

North Florida South Carolina Region



Common Core ^{Tip} Corner

Positive Character Quotes



Cloze Reading and The **Common Core State Standards**

1. Helps students connect to complex text
2. Students read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences about it
3. Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusion drawn from text

Students will likely be

David Coleman, that polarizing architect of the CCSS, loves cloze reading... he says “[By teaching close reading] you are empowering [students] to **independently read and gain knowledge**... . [By emphasizing close reading] I’m trying... to rehabilitate a world in which the text plays a central role, where we acknowledge its confusions and gradually work through them, taking the time and care to linger, particularly where the author chooses to linger, letting [the author] be our guide as to what questions are most interesting because that, of course, was their fundamental work.”

So try implementing this technique and let me know how it goes...

Do Not Give UP the
Beginning is always
the hardest!

Want details or ideas or simply to know more about CLOZE reading...check out this very cool Prezi created by teacher Erica Beaton: <http://prezi.com/vzehbii1reke/close-reading/>

You will find great artifacts and student examples to help get you started!

Need a vacation from Some parents?



They are the hallmark objections of every difficult parent: *"Not my child."* *"My child would never do that."* These defensive statements grind communication to a halt, and make educators everywhere cringe. How can we address discipline problems or poor grades when parents believe their children can do no wrong?

Dealing with Difficult Parents, can be tricky but with simple strategies in place you can get past these roadblocks and avoid conflicts:

1. **Lead with positivity:** Don't let your first conversation be about bad behavior. Reach out early and often about the good things a child does. Building a positive relationship makes delivering bad news later on easier.
2. **Discuss consequences before problems arise:** If parents aren't aware of consequences beforehand, they are more likely to view a punishment as harsh, even if it could have been more severe.
3. **Focus on the future, not the past:** Don't let conversations dwell on past incidents. Keep attention focused on working together so similar disciplinary measures aren't needed in the future.

Please, Teacher

Please, teacher, treat my child
as if he were your own.
For if you do, I'm more likely to
Answer when you phone,
More likely to work beside you,
less likely to cause you woe.
I've sent you the best that I have to offer,
and to me, he's great. Don't you know?

Poem By Annette Breaux

Learn to Work Cooperatively with Parents

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

There's only ONE reason to become a teacher
To teach every child—to reach him and reach her
And to make all decisions based
on what is best for each
So that you can proudly proclaim,
“I touch the world—I teach!”

Remind Yourself Why You Chose to Become a Teacher

Okay, so we all entered the profession of teaching for the same reason: the money! (Ha!)

Seriously, I believe that, as teachers, we all share a common calling and a common purpose. When asked why teachers chose their career ...the prevailing theme? “I wanted to make a difference, to touch lives.” And it never fails.

In the everyday mayhem of our lives, we often get “caught up” in the negatives. It can happen in our personal lives and in our professional lives. In teaching, it is sometimes all too easy to lose sight of our main focus, our students. I once had a meeting with a teacher who just needed to “vent.” (I am sure you have had these meetings too!) The conversation went like this: “I can’t understand why we’ve adopted yet another new set of standards. The pendulum just keeps swinging back and forth. I’m over the paperwork, and I’ve just been asked to start yet another task force. The whole educational system seems to be going down like Titanic. When are we going to get a break? Why don’t they just leave us alone?” After listening to her express her frustrations, I said, “Tell me what made you choose this profession.” The teacher went on to share a touching story about a teacher who had influenced her life in so many ways. She said, “Realizing what a difference she made with me, one student of many, I decided that that’s what I wanted to do—make a difference in the lives of children, just as my teacher had done for me.” I didn’t have to say another word. The teacher smiled warmly and said, “Thanks for reminding me of that. I guess I was losing sight of the only thing that really matters in this profession—making a difference.”

Yes, teaching is stressful and at times overwhelming.

**When you feel like you’re at the end of your rope, --remind yourself that YOU are a rope -----
a lifeline for the students that you teach.**

TOP FIVE WAYS TO RELAX WHEN STRESS STRIKES!!!!

1. **Find your breath:** focus on breathing in and out of your nose for ten rounds (a round is both in and out) this will relax the mind and body!
2. **Get Sunlight and Wide Open spaces:** Sunlight is scientifically proven to make people happier so take the class outside for a new perspective.
3. **Get a Good Green or White Tea:** Tea is full of antioxidants that help to reduce stress.
4. **Play Classical Music:** Smooth violin or melodic piano will reduce anxiety and ultimately eliminate stressful situations.
5. **Just Relax:** Don't be addicted to stress!
"If the problem can be solved, why worry? If the problem cannot be solved, worrying will be of no help."

When we look at it logically there really is no reason to stress and worry. Remind yourself of this fact and just relax! It is amazing how powerful this can be if you really want to do it.



Teacher Pay Teachers

By Jennifer Badeaux



TEACHERS pay TEACHERS
an open marketplace for educators

TeacherspayTeachers.com (TpT)

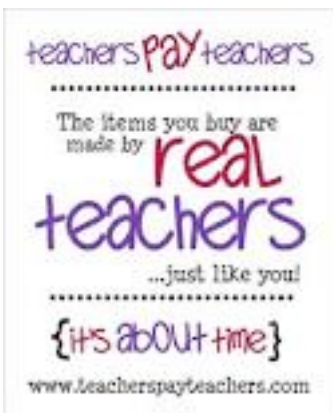
is one of those hidden gems online that is actually making news, seriously, headline news. Don't believe me? Check out this teacher who is making serious cash with her contributions to TpT: <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-09-24/how-a-teacher-made-1-million-selling-lesson-plans> But I'm not telling you about TpT for you to make millions but if you're so inclined, go for it. It would be that perfect extra money job. However, if you're ever looking for an assignment to enforce a certain standard or looking for materials you can't find, be sure to look at TpT. Some of the materials are even free!

Seriously, yes, I said FREE. Just do a search and then sort by cost. If you haven't started using TpT yet you may want to sign up for the weekly newsletter. Each week they highlight about 10 programs or downloads that are timely and diverse over all the grade levels. If you do nothing else, have a look at that. You can sign up here: <http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/> at the bottom of the home page. Even if you find something you are looking for and it's not free it is usually a very fair and nominal cost. Most downloads are a few pages to even an entire unit and range from \$1 to \$10. If you find a creator you like you can even follow

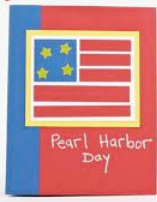
that person and then receive emails when they add something new. There are a variety of ways to use TeachersPayTeachers and many teachers find it extremely helpful especially in assisting with Common Core. Since there are no specific textbooks aligned that way there are at least pieces that can slide in your existing curriculum and enrich what you are already offering. If you're already using Pinterest it's likely that you have seen many TpT ideas

pinned there already. You can also store a wish list on the TpT website. You may see something that isn't what you need now but just may be perfect for the next unit you are teaching. And be sure to leave reviews and feedback. The user input is just as valuable in rating whether or not that packet is worth the download if you can't tell by the preview pages.

Do your part in the teaching community and help support other teachers that are supporting you. Check out Teachers Pay Teachers today.



Pearl Harbor Day Projects for Kids



Pearl Harbor Facts and Trivia to interest kids...

- ✓ The attack commenced at 7:55am on Sunday December 7th 1941
- ✓ The Japanese forces were led by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo
- ✓ The Japanese fleet consisted of 353 planes that attacked in two waves
- ✓ America had 2433 deaths and 1,272 injuries. Eighteen ships were sunk or seriously damaged including 5 battleships, 188 planes were destroyed, and 162 planes were damaged.
- ✓ Japan lost 64 people, 29 planes, and 5 midget subs.

It's the most wonderful time of the year



Happy Holidays

Birthdays

- 3 – Holly Pane
- 11- Cathi Cohen
- 14 – Amy Draeger
- 18 – Theresa Fitzgerald
- 21 – Travis Alderink
- 23- Kathleen Dial
- 23- Korrin Dykhouse
- 24 – Angela Powers
- 25- Rachel Vaughn
- 26- Kristi Kendall
- 28 – Christine Bentley

Christmas is in your heart, not under the tree.



Important Dates in December!



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7

Happy Hanukkah



Happy Kwanzaa



December IS National Novel Reading Month

Can you read one book each week?

Prove it!



The Heart of a Teacher



The child arrives like a mystery box...
With puzzle pieces inside
Some of the pieces are broken or missing...
And others just seem to hide

But the HEART of a teacher can sort them out...and help the child to see
The potential for greatness he has within...a picture of what he can be

Her goal isn't just to teach knowledge...by filling the box with more parts
It's putting the pieces together...to create a work of art

The process is painfully slow at times...some need more help than others
Each child is a work in progress...with assorted shapes and colors

First she creates a classroom...where the child can feel safe in school
Where he never feels threatened or afraid to try...and kindness is always the rule
She knows that a child can achieve much more when he feels secure inside

When he's valued and loved...
And believes in himself...
And he has a sense of pride

She models and teaches good character...and respect for one another
How to focus on strengths...not weaknesses...and how to encourage each other
She gives the child the freedom he needs...to make choices on his own
So he learns to become more responsible...and is able to stand alone

He's taught to be strong and think for himself as his soul and spirit heal
And the puzzle that's taking shape inside...has a much more positive feel



The child discovers the joy that comes from learning something
new...
and his vision grows as he begins to see all the things that he can
do

A picture is formed as more pieces fit...an image of the child with
greater strength and confidence...
and a belief that he can win!
All because a hero was there...
in the HEART of a teacher who cared
enabling the child to become much more...
than he ever imagined...or dared

A teacher with a HEART for her children...knows what teaching is all about
she may not have all the answers...but on this...she has no doubt

When asked which subjects she loved to teach,
she answered this way and smiled...
"It's not the subjects that matter...It's all about teaching the CHILD"