

Superpowers Make a Difference

Role-Play Activity: Using your superpowers to make a difference in the world

Materials (optional): props such as school books, snack wrappers, and soccer balls, Gandhi glasses (see GandhisGlass.PDF)

Tell children they'll be role-playing unfair situations (listed below). Explain that they will act out each situation. At first, the main character will just accept the unfair situation. But then they will put on their "Gandhi glasses" to see things in a new way.

Explain that when Gandhi saw a conflict or an unfair situation, he "looked" at things with his "superpowers" in mind, and thought of a peaceful and cooperative way to solve the problem. He always "saw" a way to make things better without hurting anyone.

Give children time to practice. Allow them to come up with their own solutions when wearing their Gandhi glasses. However, if they need help, you may offer some of the suggestions below.

Situation 1

A group of children are playing soccer and taking up the entire soccer field, which keeps another group of children from being able to play their game. (The situation could involve a group of boys vs. a group of girls.) The main character stands on the sidelines and yells mean things at the group who is playing.

With Gandhi glasses: The main character suggests to the group that they share the field, with each group using half. Or, the main character asks if his group can join the group that's already playing.

Situation 2

A group of kids eat their snacks outside during recess. When it's time to come in, they leave leftover food and litter all over. The main character is disgusted by the mess, but just goes inside with everyone else without doing anything.

With Gandhi glasses: The main character starts picking up the litter and asks others to help her.

Situation 3

A girl is trying to read aloud in class, but incorrectly pronounces some of the words in the story. The class laughs at her. The main character feels sorry for her, but laughs along with the others.

With Gandhi glasses: The main character asks others to be patient while the girl sounds out the words, and she offers to help her after class.

Situation 4

After an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, many shorebirds are coated with oil. The main character feels sad and hopeless and thinks about ways to get revenge on the people who caused the oil spill.

With Gandhi glasses: The main character raises money to help clean up the birds by drawing pictures and selling them.

(This situation actually happened in 2010 when Olivia Bouler, 11 years old, wrote a letter to the Audubon Society saying she wanted to help. With Audubon's help, Olivia raised an estimated \$80,000 by sending her sketches and paintings of birds to people who donated to organizations helping with relief efforts in the Gulf of Mexico spill disaster.)

Debrief the role-plays by asking the children why their solutions were fair for everyone involved. If there's time, children can role-play more than one solution.

Closing the Lesson

Gandhi prayed twice a day. Then he sat in silence to get inner guidance. End class by praying together, possibly using the Lord's Prayer or the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, in the Bible verse section (which inspired Gandhi). Sit in silence for a few moments. Remind children that when faced with unfair situations, they can always imagine that they are wearing their "Gandhi glasses," remember their superpowers and choose to stand up for what is right in a peaceful way.

***Do you have any of your own situations you can
"use your Gandhi glasses" for?***