on the board: **A person of integrity is NOT like a chameleon.** As time allows, instruct students to draw a chameleon and compare and contrast people with integrity and chameleons.

School/Home Link - Ask students to discuss the characteristics of a chameleon with a family member and explain why a person of integrity is not like the chameleon.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **INTEGRITY**. Tell students they will evaluate their own integrity. Have students number a sheet of paper from one to five. (No name is needed.) Ask the following questions and instruct students to write either “yes” or “no” next to the number. **1) I tell the truth, even if it means I'll get into trouble. 2) I do not take credit for something that I didn't do. 3) I come home when I say I'm going to. 4) I am the kind of person my parents and friends think I am. 5) I act the same regardless of whom I am around.** Tell students to count the number of yes answers. Congratulate students who have a high number of yes responses.

School/Home Link - Ask students to survey family members to determine their integrity.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **INTEGRITY**. Tell students about Abraham Lincoln when he was a young man. Read: **Abe was working in a store as a clerk. One day a woman came in and bought a few items. Abe added the charges and the lady paid for her things. After she left the store, Abe realized that he had charged her a few cents too much. Abe felt bad about his mistake. At the end of the day, Abe walked miles to return the money.** As time allows, ask the following questions and discuss: **Was Abraham Lincoln a person of integrity? Did he go overboard? What would you have done?**

School/Home Link - Ask students to tell a family member the story about Abraham Lincoln.