

Dependability

Syllables

de•pend•a•bil•i•ty

Pronunciation

dih-**pen**-duh-bill-i-tee

Definition

Being trustworthy and reliable.

(The students voted for Anita to be class president largely because of her **dependability**.)

Simply put: You can count on me.

Related Terms

Reliable: Worthy of being trusted.

Tried and true: Knowing from experience that someone or something is reliable.

Fundamental Question:

Can people usually count on me?

Students will investigate the idea that three variables – people, promises, and prices – play a role in dependability.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Participate in a skit-writing activity based on the three variables noted above.
2. Relate dependability to seemingly unrelated terms.

Before you begin

- Print out one copy of *You Can Count on Me* for each student.
- On two index cards write the word dependable and on two index cards write the word undependable, for a total of four cards.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Dependability (Discussion Idea)

What does the word inconsistency mean? Compare and contrast the traits of inconsistency and dependability.

Taking It to the Next Level

Design a brochure about dependability for younger children.

Dependability

Procedure

1. Write this equation on the board:

A relationship between people	(e.g., child and parent)
+ an agreement to complete certain duties	(e.g., take care of dog)
+ the price of keeping a promise	(e.g., miss ball game to walk dog)
?	(equals)

Use the Socratic method (see, for instance, www.livewiremedia.com/socmethod) to help the students decipher the equation and to solve the problem. (The answer, of course, is dependability.)

2. Display five or six random items (such as a bag of hamburger rolls, a game board, a sealed envelope, a plastic bag containing three pennies, and a packet of vegetable seeds).
3. Divide the class into four groups. Place the index cards face down on a table. Have a representative from each group select one index card.

Instruct each group to work as a play-writing committee. The catch is, 1) that the main character must be the epitome of either dependability or undependability according to the index card drawn and 2) that all of the items (see procedure #1) must be used in some way (other than simply set decoration) in the play.

Remind the committees to consider: title, setting, characters (describing each), summary of play, dialogue, stage directions, costumes and props, and so forth

4. **Follow Up:** Have the students present their skits to the class. This step may be simple (e.g., an informal reading) or more complex (e.g., costumes, memorized lines, set details, and so forth) depending upon your time frame and needs.

Name _____

Reminder: Dependability means being trustworthy and reliable.

You Can Count On Me

In what ways is a dependable person similar to the following things?

A dependable person is like:

fingers because both _____

a clock because both _____

Thanksgiving because both _____

a deck of cards because both _____

a dog because both _____

a star because both _____

a tree because both _____

It's your turn to make up one!

A dependable person is like _____ because both _____