
THE PLATE

To prepare, the teacher should:

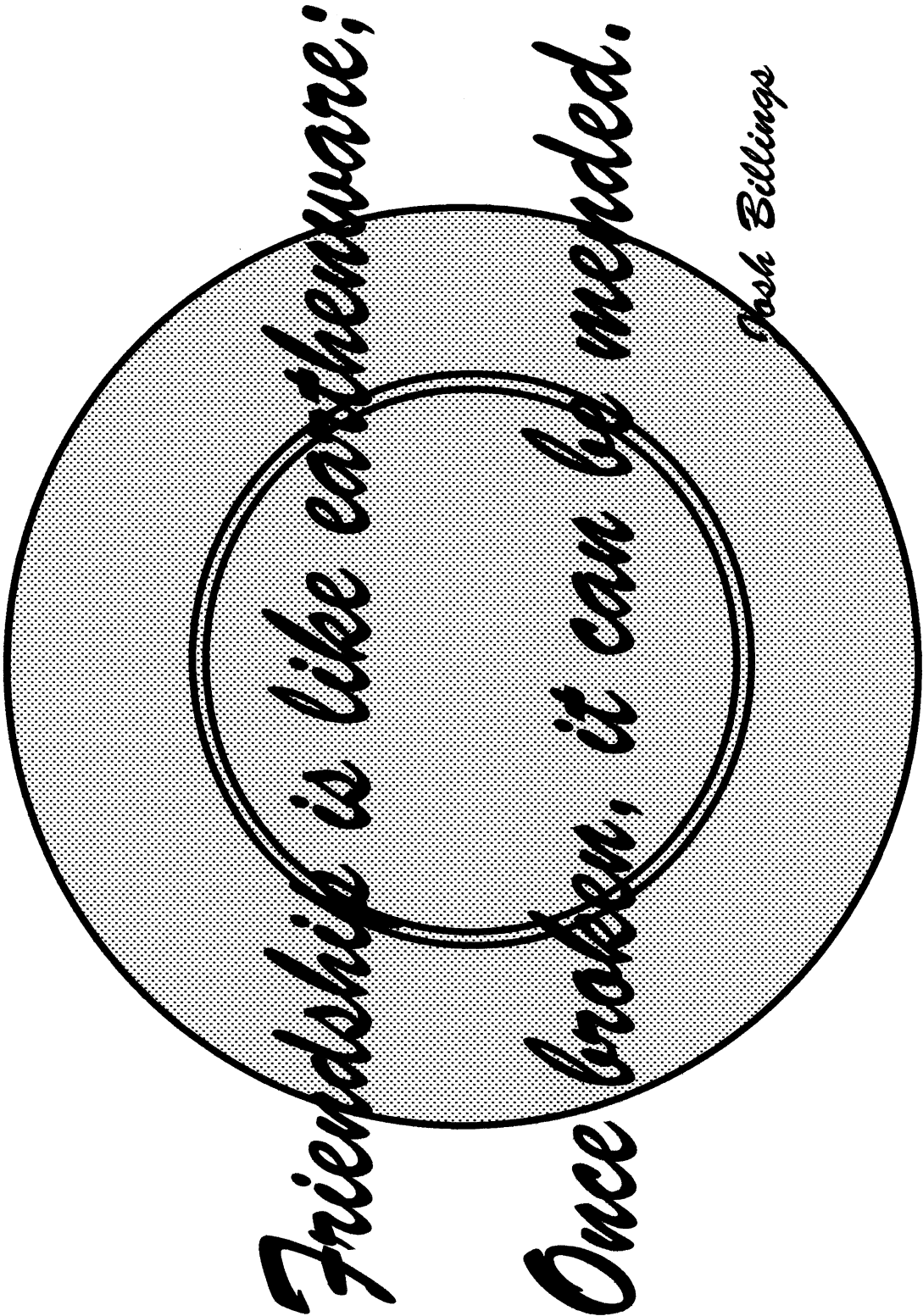
1. Have an old plate from a thrift store wrapped carefully in tissue and in a box on a table at the front of the room. (A different plate will be needed for each class.)
2. Arrange with a student ahead of class to come in late and break the plate in front of the class at a given time. (Be sure the student breaks the plate away from the other students to avoid possible injury.)
3. Have an overhead transparency or sign ready of the quote by Josh Billings, "Friendship is like earthenware; once broken, it can be mended." (page III-A-24)
4. Begin by unwrapping the plate and using the following scenario:

"This is a very special plate that means a lot to me and I'd like to tell you why. This plate used to be part of a set of dishes my great-grandmother owned and used. Her husband gave it to her the first year they were married. He was sent to England and the British Isles for six (6) months by his employer. They had to travel by boat and he bought this china in England and brought it back with him across the ocean to his new bride. My great-grandmother gave it to her daughter as a wedding gift. My grandma lived and raised her family during the depression, and things got so hard she sold eight (8) out of the twelve (12) place settings to buy food for her family. The rest of the china stayed in the family until little by little, some of the pieces were broken. When my grandma died, she left my sister and I each one plate. This is the last of the pieces and it means so much to me to have it. It is one of my personal treasures and when I hold it I can feel the love my grandma had for me. Someday I hope to pass it on to my daughter."

Have the student come in tardy. Lay the plate down on the corner of the table or desk and have the student pick up the plate and kind of make fun of it while you are marking the roll book. When the student puts the plate down, have him/her either accidentally hit it on the table edge and break it, or drop it so it breaks. When the plate breaks, act like you're really angry and upset. As the student begins to apologize, tell the student not to touch it--just sit down! Continue with..."This can never be replaced...I can't believe it...etc."

Then give the quote, "Friendship is like earthenware; once broken, it can be mended." by Josh Billings. Discuss the meaning of the quotation, including this concept:

Sometimes when we get mad, our friends hurt our feelings, or we have a fight, we feel like things can never be like they were; but with time and work and communication, and effort we can restore a friendship. Like the plate, it can be mended, but the crack or hurt is still there, and it is never the same again. Friendships, like the plate, are personal treasures and something to be cherished, and care should be taken to prevent accidents that can cause damage to the relationship.



TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION PEERS AND FRIENDS

The terms *peers* and *friends* are often used interchangeably and justifiably so--friends are frequently peers and peers generally make up your circle of friends. However, they are two distinctive groups and there are times when the two groups are not interchangeable.

A person may not get along with some people his/her own age. This is a common occurrence because people have different tastes, interests, and values. In fact, it is normal NOT to feel a connection with everyone your age. However, that does not mean it is acceptable to ignore, act rudely to, or intimidate others outside your own circle of friends.

FRIENDS: A trusted companion; someone that you can share the joys and frustrations of life with. A friend believes in you and is there when you need them in good times and bad. You feel affection for each other.

Friends do not need to be the same age or gender. You can develop a friendship with an older person or a young child as well of someone of the opposite gender. A diverse group of friends, both age-wise and gender-wise, adds to the richness of your life.

Everyone can benefit from having a friend and should work toward developing friendships. Not everyone needs or wants huge circles of friends, but developing at least one close friend can make the good times better and the rough experiences less difficult.

Friendships happen most often between teens or peers who share similar experiences, such as being in the same class, participating in the same sport, or having the same after-school interests.

PEERS: A group with a commonality; usually considered to be those who are close to your own age. Other peer groups could be those who have a common ability or interest.

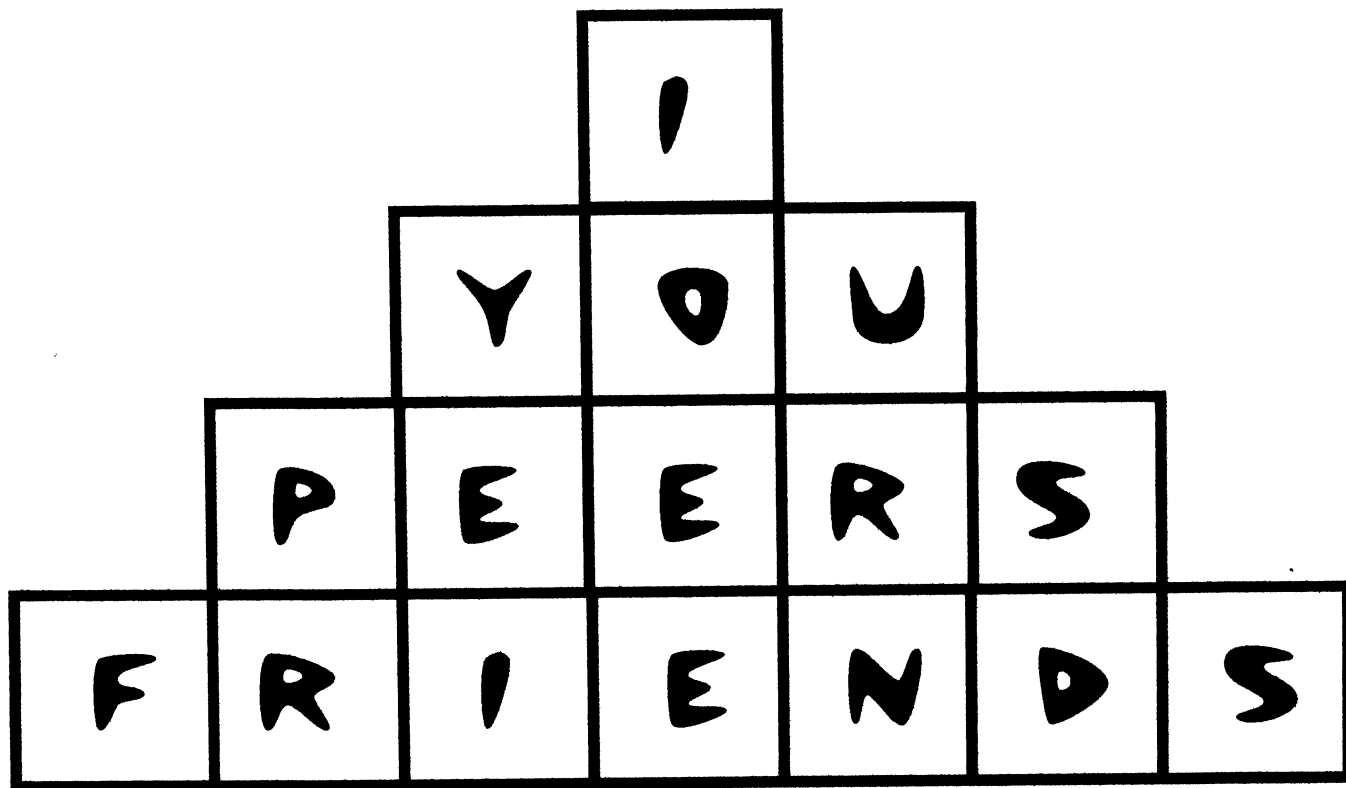
We generally consider our peers to be those who are within our age range. However, we need to consider those who have a common ability also. For example, a child might play tennis on an adult skill level rather than his/her own age group--thus, his/her peers in tennis would be adults. Or, an adult just beginning piano lessons finds peers with younger children who are also just beginning rather than other adults. In cases such as these, the talent or skill is the commonality.

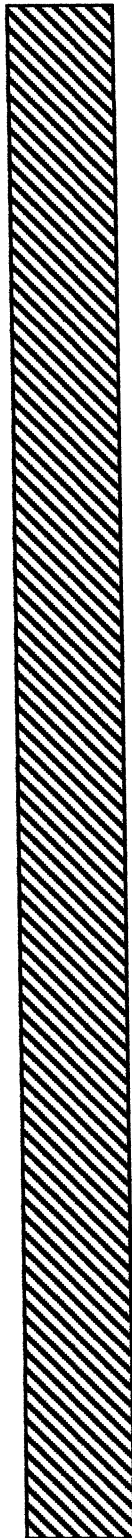
TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
PEERS AND FRIENDS - Page 2

We all need friends to share our joys and help us face our problems. Our friends usually accept us for who we are. They respect us and believe in us, and we in turn appreciate and trust them. Each person in a friendship contributes to the relationship, and each gets something in return. Friendships do not last long if one person provides all the loyalty, companionship, understanding, and fun.

Good friendships are not common occurrences and should not be treated lightly. Like any relationship, friendships require give and take. The following qualities are basic for a good friendship:

1. Empathy and understanding
2. Effective, open communication
3. Good self-concept (you can't like others until you like yourself)
4. Responsibility
5. Respect and trust
6. Compromise and flexibility

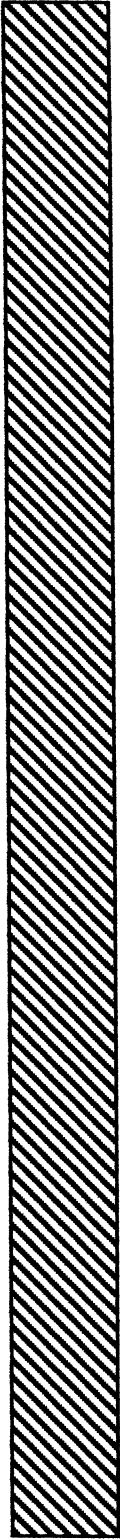




PEER

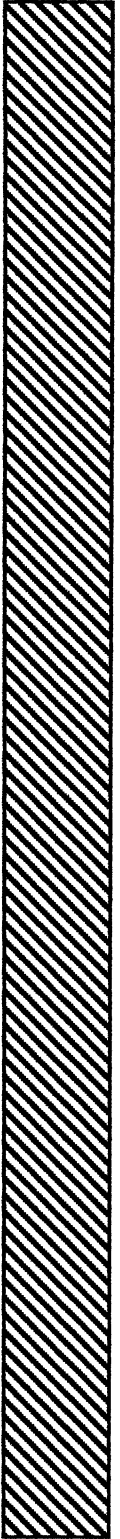
**Someone with whom you have
something in common;
usually considered to be
someone who is close to your
own age.**





FRIEND

**A trusted companion;
someone with whom you can
share the joys and frustrations
of life.**



Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

DO YOU NEED FRIENDS?

1. When you hear some great news, who is the first person you want to tell?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

2. If the most "awesome" person just asked you to "go out", who would you want to tell?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

3. How would you feel if you couldn't find that particular person to talk to?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

4. Have you ever been in a situation when you didn't have a close friend, or any friends for awhile? _____ How did (or would) you feel? _____

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

5. When you are feeling especially silly, who still likes you and is silly with you?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

6. When you get dumped, who will make you feel better by telling you the person who dumped you is a "no-good snake" or whatever?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

7. When you need help, who stands by you? _____
What friendship needs does that fulfill?

8. When you receive recognition for sports, academics, or something else, who gives you praise besides your family? _____
What friendship needs does that fulfill?

**TEACHER DISCUSSION GUIDE
DO YOU NEED FRIENDS?**

1. When you hear some great news, who is the first person you want to tell?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

SHARING GOOD TIMES; TELLING SECRETS; SHARING CONFIDENCES

2. If the most "awesome" person just asked you to "go out", who would you want to tell? _____

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

SHARING GOOD TIMES AND INTIMATE SECRETS

3. How would you feel if you couldn't find that particular person to talk to?

What friendship needs would not be fulfilled?

A SENSE OF BELONGING; A NEED TO SHARE

4. Have you ever been in a situation when you didn't have a close friend, or any friends for awhile? _____ How did (or would) you feel? _____

What friendship needs were not fulfilled?

FEELING IMPORTANT; INCLUDED; BELONGING

5. When you are feeling especially silly, who still likes you and is silly with you?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

HAVING FUN TOGETHER; BEING YOURSELF WITHOUT FEAR OF INSULTS

6. When you get dumped, who will make you feel better by telling you the person who dumped you is a "no-good snake" or whatever?

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

LOYALTY; BUILD YOUR SELF-ESTEEM;

7. When you need help, who stands by you? _____

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

SUPPORT; LOYALTY; SOMEONE YOU CAN DEPEND ON

8. When you receive recognition for sports, academics, or something else, who gives you praise besides your family? _____

What friendship needs does that fulfill?

BUILDS YOUR SELF-ESTEEM; IS PROUD FOR YOU;

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

FRIENDSHIP DIAMOND

1. Who is (are) your best friend(s)? _____

2. Is(are) your best friend(s) the same one(s) you had in the first grade? _____
Why or why not? _____

3. Do you have more friends now than you did in the first grade? _____
Fifth grade? _____ Seventh grade? _____

4. If you needed advice, who's advice would you follow--your closest friend's or
your parents? _____ Why? _____

5. Do you dress like your friends? _____ Most of the time
_____ Some of the time
_____ Almost never
Why? _____

6. What do you expect from a good friend? _____

7. Are you a good friend to others? _____ List three reasons why you are or aren't

**TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE
FRIENDSHIP DIAMOND**

1. Who is (are) your best friend(s)? _____
2. Is(are) your best friend(s) the same one(s) you had in the first grade? _____
Why or why not? _____

Ask the students to raise their hands if they answered yes to No. 2. Most often the friends we had in early years change by the ninth grade. This is true due to family moves, change of interests between people, possibly you didn't have a lot in common anyway, or the friend may have lived next door and been the only one around, etc.

3. Do you have more friends now than you did in the first grade? _____
Fifth grade? _____ Seventh grade? _____

Show the overhead transparency of the Friendship Diamond and explain that the students are at the peak of this cycle. Junior High is the time when, normally, peers are very important and having a lot of friends may be more important than cultivating strong, supportive friendships. The need to belong and to fit in peaks. Often it doesn't matter where you fit in as much as it matters that you do fit somewhere!

4. If you needed advice, who's advice would you follow--your closest friend's or your parents? _____ Why? _____

Parents take a back seat in matters such as hairstyles, make-up, clothes, and social involvement. This is a natural part of the independence process and may be painful for parents.

5. Do you dress like your friends? _____ Most of the time
_____ Some of the time
_____ Almost never

Why? _____

Generally speaking, if you went into a strange school, you could tell which group each person fits into just by looking at the way each person is dressed. This may be a concept we don't like to admit, and it is, of course, not the only criterion to use. Try it and see if you are accurate!

6. What do you expect from a good friend? _____

A friend who is honest with you, fair, considerate, fun to be around, helpful, etc.

7. Are you a good friend to others? _____ List three reasons why you are or aren't
Do you have the qualities you listed in # 6? Are you the same kind of friend you expect others to be?

FRIENDSHIP DIAMOND - Part I

