



# CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES

## NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW

### Story Description

Teased by their friends that "No one will ever know," Johnny and Janie squirrel ignore their parents' warnings about the big, bad wolf. Wanting big, delicious acorns, they lie to their parents and sneak out one night to Mr. Smith's farm. Their delightful meal suddenly ends when they are chased by a very hungry wolf.

Barely escaping with their lives, the young squirrels learn that to disobey is wrong even when you think no one will ever know.

This adventurous and thrilling story by Carl Sommer shows the importance of honesty, respect for parents, and trust.



### Major Objective

To define and present the following virtues so they can be integrated into the life of each student:

- Honesty: being free from fraud, deception, cheating, or lying
- Trust: having confidence in the honesty, friendship, and wisdom of another person
- Respect for parents: valuing one's father and mother by making their desires and counsel important considerations

### Story Time Interaction

Read the story, **No One Will Ever Know**, and then write these three virtues on the board: honesty, trust, and respect for parents. Define and discuss these virtues. Ask students to describe the main characters:

Johnny	Jamie	Teddy
Tammy	Dad	Mom
Owl	Big Bad Wolf	Forest Friends
Older Squirrels		

### Activities

**Objectives:** To use the following activities to help reinforce the virtues of honesty, trust, and respect for parents..



## Help! I'm In Trouble!

**Goal:** To help students realize that the five senses can be used in negative and positive ways.

**Discussion:** Using the Five Senses—Negative and Positive. Describe how the body receives information through impulses transmitted to the brain through the five senses.

- Eyes for seeing
- Ears for hearing
- Fingers for touching
- Nose for smelling
- Mouth for tasting

One may use these senses in a negative or a positive way. Ask the class how the squirrels used the senses in a negative way, and how they could have used them in a positive way.

### Eyes for Seeing

**Negative:** They let the older squirrels entice them with the large acorns.

**Positive:** They should have rejected going after the large, delicious acorns.

### Ears for Hearing

**Negative:** They listened to the older squirrels.

**Positive:** They should have listened to their parents.

### Fingers for Touching

**Negative:** With their hands and feet they climbed out the window.

**Positive:** They should have kept their hands and feet in the safety of their home.

### Nose for Smelling

**Negative:** They must have enjoyed the smell of the evening air and the aroma from the big delicious acorns.

**Positive:** They should have been satisfied with the smell of the meal their mom had prepared for them.

### Mouth for Tasting

**Negative:** They wanted to taste the big, delicious acorns that the older squirrels had.

**Positive:** They should have been satisfied with the acorns that were

around them.

## Peer Pressure: Smoking

**Goal:** To have students understand the dangers of smoking and not to submit to peer pressure.

**Role Play:** Have a group of students role play trying to get someone to smoke for the first time. First discuss the dangers from smoking. These are the facts from the American Lung Association:

### Dangers from Smoking

- Smoking-related diseases claim an estimated 440,000 American lives each year.
- Cigarettes contain at least 69 distinct cancer-causing chemicals.
- Smoking is directly responsible for 87 percent of lung cancer cases and causes most cases of emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
- Smoking is also a major factor in coronary heart disease and stroke.
- Smoking in pregnancy accounts for an estimated 20 to 30 percent of low-birth weight babies, up to 14 percent of pre-term deliveries, and some 10 percent of all infant deaths.
- Tobacco advertising plays an important role in encouraging young people to begin a lifelong addiction to smoking before they are old enough to fully understand its long-term health risk.
- Nicotine is an addictive drug.

After presenting the facts, choose one of the students who is articulate to resist the pressures from others to smoke for the first time. Stress that persons of character do not follow the crowd; they are willing to stand up for what is right. Sexual pressure from others may also be discussed.

For more information, go on the Web and type in: "Danger of cigarette smoking."

If there are other issues in your neighborhood that affect your class, such as glue sniffing, pills, drugs, marijuana, etc., create a role play in that area. Go on the Web and type in, "Dangers of" —list the issue you are seeking information about.

### Long-Term Fun or Short-Term Fun

**Goal:** To teach students that it is important to always think of the long term consequences of their actions.

**Discussion:**

A. What were some of the fun things the squirrels had when they disobeyed?

They were very happy walking in the forest.

They were so glad to see all the big acorns.

They ate some of the best acorns they had ever eaten.

They laughed and had lots of fun eating those big delicious acorns.

B. What were some of the bad things the squirrels experienced because they disobeyed?

They were scared when they saw the wise owl.

They were scared when they saw the big bad wolf.

Johnny got his tail bitten off.

Johnny was once the fastest at playing tree tag; now he was the slowest.

## Treasure Hunt

**Goal:** To learn the importance of trust

**Materials:** crackers, candy, etc. (Something students can share)

You may want to include the whole class, or you may pick two students you would like to honor. Explain to students that there is a hidden treasure or hidden treasures throughout the classroom. One person will be sent out of the classroom and you will reveal to the class the location of one of the treasures. One student will guide the blindfolded student to the treasure. The blindfolded student must *trust* his guide and *do exactly* as he says in order to find the treasure. When the treasure is found, the two students may share it.

Point out that when the treasure is found there is an increased respect between the two participating students because they respected each other to find the treasure. Discuss the importance of trust, particularly to parents.

## Tying It All Together

Family Dilly Dally loved to play first, whereas Family Work First would first work and then play. Family Work First learned to balance work and play. Family Dilly Dally refused to listen to advice about preparing for the coming winter, so when winter did come they had to search for food in the cold outdoors. This taught Family Dilly Dally an important lesson that it's best to work first, and then play.