

## **POSTER: WHAT MAKES A LEADER?**

### **Key points to make in relation to the poster**

The following quotations give an explanation of the key points.

### **Quotations/sayings**

- Like the case of a mother and child, when the mother wants to lift a child, she bends to lift it. Likewise leaders should do and show what they want others to follow. Leaders should not be like History or Geography teachers, who just place facts before the students, but should be like the Physical Education teachers, who demonstrate and show everyone the exercises. Likewise they should do good, be good, and see good.
- There should be no scramble for power or position. What matters is the purity, intensity of commitment and the spirit of self-sacrifice.
- Do not seek to exercise authority over others, seek rather to be useful to them. When one neglects their duty the leader starts causing headaches. Be a servant. Then all strength and joy will be added to you. If you try to be a master you will arouse envy, hatred and greed in everyone around you.

### **Suggested Starting Points**

- Note that the quality beside each photo is one of the main characteristics of that particular leader. For example, Winston Churchill was noted for determination, Mahatma Gandhi for non-violence, Mother Teresa for loving service etc.
- The introduction of this poster could be incorporated with student elections for school council etc., or related to what the senior students do around the school in terms of leadership.
- Ask children who have leadership roles in the school to speak about their roles and responsibilities.
- Hand out awards acknowledging children who have played leadership roles in and out of school.
- Invite a leader from the community/captain of a local sports team to talk about their roles and responsibilities as leaders. Focus on strategies for uplifting others rather than being concerned only with yourself.
- Tell/read stories about the qualities being highlighted or about the people on the posters (e.g. Why is “forgiveness” a special quality of Nelson Mandela?)
- Emphasise that all children have leadership qualities

## **Song**

- Determination: Try Try (from Exeter tape)
- Spirit of Enquiry: Anything is Possible (from Exeter tape)

## **Stories**

- Read/tell stories about the famous leaders shown on the poster and others (see appendix for some examples)

## **Silent sitting**

This poster is about leadership and the qualities of a good leader. In this silent sitting I am going to ask you to dig deeply inside yourself to activate those qualities in yourself. Even if you are never going to become a great leader, you can still activate these qualities to become the kind of person who will bend down to help to lift others up rather than thinking only of yourself. We will use the light in this silent sitting because this is a symbol of lighting up the qualities that are there inside you – whether they are deeply buried or whether they are already close to the surface. Imagine that the light is pouring into your head so that it feels light and bright. Think of it as being like a small ball that can be moved around easily inside your brain and your body. As I name each of the characteristics of a leader from the poster, think about the place in your body or your brain where this characteristic is lying and let the ball of light go to it. Then imagine that this ball is like a small flame, and when it touches the characteristic it causes it to burst into a big flame. Do this for each one, one by one. The first one is determination to keep on trying even when things are not going your way..... Next, forgiveness even if you think somebody has done something wrong to you. .... The next one is non-violence. If somebody does something that you disagree with, you can find a sensible and peaceful way of solving the disagreement so that everyone comes out as a winner. .... Now think about the place in you where there is the kindness and the unselfishness to want to do loving service for others, and allow the ball of light to set this quality alight so that it bursts into life. .... Next find the place where you keep your spirit of enquiry – your desire to find out new and creative solutions to problems and to understand yourself and others – and allow that to be lit up. .... Now you can feel yourself to be alive with some of the qualities of a good, unselfish and caring leader. Finally take a minute to imagine yourself using these qualities in your daily life. It might be in a group activity in class, in sport, in a group or club that you belong to. Just imagine yourself and the other people in the team or group, and imagine that you are so strong that you are lifting everybody else up high and that they are being lit up by your light as well – until the whole group is light and bright and everyone is able to contribute their best for a good outcome.

## **Follow-Up Activities for the Classroom**

- Brainstorm in groups about what makes a leader. After some discussion and sharing of ideas, show photos of leaders who have been strong powerful leaders but not good people (eg Hitler). Repeat the brainstorming but this time ask the question “What makes a GOOD leader?” Discuss the differences between leadership qualities and being good leaders.

- Assign some kind of leadership role within the school to every child in the senior class. Discuss with them from time to time about whether they are following the examples of good leadership they have decided on.
- Do follow-up research on people (either world-famous or in their own communities) who are good leaders and the qualities they display.
- Do follow-up research on the five great leaders shown on the poster and their special qualities.
- Make posters/booklets with children's ideas (in words or pictures) about: Forgiveness means..... (etc.)
- Ask children to find stories/poems/songs/pictures etc. to add to a class book about leadership.
- "Spirit of Enquiry" can be linked to existing materials on thinking, for example de Bono's Six Thinking Hats (see appendix); mind mapping
- Use the idea of children recognising their own unique gifts and talents to support others in a leadership role (see Diamond of the Week in the appendix)
- Think of someone who has helped you achieve something you really wanted. Now ask yourself what it was about that person that helped you to reach your goals. Jot down whatever comes to mind. Share with the group/class what you perceive to be the qualities of this person.

#### **Community service/Selfless service/Ceiling on Desires**

- Focus for a day/week on one of the leadership qualities shown on the poster and ask all children to put it into practice in as many ways as possible. Discuss what they did and the outcomes in a class meeting.

#### **Family involvement**

- Ask children to explore how they can do the above activities at home or in the community.

#### **Recognition and awards to students who have made good use of the value/s**

- Give an award to the individual children/families that put the best ideas into practice.

#### **Teacher modelling/integration throughout the day**

- Make a point of referring to the poster regularly throughout the day when you observe a child displaying one of the qualities shown on the poster.