



Alexander's Amazing Adventures

Classroom Discussion Guide

Courage

Part 1

- What was Alexander afraid of? (*that he would mess up his part in the school play*)
- Miss Petalbulb told Alex to have courage. What does it mean to have courage?
- Have you ever done something that requires courage?
- What is the opposite of courage?

Part 2

- What did Alexander see in the Stormhaven Library? (*red worn books like his own*)
- What were the books? (*journals of the Inlanders' lives*)
- Who did the Erodians capture? (*Ellinore*)
- What did the Erodians want in exchange for Ellinore? (*the crown*)
- What did Mirabelle want Alexander to do? (*rescue Ellinore*)
- Why is courage important?

Part 3

- What is a value? Can it be seen? Where do you keep a value?
- What does Mirabelle give Alexander to help him rescue Ellinore? (*a long metal tube*)
- What does Alexander think the tube is? (*a power whacker*)
- What does Alexander think the power wacker will do for him? (*make him invincible*)
- Is courage something you can hold in your hands?

Part 4

- Why wasn't Alexander scared of the Erodians? (*he thought he was invincible*)
- The Light Keeper told Alexander, "When you are afraid, then you can be brave." What does that mean?
- What does it mean to be stronger than fear?

Part 5

- What was in the tube? (*plans for all the water works at Fountain Mist*)
- How does the plan help Alexander and Ellinore escape? (*they are able find their way out of the castle*)
- What are some things that require courage for you to do them?

Part 6

- What was the new word in Alexander's book? (*courage*)
- What did Alexander learn about courage? (*you show courage when you're afraid*)
- Can you be scared and brave at the same time?
- Can you think of times when you should show courage by NOT doing something that other people might think is cool and courageous?

Courage Activities and Discussion

Try these activities and discuss the value courage. Think about and discuss what makes a person courageous.

Courage Situations

Introduction: Talk about how courage is not something that is only useful on a battlefield or in great and momentous situations. It is an everyday thing. Say, "Let's use our imaginations for a moment and think of some common situations that require courage, and let's give a name to the type of courage that each requires."

Examples:

- Everyone else is wearing a style you don't particularly like. You decide to wear what you like rather than following the crowd. (The courage to be yourself.)
- All the cool kids eat lunch in the hall of the school. It's a nice day and you want to eat outside. Your friends won't go out, so you go out alone. (The courage to do what you like, even if it's by yourself.)
- You're with three friends who want to shoplift a couple of small things "Just for the excitement of it." You say no, and they call you a chicken. You tell them that you'd rather have fun that doesn't involve maybe getting arrested and suggest some fun ideas. (The courage to do what's right and try to be a leader for the right.)
- You notice there's a kid at your school who seems to have no friends. He's always off in a corner by himself in the lunchroom. You decide to sit by him at lunch one day and ask him about himself and make friends. (The courage to be friendly and overcome embarrassment or shyness.)
- There is an essay contest at school. None of your friends wants to enter it, but you would kind of like to. You've never entered a writing contest before and you're not sure you're any good at it, but you decide to give it a try. (The courage to do what you want to do even if no one else wants to do it and the courage to try.)