

Two Activities for Friendship

Activity 1

Friendship Collage

For this activity, students will make a visual representation of an important friendship in their life by creating a collage. You will need cardstock paper, glue, scissors and magazines that students may cut apart. You may also want to provide additional art supplies for students such as markers, colored pencils, glitter, etc.

In one of the film clips from Stand By Me, Chris and Gordie discuss their plans for school the following year. When Gordie, who excels in school, assumes Chris will be in his classes, Chris confronts him.

As a group, discuss the scene. First, ask students to describe their impressions of Chris and Gordie. How do they view themselves and each other? How do they support each other? How would students describe the qualities of their friendship?

After the discussion, give students a piece of paper and ask them to brainstorm the friends that they have with whom they share the same quality of friendship they noticed was shared between Chris and Gordie.

Next, ask students to select one friend from their list and write down a list of eight to ten adjectives that they would use to describe the friend and a short explanation of why they have chosen each description. Invite students to share, but remind them not to use names.

When the discussion is over, instruct students to create a collage about their friendship with one specific individual. They may include words and images that describe that friend, the times they share together, and the ways that they are supported and have supported their selected friend.

When the artwork is complete, hang collages up for public viewing.

Activity 2

Friendship Quotes

Divide your group into smaller groups of four or five students and hand each group a quote about friendship to discuss. If you would like to select different quotes or need more, the following is a good source for quotations on various themes:

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/friendship>

“A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.”

– William Shakespeare

“Why did you do all this for me?” he asked. “I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.” “You have been my friend,” replied Charlotte. “That in itself is a tremendous thing.”

– E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

“What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.”

– Aristotle

“Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything.”

– Muhammad Ali

“How many slams in an old screen door? Depends how loud you shut it. How many slices in a bread? Depends how thin you cut it. How much good inside a day? Depends how good you live 'em. How much love inside a friend? Depends how much you give 'em.”

– Shel Silverstein

“The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, not the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when you discover that someone else believes in you and is willing to trust you with a friendship.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The best mirror is an old friend.”

– George Herbert

“Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow ripening fruit.”

– Aristotle

“However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship.”

– Albert Einstein

“Be slow to fall into friendship, but when you are in, continue firm and constant.”
– Socrates

“I wonder what Piglet is doing,” thought Pooh.
“I wish I were there to be doing it, too.”
– A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

After groups have read their quotes and discussed them, ask them to read their quote out loud to the group.

Invite students to create their own quotation about the meaning of friendship. They could continue their work in small groups or work independently to develop their own idea and saying. Write the sayings on the board, large piece of easel paper, or ask students to write them decoratively on a large piece of paper to share with others.