



Cooperation

Discussion Questions, Vocabulary and Activity For Grades 3-5

Segment Summary

Cooperation on stage and behind the scenes is critical to a play's successful run.

With only a week before the opening night of *Time Flies*, it's no surprise that this high school theater group is working overtime to memorize its lines. What many people might not realize, however, is the extraordinary amount of effort and teamwork that goes on behind the scenes in order to make a play successful. Like the actors, everyone backstage plays a crucial part in the production. The stage managers keep everything organized, the set decorators build the props and the director helps the actors with their line delivery and stage presence. And these are just a few of the tasks necessary to put on a good show. It takes everyone cooperating and working together in order to achieve success. The cast members know that if they can't depend on their backstage counterparts, and vice versa, they won't accomplish their desired goal: a perfect performance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What character traits do the students in the theater group possess?
2. How are the cast members and the play's backstage crew like a team?
3. Can you have cooperation without teamwork? Explain.
4. Give examples of other types of jobs in which teams of people must cooperate. What happens if there is a breakdown in any part of that team?
5. Think about the teams or other groups with whom you have worked. What roles have you played in these groups (leader, motivator, supporter, etc.)? How does it make you feel when others don't contribute? Explain.

Cooperation

Vocabulary Words and Definitions

Accomplish (v.)

Definition: to succeed in doing something, especially after trying very hard

Context: Jasmine studied hard to accomplish her goal of making straight A's in all of her classes.

Cooperation (n.)

Definition: the act of working together; willingness to work with other people to achieve a common goal or desire

Context: **Our soccer coach says that cooperation among players is the foundation of teamwork**

Independently (adv.)

Definition: working, performing or existing separately and without influence from other people, organizations or the government

Context: Instead of allowing students to work in groups, Mrs. Fernando asked them to work independently to complete the assignment.

Source: *Longman's Advanced American Dictionary*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 2000.

Cooperation

A League of Their Own

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- Differentiate between the concepts of cooperation and independence
- Work with the class to suggest examples of cooperation
- Work with a small group to explain the importance of cooperation in accomplishing a goal
- Work with a small group to present an explanation to the class

Materials:

- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers
- Paper, construction paper, card stock, poster board
- Chalkboard or overhead projector
- ***A League of Their Own*** worksheet

Procedure:

1. Initiate this activity by asking your students to offer a brief explanation of the relationship between the words “cooperation” and “teamwork.” Allow time for students to share their answers. Then, ask your students to explain the relationship between cooperating with others and acting independently. Allow time for students to respond.
2. Continue by creating a concept web on the board or overhead. Write the word “cooperation” in the center of the web.
3. Ask your students to complete the web by generating examples of teamwork or cooperation. Use their responses to fill in the web.

Examples: Surgical team, pit crew, athletic team, space shuttle crew, etc.

4. Divide your class into small groups of approximately four students, and distribute one copy of the ***A League of Their Own*** worksheet to each group.
5. Explain the following assignment to the groups:
 - a. As a group, select one of the examples from the concept web or create a new example that demonstrates cooperation among people.
 - b. Work together to decide how the example demonstrates cooperation. Consider the following questions:
 - What is the function of each of the people or components?
 - How do all of the people or components work together to accomplish the goal?
 - What are the consequences if one or more of the people or components fail to cooperate with the other people or components?
 - c. Continue to work together to develop a presentation that will provide the answers to the questions in *Step 5b*.

Note: Encourage students to be creative with their presentations. They may use props, costumes, settings, etc., to make their presentations more interesting to their audience.

- d. Share the presentation with the class.
6. Allow time for group members to work together to develop their presentations.
7. On the day you assign, allow each group to share its presentation with the class.

Related Vocabulary Words

accomplish cooperation independently

Assessment

1. Individual assignments should be evaluated using a set standard offering letter grades or points.
2. Group assignments should be evaluated using guidelines that address individual student participation and contribution, as well as evaluating the group as a whole.
3. The **Cooperation Assessment/Evaluation** form serves as a guideline for assessing each student's performance within the activities and lessons. Additional evaluations may be added to the table, such as writing assessments for grammar, syntax, punctuation, style, etc. Reports may be graded on accuracy and analysis. Students may also be evaluated on their use of technology within key activities that encourage using the Internet for research and for the creation of a Web page.
4. Students should receive a copy of the evaluation form at the beginning of the program so that they are aware of the assessment standards and the necessity of participation in order to fully benefit from the program.

Cooperation Assessment/Evaluation

Name _____

Class _____

Lesson/Activity	0	1	2	3	Total
Cooperation A League of Their Own	No participation	Participated in class discussion	Participated in class discussion and worked with group to develop presentation on value of cooperation	Participated in class discussion and worked with group to develop and share presentation on value of cooperation	

Additional comments: