



UNDERSTANDING AESOP'S TALE: THE BUNDLE OF STICKS

SESSION A

Cooperation is:

- * Working together towards a shared goal for the benefit of everyone.
- * Understanding each other's needs and strengths.
- * Following an agreed set of rules and encouraging one another.

Synonyms:

- * teamwork
- * partnership

Important Phrase:

- * united we stand, divided we fall.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children understand the meaning of Aesop's tale of The Bundle of Sticks.

Suggested Resources:

A version of Aesop's fable *The Bundle of Sticks* (numerous are available online); writing frame/rubric and writing materials.

Script:

Remind children of the story of *The Lion and the Boar*. What happened? What was the key lesson - or moral - from the story? Explain to children that in this lesson they will hear another of Aesop's fables. This one is about an old man and his sons. Unlike in *The Lion and the Boar*, the children will need to think very hard about the moral of this tale because it is not spelt out for them. Read the story aloud to the class. To illustrate the story, pass individual sticks around the class. Can someone break the stick? Now pass around a bundle of sticks (tied together with string or elastic bands). Can anyone break the bundle? Ask children questions about the text to ensure comprehension. Turning to their partner, children discuss the moral of the story - what could it be? Partners to give feedback to the class, explaining their answer and how they

arrived at it. Ensure that all children have a good grasp of the moral of the tale: that the sons will be stronger together than if they go their separate ways.

Suggested Activities:

Children will plan their own version of a story that demonstrates that working together achieves greater outcomes than working individually. The title of their stories should be 'United we stand, divided we fall'. Develop a rubric for children to use to plan their stories. It should include sections for character and setting descriptions, the dilemma (what it is they are trying to achieve and why the characters cannot achieve it individually), and the resolutions (how characters cooperate to achieve their task). Model the exercise for children, focusing in particular on the transition from dilemma to resolution.

Plenary:

Ask children to think about some of the challenges that characters in their stories may encounter as they try to work as a team. What might they be?



Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

I am impressed by the way you used cooperation to achieve such a great result with your team. Can you tell me what you noticed about how you felt when the group was cooperating? How did the whole group benefit from working well together?

Guidance:

Remember the bundle of sticks story? What would happen if you co-operated and worked together?

Correction:

If you had let go of your idea and listened to the solution that the rest of the team came up with, what might have been different? It can be hard to let go of ideas we believe in: what do you have to do to notice that your idea might not be as good as the idea of the team?

