



Alexander's Amazing Adventures

Classroom Discussion Guide

Respect

Part 1

- What job did Alexander volunteer to do at school? (*crossing guard*)
- What was Alexander nervous about? (*kids respecting him*)
- What is Alexander's new quest? (*awaken an Inlander's hearts to the value of respect*)
- Where did the Light Keeper tell Alexander to go? (*Cascade Canyon*)
- What does "respect" mean?
- How do you feel if someone doesn't respect you?
- Let's say your little sister did a drawing and she's really excited to show it to you. You don't really think it's that great. What do you say to be honest but show respect for her feelings?

Part 2

- Who do Theo and Alexander meet on their way to Cascade Canyon? (*Elly/Eleanor*)
- What does "Wild Wagon Winnie" not respect? (*the rules of the road*)
- Why does Elly hope that Winnie isn't going to Cascade Canyon? (*the roads are narrow; Winnie drives all over the road, so it's dangerous for people walking*)
- Can you think of a time when someone wasn't respectful to you? What happened?
- Let's say you need help with a school project that is really frustrating to you. Your dad is busy with something in the backyard. What's an example of how you might ask for help in a way that is NOT respectful? How would you ask for help in a way that IS respectful?

Part 3

- The Cascade Canyon road is very narrow. How do the travelers know when it's their turn to go? (*the Flag Raiser raises the flag when downward travelers can go and lowers the flag when upward travelers can go*)
- Who did Alexander and his friends meet on the road Cascade Canyon? (*the Flag Raiser*)
- Why was the Flag Raiser upset? (*Winnie never follows the rules*)
- Who offers to help them get up to Flag Top? (*Winnie*)
- Why is it important to respect rules?
- Let's say your friend is really excited to tell you something in class. How can you show respect for your friend while also showing respect for your teacher?

Part 4

- Who did the Light Keeper remind Alexander to respect? (*his guide, Winnie*)
- What job does Alexander ask Winnie to do? (*raise the flag*)
- How did Alexander help Winnie become more respectful? (*he helps her to understand why rules are important*)
- What happens when there is a thunderstorm in a canyon? (*flash flood*)
- Why are Alexander and his friends worried about the travelers in the canyon? (*they can't see that a storm is coming and if they travel up the canyon, they will be hurt in the flash flood*)
- Is it OK to have fun and be silly sometimes? How do you know if your fun is crossing the line and becoming disrespectful?
- Let's say your mom is on the phone and you'd like to tell her something. Give an example of what you would do if you were NOT being respectful. What's a way you could be respectful?

Part 5

- How do Alexander and his friends warn the travelers that a storm is coming? (*raise the flag*)
- Most of the travelers stopped when they saw the flag. What did the Erodians do when they saw the flag? (*kept going*)
- What happened to the Erodians? (*floated away*)
- What should we respect? (*possible answers: rules and laws, feelings, yourself, other people's property, other people's beliefs, culture and traditions...*)
- Let's say your brother has built something out of building bricks and left it right in the middle of the room that you share with him (and he leaves out messes like that all the time). Your mom has told you to clean up your room. What could you do about the building bricks on the floor that would show respect for your brother's property and feelings? What might you do if you weren't showing respect for your brother's property and feelings?

Part 6

- What are some things Alexander learned to respect? (*people, rules, nature, feelings*)
- What are some things you want to respect?
- Why is respect important?

Respect Activities and Discussion

Try these activities and discuss the value of respect. Think about and discuss what makes a person respectful.

Starting Over

This month, try “starting over” whenever someone in the class speaks without respect. Do your best to ask the student to do things in a respectful way. If they don't respond respectfully, simply say, “Let's start that over” and ask again in an especially respectful way – then they can answer in a manner that is much more respectful.

Be Polite

Work together on being extra polite and using words like please, thank you, excuse me, and you're welcome.

Look People in the Eyes

Talk about how important it is to look people in the eye when you talk to them. Invite students (including yourself) to make a real point of looking people in the eye when talking to them. Praise children when you see them doing this and remind them when they forget.