



Students discuss and discover the importance of being themselves and telling their own stories to the world.



One piece of blank 6x6 paper for each student; Pencils; Coloring materials (Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils); Glue, tape, and/or staplers; YouTube Read Aloud of the book “The Patchwork Quilt” (<https://youtu.be/JGMfSLEer3c>, 11:51 mins, optional).

Total Prep Time: 10 mins.



As this is the first Monday of the month, please consider sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at www.everymondaymatters.org.

4 C's		SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING		SERVICE LEARNING	
•	Critical thinking	•	Self-awareness		Integrated learning
•	Communication	•	Self-management		High quality service
•	Collaboration	•	Social-awareness		Collaboration
•	Creativity	•	Relationship skills		Student voice
		•	Responsible decision-making		Civic responsibility
					Reflection
					Evaluation

GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Discover the power, positivity, and pride in being who we are
- Build confidence in being comfortable with our own selves and sharing who we are with others
- Explore how we can create a culture of “AUTHENTICITY” so everyone around us can be themselves, too
- Understand how “BE AUTHENTIC” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS HONORABLE”



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **“THE PATCHWORK QUILT”**

- 1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “THE PATCHWORK QUILT”**
- 2) ASK 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY’S FOCUS:**

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **Have you ever heard of the story “THE PATCHWORK QUILT”? What is it about?**
 - Answer: It’s a book written by Valerie Flournoy about a young girl who learns from her grandmother how to make a quilt from family clothes that represent each person in the family and their individual story
- **How often do you share stories from your life with others?**
- **Do you feel proud and confident to share stories from your life with others?**
 - Or do you feel a different emotion? If so, what do you feel?
- **Does everyone have the same life story?**
- **Why is it okay to have different details and stories in our lives than other people?**
- **Why is it important to share our lives and stories with other people?**
- **How is sharing our lives and stories with others an “AUTHENTIC” act?**
- **Would you like to be more confident as you share your “AUTHENTIC” self with others?**
- **How do you think it would feel to “BE AUTHENTIC” all the time?**
- **How is “BEING AUTHENTIC” an “HONORABLE” action?**
- **Do you think “BEING AUTHENTIC” can help create a world where everyone knows how much they MATTER?**
 - How so?

- 3) SET UP “THE PATCHWORK QUILT” ACTIVITY:**

- **Explain:**
 - All of us lead different lives, have different experiences, and have different stories to share
 - When we share our “AUTHENTIC” stories with others, we’re letting them in on our lives
 - And we’re helping to create a world where everyone can share their own stories and be “AUTHENTIC” versions of themselves
 - Today, we are going to start the process of “BEING AUTHENTIC” with each other, and creating a culture of “AUTHENTICITY,” by sharing our individual stories with each other
- **Ask:**
 - How do you feel knowing that you will be sharing some stories from your life with others?
 - Do you feel like you can “BE AUTHENTIC” today as we work together?
 - Are you ready to start “BEING AUTHENTIC” and letting others see your true self?

- 4) START “THE PATCHWORK QUILT” ACTIVITY:**

- **If time allows, show the read aloud video of “The Patchwork Quilt” (<https://youtu.be/JGMfSLEer3c>, 11:51 mins)**
 - Otherwise, if possible, watch the video ahead of the activity, read the book, or read a summary, then share out a summary of the story with students so they can be familiar with the plot
- **Then, pass out one piece of 6x6 paper and pencils to each student, and make coloring materials (markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils) available**
- **Explain:**
 - Today, we are going to create a “PATCHWORK QUILT” as a group, similar to the one in the story
 - A “QUILT” is made up of several squares that are put together to become one big blanket
 - A “QUILT” is similar to all of us in this class: We are all made up of different stories and experiences, and every day we come together as one group of people who are connected and support each other

- So in just a moment, you will each think of a story, experience, or piece of your identity that you want to share on our very own "PATCHWORK QUILT"
- **Give students a moment to think of a story or experience from their life they want to share, or a piece of their identity**
- Tell students this can be a favorite story, a story they haven't shared before, something they are proud of, something that they find funny, happy, sad, etc. Or they can share a part of their identity that they are proud of, interested in, exploring, or haven't shared before
- Remind them this is their time to share something "AUTHENTIC" that truly makes them who they are and unique from others
- If helpful, students can think individually or work in pairs or small groups
- **Once students have an idea of what they want to put on their piece of "QUILT," allow them up to 10 minutes to write down or illustrate their story**
- **When finished, students can write their names on their paper or keep it anonymous**
- **Then, collect the papers and work with students to put the pieces together to create a "PATCHWORK QUILT" using tape, glue, and/or staples**
- **Hang the "PATCHWORK QUILT" in the classroom for students to explore together, and if students feel comfortable, have them share out their stories throughout the week**

5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, ASK 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students' ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **Did you enjoy creating your part of "THE PATCHWORD QUILT" today?**
- **How did it feel knowing that others would learn something new about you?**
- **Was it easy to "BE AUTHENTIC" as you shared your story today?**
- **What are some things you learned about other people?**
- **Do you think it was easy for everyone to share their stories today?**
- **Do you have other stories that you would like to share with people so they can get to know the "AUTHENTIC" you even better?**
- **What did you learn about sharing your stories with other people?**
- How is this a way to "BE AUTHENTIC"?
- **How can sharing your own story help someone feel confident enough to share their own story?**
- **What will you do going forward to help people feel comfortable and confident sharing their own stories with you?**
- **What kind of change do you think you can make by doing this activity and sharing your stories starting now?**
- **Does this activity inspire you to want to "BE AUTHENTIC" more often?**
- **What are some ways that you will "BE AUTHENTIC" going forward?**
- **How is "BEING AUTHENTIC" and encouraging others to do the same a way to "GET HONORABLE"?**
- **How can "BEING AUTHENTIC" be a way to create a world where everyone knows that they and their stories MATTER?**

6) THANK STUDENTS FOR SHARING THEIR STORIES AS A PART OF "THE PATCHWORK QUILT" ACTIVITY TODAY, AND FOR LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOW TO "BE AUTHENTIC" WITH OTHERS AND HELP THEM DO THE SAME.

7) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO "BE AUTHENTIC" GOING FORWARD AND TO REMEMBER THAT THEY AND THEIR STORIES "MATTER."

8) CONTINUE TO EXPLORE HOW TO "BE AUTHENTIC" BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSION IDEAS.



EXTENSION IDEAS:

DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.

- 1) Extend Throughout the Week:** Extend the activity by spending a few minutes each day on the lesson plan. If helpful, use the following guide to make the activity three days or longer:
Day 1: Discuss intro questions and the importance of being an individual with our own unique stories and being able to share these with others
Day 2: Watch the read aloud of “The Patchwork Quilt” on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/JGMfSLEer3c>, 11:51 mins) or share a summary with students
Day 3: Have students write their own story on their “QUILT” square
Day 4: Work together to build your own class “PATHWORK QUILT” by putting together each of the “PATCHES”
- 2) A Community Quilt:** Pass out additional 6x6 paper squares and have students ask 1-3 others in their lives to share their stories by creating “QUILT” squares or “PATCHES” with their stories on them. Then, have students collect those “PATCHES” and build a whole community “PATCHWORK QUILT” as a class with “PATCHES” made up of all different stories from community members.
- 3) Personal Quilts:** Similar to the above activity, have students talk with friends and family members and ask them to create their own “PATCHES” with their stories. Then, students can create individual “QUILTS” that are made up of stories of the people in their lives.
- 4) Discuss Diverse Stories:** Have a longer discussion with students about the importance of diverse stories and leading “AUTHENTIC” and genuine lives. If helpful, watch the Ted Talk about diversity and identity from Rebeca Hwang (https://www.ted.com/talks/rebeca_hwang_the_power_of_diversity_within_yourself?language=en, 8:54 mins).

“ I LIKE TO THINK OF MY FAMILY AS A BIG, BEAUTIFUL PATCHWORK QUILT--EACH OF US SO DIFFERENT YET STITCHED TOGETHER BY LOVE AND LIFE EXPERIENCES. ”
- BARBARA JOHNSON