

## Teaching Ethics Lesson Plan

Alex Demircan, Samsam Dirie, Mollie Leibowitz Rabin

Total Time: ~30 minutes

Ages: 4-5

### Materials

- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- Paper
- Coloring materials
- Picture of cookie

### Goal

To engage students in a discussion of ethics by discussing the importance of personal awareness through an examination of sharing versus selfishness. What does it mean to share? When is it okay to be selfish?

### Introduction (5-10)

1. Name and Gesture- Model high energy gestures
2. Introduce philosophy and ethics
  - a. "Do you guys remember what philosophy is?"
    - i. "Do you remember any questions we asked last week?"
  - b. "What is sharing?"
  - c. "Who is someone that you love?"
    - i. "Do you like the share with them?"
      1. When?
      2. Why or why not?
  - d. "How do you share? In what ways"

### Drawing activity (~5 minutes)

1. Draw something you like to share with your friends
2. Draw something you do not like to share with your friends
  - a. Take volunteers to discuss drawings
  - b. How does sharing make you feel?

### Book and discussion (10-15)

- Read *The Giving Tree*
  - Why would the tree give her leaves to the boy?
    - Do you give things to people you love?
  - What are some ways the tree shares with the boy?
  - Is the boy sharing anything with the tree?
    - Then why is the tree sharing with him?
  - What is the difference between sharing and taking?

- Is the boy taking?
  - Is the tree sharing?
- Why does sharing make the tree so happy?
  - Even after it has been cut down
- Does the tree have anything else to share?
- Why did the tree share everything with the boy?
- Was the boy sharing enough?
- Can you ever share too much?

**Movement break-** Grow like a tree

**Hypothetical situation-** (10 minutes)

- Alex has a nice big cookie that he is really excited to eat for snack
- Samsam comes to school late, and didn't have time to eat breakfast
- Samsam is starving, and asks Alex if he has anything she could eat
- Alex has a dilemma: he's really excited to eat his cookie, but Samsam needs to eat something to be happy and healthy
- What should Alex do?
  - Raise your hand if he should share
  - Raise your hand if he should eat it himself
    - Why?
- If share- How should he share it?
  - In half?
  - Should Alex get more?
  - Should Samsam get more?

**What is something you liked about today**