

Program Name: Character Counts

Artist: Milton Gray

Special Requirements:

Small table; microphone (clip-on wireless); Teachers must be present at all times during performance.

Performance Description

Finding yourself can be tricky business, but with the right tools anyone can become an outstanding citizen. In this program Milton Gray provides students with truth and consequences, the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, and offers students a chance to make the right decisions in life.

What is Character? The way you act, the way you think. This program engages students in what it takes to have good character. A variety of stories are told, some personal experiences and some classic tales.

Critical thinking is used at the conclusion of each story to reflect and identify where the students heard examples of positive character choices. This workshop is highly engaging and interactive.



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Make connections between knowledge gained from stories and personal experiences
- Compare accounts of one story from multiple perspectives

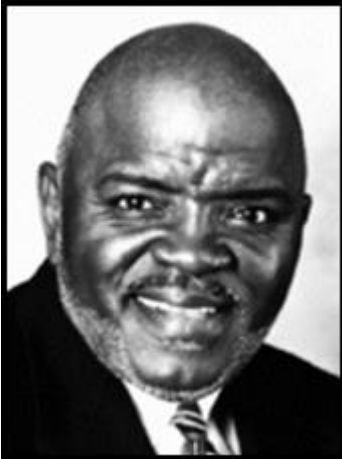
Behavioral:

- Understands that group and cultural influences contribute to human development, identity, and behavior.

Theater:

- Understand the emotional and social impact of dramatic performances in other cultures.

Artist Bio: Milton Gray



Actor and storyteller Milton Gray has been sharing his talent with children through his work with Kansas City Young Audiences for many years. He is currently featured in this performance and *Africa Alive*.

As an actor, Milton has played roles with the Jackson County Historical Society, Eagle-Reed American Theater, Paseo Baptist Church Ministry Drama, M.C. Players, and J.T. Productions. His

Kwanzaa Principles program for the Kansas City Museum has been featured on television and KCUR.

Charles Etta Freeman and Almeta Williams, teachers at Milton Moore School, said, "It is always evident with our children that not only did they gain something from Mr. Gray's presentation, they had a wonderful experience at the same time."

List of Resources:

Books:

Character Building Day by Day: 180 Quick Read-Alouds for Elementary School and Home by Anne D. Mather
Free Spirit Publishing
(March 30, 2006)
ISBN: 1575421780

What Do You Stand For? For Kids: A Guide to building Character by Barbara Lewis
Free Spirit Publishing
(May 15, 2005)
ISBN: 1575421747

The Empty Pot by Demi Square Fish; reprint edition (September 15, 1996)
ISBN: 0805049002

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Vocabulary

Allegory: The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.

Oral Tradition: A method of passing down history and tradition through songs and stories rather than the written word.

Character: The mental and moral qualities of an individual.

Citizenship: The status of a citizen with rights and duties

Caring: Displaying kindness and concern for others.

Fairness: Fairness is the quality of making judgments that are free from discrimination.

Respect: A feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way.

Responsibility: A duty or task that you are required or expected to do.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Have the children practice storytelling. One student begins telling a made up story. After a few lines, the teacher says "freeze" and then the next student continues the story. Repeat this until all students have had a turn to tell the story, with the last student telling the end.
2. The class sits in a circle and each student shares something he/she is proud of, thankful for, or happy about. Each student should take turns completing the sentence, "I am ___ and I am special because ___." After each student shares his/her sentence, the person sitting to the left must state why the person who just spoke is special before sharing his/her own sentence.