

# goodcharacter.com

## Teaching Guide:

[Choose Another Topic](#)

# Caring

[Back To Homepage](#)

for grades K-5



This page is from the teaching guide for the video **CARING** in the video series [The Six Pillars of Character™](#) featuring the **Popcorn Park Puppets™**. Even if you aren't showing this video there is a lot of material here you can use to create a lesson. Feel free to modify it to suit your needs.



### HOW TO BE A CARING PERSON

- **Treat people with kindness and generosity.**
- **Help people in need.**
- **Be sensitive to people's feelings.**
- **Never be mean or hurtful.**
- **Think about how your actions will affect others.**
- **Always remember - we become caring people by doing caring things!**

### EDUCATIONAL GOALS

#### CHILDREN LEARN:

- What caring is all about and what caring people do..
- That we become caring people by doing caring things.
- That caring builds good relationships
- That serving the community feels good and helps other people.

### THE VIDEO STORY

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you are using the video, ask the first question before viewing.

1. If I told you I thought you were a very caring person, what would that mean? What is a caring person?

## Questions to ask after showing Act I

2. Summarize what happened in the video so far. What do you think of Burna?
3. Burna's friends gave several reasons why it would be a good thing to read to the kids from the homeless shelter. What were those reasons? Did they seem like good reasons to you?
4. **(For pre-readers)** Do you like it when people read to you? When you become a good reader do you think you'll be willing to read to younger kids?  
**(For competent readers)** When you were younger did you like having people read to you? Would you be willing to read to a younger child?
5. When Burna found out their project was going to be reported in the newspaper, why did she suddenly get excited about reading to the kids? Was that a good reason? Why not?
6. What made her change her mind? *(It conflicted with her soccer game.)* Do you think that was a good reason?
7. Burna made up several excuses for not wanting to read to the kids. What were her excuses? Why did she make up excuses instead of just telling her friends the real reason - that it conflicted with her soccer game? Do you think Burna felt good about her reason? Why not?
8. Burna's friends accused her of being selfish. What is selfishness? Do you think Burna is selfish? Is there something wrong with being selfish?
9. Burna says she's as caring as the next person. Do you think she understands what it means to be a caring person? What would you tell Burna right now about caring?
10. What do you think will happen next?

## Questions to ask after showing Act II

11. Burna entered The Thinking Place repeating over and over "I am not uncaring!" Why did she do that? Do you think she really believes it?
12. Burna is very upset that her friends think she is selfish and uncaring. Why does that bother her? Would it bother you if your friends thought you were selfish and uncaring? Why?
13. Socrates says "it's precisely by asking the right questions that we are able to find the right answers." What does that mean? How can asking a question help you figure things out?
14. Socrates' big question is "How do I know when somebody really



*Burna has other things to do.*

Burna discovers (by being a "reading buddy") the personal rewards that come from giving of yourself to help somebody else. When Burna has to make a hard choice between doing a community service project and playing soccer, she learns that caring is more about what we do than about how we feel.

[Click Here  
to Learn About the Video  
Series](#)



### The Six Pillars of Character

- **Trustworthiness**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Fairness**
- **Caring**
- **Citizenship**

cares?" How would you answer this question? How can answering that question help Burna understand what caring is all about?

15. Why did Diotima ask Burna if she knew any caring people? *(To get Burna to identify what caring people do.)*

16. Burna gave two examples of caring people. What were they? *(Nubbs shared his lunch. Essie made a new kid feel included.)*  
- How do these actions demonstrate caring? *(In both cases they were being kind and helpful. Nubbs was being generous. Essie was showing concern for somebody's feelings.)*

17. Burna said "I don't know what I'd do, I just know how I'd feel. Isn't that what caring is all about?" How would you answer Burna's question? Is caring only about how you feel, or does it involve something else?

18. Socrates said Burna taught him that we become caring people by doing caring things. What does that mean? Do you agree? What is the difference between feeling bad for somebody and doing something to help?

19. Based on what Burna has just learned, what do you think she is going to do in the next act?

### Questions to ask after showing Act III and general questions about caring:

20. How did Burna feel after she read to the little boy? Why do you think she felt that way? Did the experience of reading to the little boy change Burna in any way? Describe how Burna changed.

21. What do you think Burna learned from this experience?

22. Do you think Burna made a difference to the little boy? Describe it.

23. What things could you do (or, have you done) that would help somebody who needs it?

24. How do you feel when people show that they really care about you?

25. Do you consider yourself a caring person? In what ways are you a caring person?

26. What was most meaningful part of this video to you? What did you learn from watching this video?

[\(If you wish to copy or use any material from this website, please click here for Terms of Use.\)](#)

Color these  
characters!

Click on the Popcorn Park Puppets below to get blackline masters you can print out for your children to color.



Groark



Burna



Nubbs



Essie

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. What does it mean to be a caring person? Have your class brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts for being caring. Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify. Compare their list with the one at the top of this page. Hang the list up on the wall as a reminder.

2. Take some of the behavioral examples from activity #1, above, and turn them into role-play situations. The kids can act them out themselves or use puppets. First have them role-play the uncaring behavior, and then the caring behavior. Have the group analyze each of the role-plays.

3. Bring in (or have the children bring in) articles from newspapers and magazines describing situations that show caring and uncaring actions on the part of individuals, groups, or governments. Discuss these situations. In what ways do they demonstrate either caring or uncaring? Perhaps write a group letter to the people involved.

4. Have your students research community service activities in your town that are open to kids their age. Then have them choose one activity and get involved. Consider having them volunteer to be "reading buddies" or "playground buddies" to younger children. A popular activity for younger children is to visit senior citizens. For some helpful project ideas, visit the [front page of this website](#) and click on "Service Learning" or on "Opportunities for Action."

5. Ask your students to list different things that kids at your school do which are either caring or uncaring. Discuss how they feel about these things. Brainstorm ways to make your school environment more caring. Create a list of recommendations. Design a poster that lists these ideas.

6. Group discussion: Imagine that someone gives you \$20,000 but you have to spend it all to help other people. What would you do with it, and why? What effect would it have on the people you would be helping?



## TERMS OF USE

© Copyright Elkind+Sweet Communications, Inc. All rights are reserved. The material in this website is intended for non-commercial educational use. If you wish to copy or use any of this material, [please click here for "Terms of Use."](#) Except as provided in "Terms of Use," this material is for private use only and **may not be** republished or copied without written permission of [the publisher](#).

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Write a summary of the story in the video. What events made Burna change her attitude?

2. Read a story, or watch a movie or TV show, and write about how the characters treated each other. In what ways were they caring or uncaring? What affect did their behavior have on each other? Give some specific examples.

3. Describe the most caring thing anyone has ever done for you. How did it make you feel? What effect did that have on you?

4. You have the power to make other people feel good through a

simple act of kindness. Think of something you can say or do for another person that would make that person happy. Perhaps it's a simple compliment. Perhaps it's offering to do something helpful for that person. Do it, and then write about how you think it affected the other person. How did it make you feel? Was it worth doing? What would happen if you made a point of doing something like this every day?

5. If you ever had an experience doing community service, write about what you did and what you got out of doing it.

6. Imagine that someone gives you a lot of money on the condition that you have to spend it all to help other people. What would you do with it, and why? What effect would it have on the people you would be helping?

7. Publish a class book on how to be a caring person. Draw pictures of caring behaviors and write descriptions of them

[\(If you wish to copy or use any material from this website, please click here for Terms of Use.\)](#)

*(Copy this block and send it home to the parents.)*

## FOR PARENTS

Dear Parent,

Your child has just viewed a video entitled ***The Six Pillars of Character: CARING*** which teaches children the benefits of being kind and generous, and doing things for other people. .

**Here are some things you can do to reinforce the message of this video and our related learning activities.**

- Ask your child to tell you about the video program and what he or she learned from it.
- Talk with your children about the importance of doing things for other people. Remind them often that they have the power to brighten another person's day through a simple act of kindness.
- Participate in a community service project with your children.
- Try to find things that you can do together to make a difference in someone else's life.

- Catch your child being caring, that is doing something kind and generous for another person.
- Watch a television program together, and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted uncaring or caring towards one another.
- Remember that you are a powerful role model for your child. If you are kind and helpful to other people, that is what your child will learn from you.

Copyright Elkind+Sweet Communications, Inc. All rights are reserved. If you wish to copy or use any of the material in this website, please click here for *Terms of Use*.