



Especially

for

kids

and their

families

# The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

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## Practice Respect and Responsibility

# Good Character Training

### The three R's

It's back-to-school time. Schoolkids often say they are studying the three R's.

1. Reading
2. wRiting
3. aRithmetic

The Mini Page asked an expert, Dr. Tom Lickona, about the fourth and fifth R's.

### The fourth and fifth R's

4. Respect
5. Responsibility

Today, many schoolkids are learning to be smart in school subjects. They are also practicing or in training about how to be good people. They are studying character education. Here is what our expert told us.

### Good character is:

- Good character has three parts. You have to:*
- know it.
  - feel it.
  - show it.

- knowing what is right.
  - caring about what is right.
  - doing what is right.
- Showing good character is the hardest part.



### What is right?

How do we know what is right? What is right is decided by the values that are good for us and good for everybody around us. To value something means to treat it as being important. Two important values are:

- respect
- responsibility

The Mini Page thanks Dr. Tom Lickona, a psychologist and professor of education at the State University of New York at Cortland. He is the director of the Center for the Fourth and Fifth R's (Respect and Responsibility).

For parents and teachers, a Web site to see: [www.cortland.edu/character](http://www.cortland.edu/character)

### Respect

Respect keeps us from doing harm to someone or something.

For example, if you respect someone as a person, you are not going to say anything that puts him down, or makes her feel "small."

It restrains, or stops, us from doing something that might hurt someone.

- There are many forms of respect:
- Self-respect.
  - Respect for other people, their feelings, rights and needs.
  - Respect for laws.



### Responsibility

Responsibility is an active value. It is more than respect. Responsibility tells what we should do.

When you are responsible, you reach out. You do your part. You take care of yourself and other people and your environment.



Dr. Lickona has written books including "Raising Good Children," "Educating for Character" and "Character Matters."

# Good Character Checkup

## Respect

“I don’t”...



## Responsibility

“I do”...



Blame others for something I did.

Insist on getting my way when I have a conflict.

Lie or tell stories.

Act selfishly.

Boss others when I am doing a group project.

Look out only for myself.

Admit my mistakes.

Try to solve conflicts in a way that’s fair to everyone.

Try to be truthful with my friends and adults.

Try to be generous, especially with those less fortunate.

Try to be a good team player and to use everyone’s ideas.

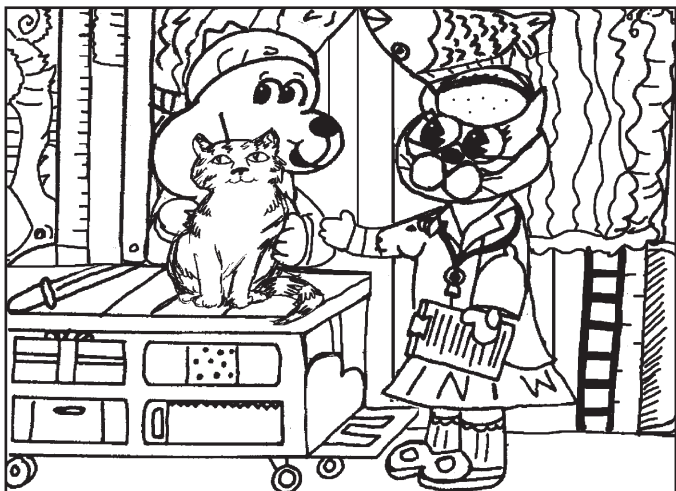
Try to be a good citizen who looks for chances to help.

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## Mini Spy ...



One way to be responsible is to take your pet for regular vet visits. See if you can find: • horse’s head • hamburger • word MINI



- letter E
- sea horse
- ruler
- heart
- number 8
- comb
- gift
- bandage
- ladder
- caterpillar
- man in the moon
- toothbrush
- bell • saw
- fish
- knife

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## Good Character TRY 'N FIND

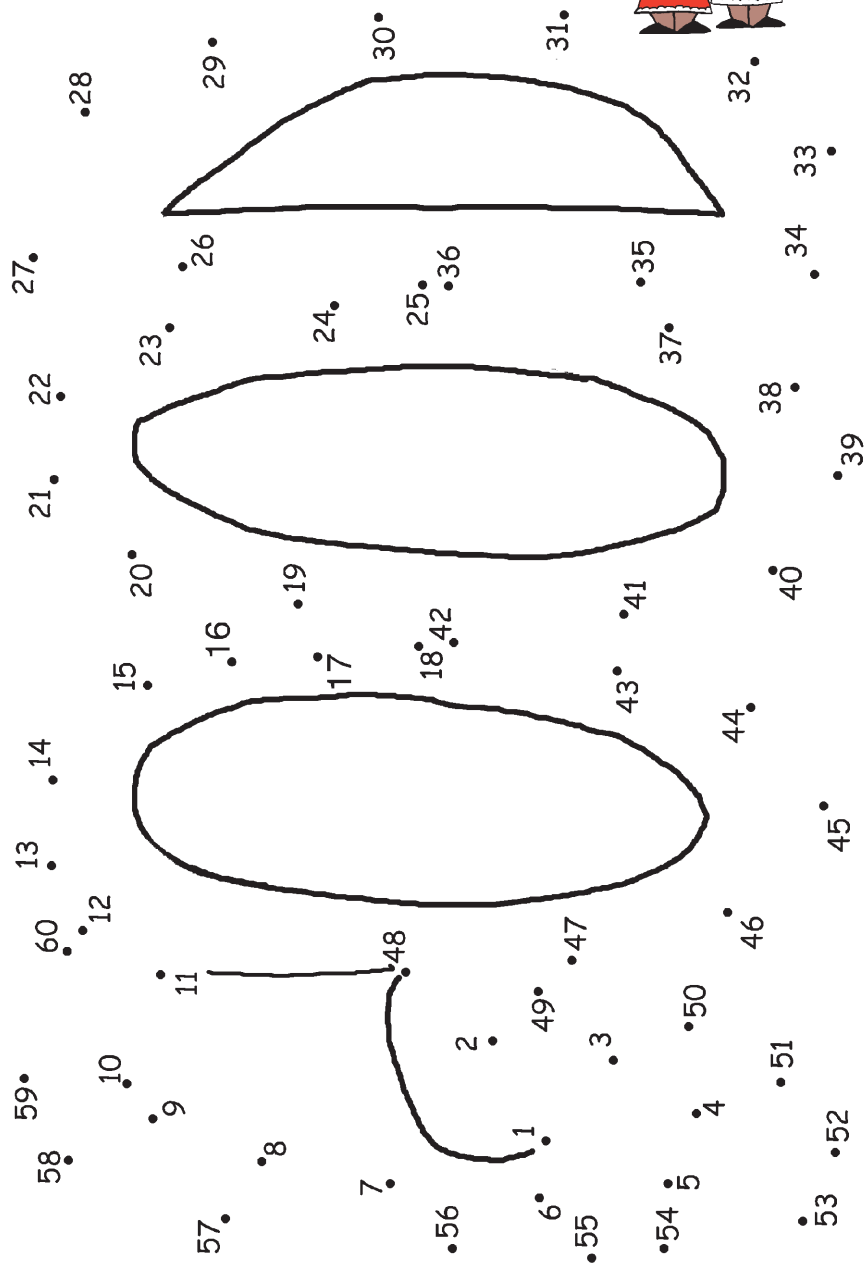
Words that remind us of respect and responsibility are hidden in the block below. Some words are backward or diagonal, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: RIGHTS, NEEDS, RULES, CARE, COURTESY, EXERCISE, PROMISE, RESPECT, TEAM, FEELINGS, HABITS, GENEROUS, LAWS, RESPONSIBILITY, TRAIN, HEALTH, HONOR, POLITE, KIND.

GO FOR THE GOOD!



P R O M I S E E T E A M H S Y  
 R U L E S W Z O S M A T J T S  
 T C E P S E R K C I L K S I G  
 C O U R T E S Y I A C V D B N  
 B S T H G I R G E N R R E A I  
 T R A I N Z Q H T F D E E H L  
 G E N E R O U S W A L T N X E  
 R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y E  
 H O N O R L T P O L I T E H F

Go dot to dot and color the type of character you would like to develop.



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# Rookie Cookie's Recipe Crispy Bagel Bites

**You'll need:** *These make good after-school snacks.*

- 12 plain mini bagels
- nonstick cooking spray
- 5 teaspoons lemon pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika



**What to do:**

1. In a small bowl, combine the lemon pepper and paprika and set aside.
2. With an adult's help, halve the bagels lengthwise.
3. Spray each bagel piece with cooking spray.
4. Sprinkle each side evenly with the seasoning mixture.
5. Place pieces side by side on a baking sheet lightly coated with cooking spray.
6. Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven for 5 minutes, then turn over and bake 5 minutes more. Makes 24 bagel bites.

*Note: You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

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## Meet Robyn Rihanna Fenty



Most know her as "Rihanna," the teenage singer and songwriter.

As a young girl, she liked singing for fun with friends. In school she won a beauty pageant and also the talent show when she sang Mariah Carey's song "Hero."

When she was 16, a friend introduced her to a New York producer vacationing in Barbados. After singing for him, Rihanna was sent to New York to meet the president of a record company. He signed her up, marking

the beginning of her singing career.

Her first hit song was "Pon de Replay" from her first album, "Music of the Sun." Her latest album is called "A Girl Like Me," featuring the hit song "S.O.S."

Rihanna, 18, grew up in St. Michael's parish in Barbados, West Indies, with her parents and two younger brothers. Her favorite singers are Mariah Carey, Beyoncé Knowles and Alicia Keys.

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### A KID'S GUIDE TO THE WHITE HOUSE



Betty Debnam

## Kids! You're Invited to the White House

**A Kid's Guide to the White House** is a terrific behind-the-scenes look at a very special house.

Written with the cooperation of the White House Historical Association, the book is full of fun information, photos (some in full color) and puzzles that kids of all ages will enjoy.

To order, send \$9.95 plus \$3.50 for postage and handling for each copy. Send check or money order (U.S. funds only) payable to: **Andrews McMeel Universal, P.O. Box 6814, Leawood, KS 66206.**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *A Kid's Guide to The White House* (Item #2153-2) at \$13.45 each, including postage and handling. Toll free number 1-800-591-2097. [www.smartwarehousing.com](http://www.smartwarehousing.com)

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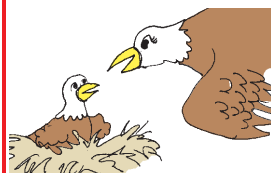
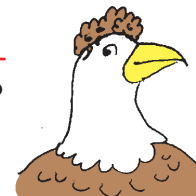


MIGHTY FUNNY'S

## Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

**Greg:** Which bird needs a toupee?  
**Tom:** A bald eagle!



**Ezannah:** What did the mama eagle say to the baby eagle?

**Simon:** "You're a chirp off the old block!"

**Dylan:** What happens if you cross an eagle with a skunk?

**Tyler:** You get an animal that stinks to high heaven!



# Good Character Checkup



Do you practice respect and responsibility with your family at home and with your classmates at school?

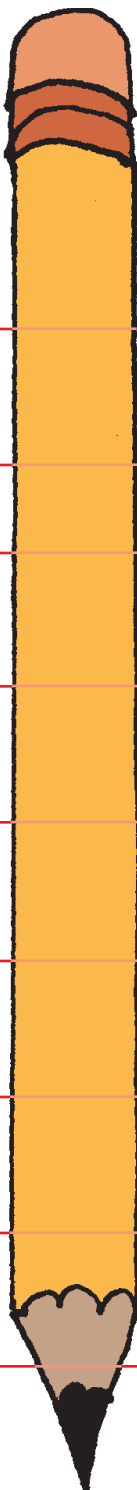
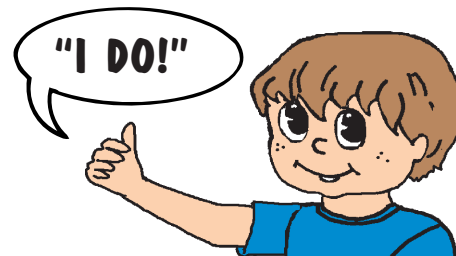
Here are some examples of matching respect (“I don’t”) with responsibility (“I do”).

Take a checkup. Put a check if you usually practice each of these values. Put an X if you don’t. Work on the X’s. Be your own character education teacher by practicing, practicing, practicing!



## Respect


## Responsibility



- Do just enough to get by.
- Break the rules at home and at school.
- Say things to hurt someone’s feelings.
- Tease my brother or sister or the kids at school.
- Tell somebody else, “You can’t play.”
- Take someone’s things without permission.
- Say rude things.
- Damage someone else’s property.
- Neglect to keep my body clean and healthy.
- Talk to my parents and any adult in a “smart-aleck” way.

- Give my best efforts in all that I do.
- Show respect for rules at home and at school and encourage others to do so.
- Say nice things to others.
- Try to be kind to everyone.
- Include other kids in games and other activities.
- Always ask for permission to take or use someone’s property.
- Practice courtesy. I say “please,” “thank you” and other polite words.
- Fix or replace any property I have damaged.
- Practice good habits in my personal health and cleanliness.
- Honor my parents and teachers.

**Read all about  
good character  
training**



in  
**The Mini Page®**  
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

by Betty Debnam

Appearing in your  
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(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch ad promoting Issue 36.)

release dates: September 2-8

36-5 (06)

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**The Mini Page®** **Standards Spotlight:**  
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate **Good Character Training**

**Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.**

**This week's standards:**

- Students demonstrate respectful and caring relationships in the family, workplace and community. (Family and Consumer Science: Interpersonal Relationships)
- Students demonstrate appreciation for diverse perspectives, needs and characteristics of individuals and families. (Family and Consumer Science: Family)


**Activities:**

1. Draw a picture of yourself doing something in school that would make your family and friends proud of you. (For example, you might be helping someone in the hallway or playing on a team with other students.) Write a story about your picture.
2. Write sentences about yourself telling about a time (a) when you helped someone else, (b) when you obeyed a rule or law, and (c) when you stopped yourself from being mean to someone else or from breaking a rule.
3. Find examples in the newspaper of three different people who are demonstrating respect and responsibility. Paste each newspaper story on a piece of paper. Write a paragraph telling why you selected the story.
4. Find examples in the newspaper of three different people who have broken a law or rule or who have shown disrespect to another person. Paste each newspaper story on a piece of paper. Write a paragraph explaining what you think will happen to each person as a result of their behavior.
5. Do a survey to see how respectful people are. Make a list of behaviors people use to show respect and responsibility, like saying "Please," asking permission to borrow something, being kind to someone, or allowing someone else to play with you. You can make your own list or use the "I do" list from today's Mini Page. Put a check mark by each behavior on your list every time you see someone showing that behavior. At the end of the day, look at your checks. Which behavior did you see most often? Which behaviors surprised you? Which behaviors would you like to see people show more often?

(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

(Note to Editor: Above is the Standards for Issue 36.)

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 **Gus Goodsport's Report**

**Supersport: Calvin Johnson**



**Height: 6-5**                      **Birthdate: 9-25-85**  
**Weight: 235**                      **Hometown: Tyrone, Ga.**

Anybody who likes spectacular, highlight-film style football should keep an eye on Georgia Tech wide receiver Calvin Johnson.

He makes all types of catches — one-handed, leaping, diving and routine. Several analysts rank him as the premier receiver in college football.

In 24 games at Tech, Johnson has caught 102 passes for 1,725 yards. His height, hands, concentration and body control make him tough for opponents to defend, even when they use multiple coverages.

Not surprisingly, Johnson was a landslide pre-season pick to win this season's Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year honors.

Off the field, the quiet-natured Johnson participates in the team's community service projects and majors in building construction.

But on the football field, he majors in destruction — of opposing defenses!

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 36, to be used in place of ad if desired.)

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