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STORY BOOKS FOR TEACHING VALUES
IN THE CIRCLE FORMAT

Attached is a list of storybooks that are suitable for use in a circle. Many of these books are referred to in literature on conflict resolution are tried and tested. Other stories were referred by elementary school teachers. The books are a useful way to combine values, education and circles for children who are in kindergarten through fourth grade.

When using these books, one useful way to organize the lessons is the following format:

1. Read the book
2. Ask a GENERAL question that relates to a key value in the book (e.g. “What does it mean to tease someone?)
3. Ask a PERSONAL question. “Tell about a time when someone teased you. How did that make you feel?”
4. CHALLENGE your students to brainstorm solutions to the problem being discussed. ‘So...the challenge I put to room205 is: what are we going to do to make this teasing problem go away?’”
5. Discuss the solutions and the challenge the students to go out and implement their solutions.

Remember that this is a flexible process. Feel free to digress from this format and send the talking piece around as many times as you feel is productive.