

Being Frank
Common Core Curriculum Guide Grades 1 - 3
Reading and Writing

“Honesty is the best policy” is Frank’s motto. He tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. But Frank’s overly frank comments annoy his friends, his teachers, and even his mom. How can Frank stay true to himself but not hurt the people he cares about?

Reading

1. What does it mean to be honest?

- Prior to reading: Involve students in a discussion about honesty. Has anyone heard of white lies? What happens if the truth is unkind? In partner pairs or as a class, brainstorm possible times when telling the truth might not be the best policy. Are there times when telling the truth is necessary?
- During reading: have students predict what might happen. Compare to the original brainstormed list and add to as necessary. What possible events might happen? If he never lies, what would happen if.....? Encourage students to think/discuss/share their ideas.
- How are Grandpa and Frank the same? How are they different? Are they both honest?
- What message do you think the author wanted us to learn about being honest?

Common Core State Standards addressed: RLK.1, RLK.2, RL1.1 RL1.2, RL2.1, RL2.2, RL3.1,RL3.2

2. How do we learn from our mistakes?

- What are some negative consequences to Frank’s actions? Focus on cause and effect (because he was unkind to his friends, they didn’t want to play with him; because he told the police officer the truth, his mom got a ticket).
- What did Frank learn from observing Grandpa with his friends? Give specific examples.

Common Core State Standards addressed: RLK.1, RLK.3, RL1.1, RL1.3, RL2.1, RL2.3, RL3.1, RL3.3

Writing

1. As a fun activity, create situations with the students where telling the complete truth might be hurtful. Students can role-play the situations and then write what Frank’s response would be at the beginning of the story and what Frank’s response would be by the end of the story.

Common Core State Standards addressed: WK.5, WK.8, W1.5, W1.8, W2.5, W2.8, W3.4

2. Several of the characters in the story have names that match their profession or their physical characteristics. Examples include: Principal Wiggins (who wears a toupee), his teacher, Ms.

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Zaroma (bad breath), Mrs. Peacock (with her fancy hats), and Mr. Pickles. Together as a class create a chart of names that might match various professions. After students understand how to do this, have them work individually or in partnerships to come up with a variety of names for different professions. To extend the activity, students can write a short story with illustrations to go with the name and profession they create.

Common Core State Standards addressed: WK.3, WK.5, W1.3, W1.5, W2.3, W2.5, W3.3A, W3.5