

Recycle, My Hero

OBJECTIVE: To show how values influence peers.

MATERIALS: craft materials, HANDOUT: **Wanted: Superhero** (D37)

VOCABULARY: Blue Box, environment, peer pressure, recycling

BACKGROUND:

Peer pressure is a double edged sword. It can push individuals to excel or cause them great harm. Friends can influence a person to smoke or choose not to smoke, steal or not steal and so on.

Positive peer pressure was instrumental in spreading recycling across the province. Because more and more communities were doing something good for the environment other communities did not want to be left out. Today four out of five homes have a Blue Box to place at the curb for collection. This activity will illustrate how positive peer pressure can make a difference.

PROCEDURE:

1. Explain the concept of peer pressure to the class. Be sure to provide both positive and negative examples of peer pressure. Mention how friends can affect the way a person thinks, feels, dresses or talks. They can also influence the television shows a person watches, the music they listen to and many other things.
2. Ask the class to think of examples of peer pressure (i.e. smoking, studying, etc.).
3. Tell the class they are going to use a cartoon character to put positive peer pressure on their friends, families and schoolmates to help promote recycling. You could photocopy HANDOUT: **Wanted: Superhero** (D37) or use as an overhead to stimulate thinking.
4. Each child is to design a "recycling superhero". The hero can be a male or female person, an animal or an inanimate object. The only limitation is the super hero must be designed to promote recycling. The superhero could be completed over several Art periods.
5. After the designs have been completed each student presents their superhero to the class. Students should explain what aspects of the superhero would influence people to recycle.

Recycle, My Hero (cont.)

EXTENSION:

1. Feature a different superhero in the classroom each week. Beside the hero place the Blue Box or recycling containers.
2. Make names for the superheroes.
3. Create mottos for the superheroes.

EVALUATION:

1. Have the children explain why they chose their superhero to represent recycling.
2. Do the children think their superheroes will encourage others to recycle?
3. Explain what it means to recycle.