

College and Career Readiness-High School

Lesson Title: *Unlikely Friendships*

Grade Level: High School

Main Character: Cary S.

SEL Competencies: Self-awareness, Self-management

Introduction

Cary is a high school student who has many experiences that can translate well to a future career. Despite the fact that we do not know much about his grades, we still know that he possesses many of the soft skills that are needed for career success.

Activity 1

Watch the video: *Unlikely Friendships*

Activity 2

If you are working with a team each person should take time to reflect individually before discussing with a partner or the group.

If Cary were a new student in your class, you would likely determine that he already possesses many of the interpersonal skills that teachers want students to learn. What type of classroom role would you design for Cary? How would you use his leadership skills while also continuing to challenge him academically?

How do you think Cary decided to not be an idle bystander when he encountered bullying? What ways can you empower students you work with to react in a similar way (to take action to prevent bullying or other negative behaviors)? Do you believe that enough students in your class or classes feel empowered in such a way? Why or why not?

Activity 3

Watch the video again.

Reflect on all the career related skills Cary demonstrates, consider all three segments: the veterinary clinic, Cary's discussion on bullying and his friendship with his neighbor. List as many of these skills as you can.

Choose two or three important skills from your list. Why are each of these important career skills? How can you develop these skills within your students? Develop a plan to help students practice these skills within your educational role. What outcomes do you expect? How will you know if you are successful?

Do you feel students have adequate opportunities to practice these skills (many of them may not be directly related to academic work)? Are there creative ways to include learning of these soft skills within your content area?

Activity 4

Consider your school context.

Do students in your school have ample opportunities to practice personal responsibility? What is the evidence for your belief?

In the video Cary says, “do what you can to change the world, do what you can to change it”. Is this a healthy attitude for students? Do students at your school have opportunities to make meaningful changes within their school or community? How could your school community better achieve this goal?

If you feel there are opportunities develop an action plan for your school context.

Additional Resources

US Department of Labor Soft Skills: The Competitive Edge
<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/>