

# DO UNTO OTTERS

## A BOOK ABOUT MANNERS

### DO UNTO OTTERS: A BOOK ABOUT MANNERS

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Ages: 4-8

Themes: Friends, Manners, Neighbors, Respect, Golden Rule

Running Time: 10 minutes

### SUMMARY

Mr. Rabbit's new neighbors are otters. Mr. Rabbit has never met any otters before. He has never talked with any otters before, and Mr. Rabbit is nervous. What if they don't get along? What if the otters are rude? Mr. Owl helps Mr. Rabbit calm down by offering him some sage advice: "Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you." So Mr. Rabbit begins to think about how he would like the otters to treat him. As he treats the otters with kindness and respect, they do the same. This humorous and light-hearted movie will highlight that the easiest way to be great friends and neighbors is simply by following the Golden Rule.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify ways to be good friends, neighbors, and citizens.
- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will practice following the Golden Rule.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Brainstorm with students about the qualities that make a good friend and neighbor. Guiding questions:

- What sorts of things do good friends and neighbors do for each other?
- How do good friends and neighbors speak to each other?
- Why is it important for people to be good friends and neighbors?
- What happens when people don't care about others' feelings?

Record students' responses on a brainstorming list or web. Tell students that they will be watching a movie about a rabbit who gets new neighbors. Encourage them to watch and listen for the qualities of good neighbors that they identified in their brainstorm activity.

Discuss friendship with the students. Ask students if they have ever had a friend who has done something that they didn't like. How did they solve the problem? Next, ask students if they have done anything to a friend that angered or upset their friend. How did they solve that problem? Have students share their experiences with a partner. After sharing, have each partner share the story told to him/her by the other student. Tell students that they are going to see a movie about someone who encourages his friend to try new things.

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Review the advice that Mr. Owl gave to Mr. Rabbit: "Do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you." Explain to students that Mr. Owl's advice comes from an old saying, known as the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Use the ideas that Rabbit came up with (be friendly, be polite, be honest, be considerate, be kind, cooperate, share, apologize, and be forgiving) and write each one on a piece of construction paper or poster board. Have students recall examples from the movie of how people (or otters) could act on these characteristics. Once students have identified ideas from the movie, have them add to each list with ideas of their own. Use these lists to focus on one aspect of the Golden Rule each day of the week. For example, on Monday, everyone will focus on being polite. For each day, organize an activity that highlights the quality you are focusing on. Students can write thank you cards, practice making eye contact, and play games where they have to share

and cooperate. Stress to students that even though we need to always practice all aspects of the Golden Rule, it is also important to be especially mindful of one or another each day.

Have students continue create comic strips that show people following the Golden Rule. Provide them with paper that is broken into boxes, as a comic strip. Number the boxes to aid the students in sequencing. After students have drawn the illustrations, have them tell the story orally to a partner. Then, students can add character dialogue or thoughts, or, they can write a one sentence caption for each picture. Students should color their comic strips. These can be displayed on a classroom bulletin board, or in a special library of student work.

Show students a power point presentation or educational video about otters. Provide facts about otters such as, where they live, what they eat, and what behaviors they exhibit. Do the same for rabbits. Culminate the lesson by having students make shoe box dioramas that show the habitats of each animal. They can make paper cut-outs of the animals and put them into the habitats.

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