

# Dear **TEACHERS & STAFF**

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## Thank you for your efforts to share the **NED®** message with your students.

Research shows positive attitudes and school climate can impact academic achievement as well as overall well-being. **NEVER GIVE UP, ENCOURAGE OTHERS** and **DO YOUR BEST®** is a simple reminder that students can understand. NED makes it easy to remember and reinforce.

You are invited to go online at [www.thenedshow.com/curriculum](http://www.thenedshow.com/curriculum) to view and print off a complete packet of grade-level specific follow-up materials from The NED Show®. You will find lesson ideas that allow you to talk about the assembly, as well as suggested books and corresponding activities for daily read aloud and various writing prompt for journaling. Materials have been designed to meet Common Core State Standards and include sample assessment rubrics. Some activities are adaptable to various grade levels.

At All for KIDZ®, Inc., producers of The NED Show, we are working to partner further with educators and are regularly adding new lessons and activities to our website. You'll find quarterly contests with opportunities to win classroom tools and supplies. We welcome your feedback and invite you to share suggestions and new ideas. Take a moment and see how schools like Santa Fe Elementary in Kansas City, Missouri, and Turtle Creek Elementary in Delavan, Wisconsin, are inspiring others with their creative implementation of the NED message.

*Thank you for your dedication and efforts to help our students become Champions at school and in life!*

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*Never give up • Encourage others • Do your best®*

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*The circus, roller coasters, round-the-world travel* and those crazy aliens...NED's adventure on the way to your school was an entertaining tale that engaged students and left them with a memorable message. We encourage you to take a step further with the lessons shared to impart a deeper understanding of what it means to **NEVER GIVE UP**, **ENCOURAGE OTHERS** and **DO YOUR BEST**. This recap page and the curriculum that follows offers suggestions for helping students reflect on how NED's tips can be used at school, home and in life.

### *A few ideas to get you started*

- 1 Have students share what they liked about the assembly.
- 2 Pass out the NED worksheet and use it to review NED's tips.
- 3 Discuss the pictures on the page. Point out the child tying her shoes. Ask: Which of NED's tips are used to learn to tie your shoes? How do you feel when somebody hugs you or asks you to join their game? Which of NED's tips are being used in these situations?
- 4 Talk about ways your students can be champions. Brainstorm as a class and make a list of champion behaviors you can display at school.
- 5 Invite students to trace NED's tips and fill in the blank at the bottom of the worksheet. On the back or on a separate piece of paper, have students choose one champion idea from your class list and illustrate it. Pictures may be hung next to the list as visual reminders.

Visit [www.theNEDshow.com/curriculum](http://www.theNEDshow.com/curriculum) for additional grades & resources.

### BIG IDEAS To Reinforce



We all have difficult things to do.

Learn to be a problem solver by trying several times on your own before asking for help.

Encourage others with your words and smile.

Doing your best means it is YOUR best. It does not have to be perfect or like another person's effort.

Champions never quit, so encourage others to do their best and to keep trying. Remember it takes practice over and over to become good at cutting with scissors, tying your shoes or making letters into words.

Champions are always learning.

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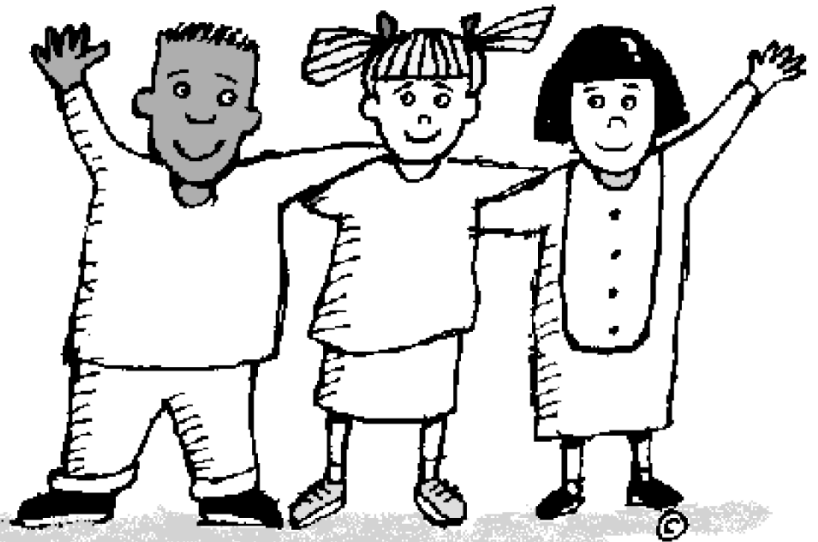
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I want to be a **CHAMPION** at: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## The Little Engine That Could

by Watty Piper

This classic children's story reinforces the power of positive thinking and hard work through the character of a little blue steam engine. Young children will love the brightly colored illustrations and will easily connect to the characters and their message about working hard to accomplish your goal.

### Student-Friendly Learning Target\*



I can compare characters in a story.

\*Student Friendly Learning Targets are designed to be posted in your classroom to help students know what is expected and what they should take away from the activity.

"Classrooms where students understand the learning outcomes for daily lessons see performance rates 20% higher than those where learning outcomes are unclear."

Marzano 2003

## Suggested Activity

**Group**  
Linguistic &  
Interpersonal



**Create a character web.** Work as a class or in groups to create a character web for the Little Blue Engine.

What traits did she possess which allowed her to be successful on her journey over the mountain?

As a class, discuss how she differs from other characters in the story. You may want to select another engine to compare her to. How does perseverance help the Little Blue Engine?

### Common Core State Standards

**Kindergarten:** Reading: Literature.K.3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

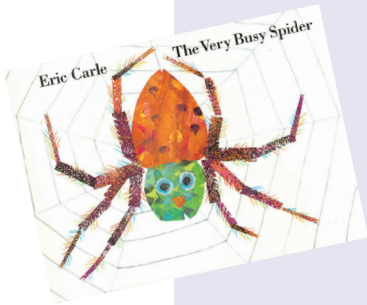
Fill in the **Character Web** by identifying the main character in the center circle. In each rectangle, write things you know about the character.

The form consists of a central circle with the text "Character Name" and two horizontal lines for writing. Surrounding this central circle are six rounded rectangular boxes, each containing three horizontal lines for writing. The entire form is overlaid on a stylized illustration of a train track with a crossing sign. The crossing sign is a circle with an 'X' and the letter 'R' on either side, mounted on a post.

## The Very Busy Spider

by Eric Carle

We visit a farm yard in this classic by Eric Carle. Various animals invite the spider to join them in activities throughout the day, but the spider is too busy working. The little spider works the entire day and is finally rewarded when it catches the pesky fly. Working hard to finish a job provides rewards to those who stick with it!



### Student-Friendly Learning Target



I can cooperate with my friends to finish a job.

### Suggested Activity

**Group**  
*Linguistic & Kinesthetic*



#### “The Tangled Jump Rope”

Divide the students into groups and give each group a jump rope with multiple knots. Discuss the purpose of a jump rope and how much fun it is to be able to jump during PE or recess. Talk about why the jump rope cannot be used when it has knots and how the students can solve the problem.

What is the reward that is earned by persevering through the job of untangling the jump rope? Focus on the idea that many times we work hard so that we can enjoy a job well done. Remember, the spider was able to easily catch the fly after working so hard on the web all day.

Now enjoy your job well done, go outside or to the gym and spend a few minutes jumping rope!

### Common Core State Standards

**Kindergarten:** Speaking and Listening.K.1. 1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.  
a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).  
b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.

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## Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes

As Chrysanthemum begins her school year she learns the difficulty of being bullied. A group of girls at her school decide to tease Chrysanthemum because of her name. With the encouragement of her parents and her teacher, Chrysanthemum learns the importance of perseverance and that regardless of what others may say, her best is something pretty special.



### Student-Friendly Learning Target



I can write a thank you note.

### Suggested Activity

**Individual**  
*Linguistic & Interpersonal*



How did the encouragement that Chrysanthemum received from others help her to never give up when she was struggling at school?

Discuss the relationship between encouragement and perseverance in the story and in life. Have students **write or draw a thank you** to someone who has encouraged them. Take time during pre-writing to brainstorm as a class. A suggested letter template is included on the following page.

### Common Core State Standards

**Kindergarten:** Writing.K.2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

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\_\_\_\_\_

(date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I remember when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

You encouraged me by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

This made me feel \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you!

Love,

\_\_\_\_\_



### The Crow and the Pitcher

from *The Classic Treasury of Aesop's Fables*  
by Don Daily

Aesop masterfully illustrates perseverance in this fable about using intelligence and hard work to achieve one's goal. The thirsty crow teaches us all that getting what we want often requires quite a bit of work, but that effort is well worth it!



### Student-Friendly Learning Target



I can retell a story and talk about a moral.

### Suggested Activity

**Individual**  
*Linguistic*



Introduce **the concept of a moral** to the students. Work as a class to rewrite the moral in the children's words. Challenge students to think of other situations that require perseverance. As a class, in small groups, or individually, have the students select an animal and a situation of their own to write a fable that fits the moral of persevering through challenges.

### Common Core State Standards

**Kindergarten:** Reading: Literature.K.2. With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details

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### Short Prompts

- 1 NED told us we should Never Give Up. Draw a picture of something you do showing how you can Never Give Up.
- 2 Why is it important to never give up? What would happen if every time something was hard you gave up?
- 3 Encouraging others is being kind. Make a list of things that you can do today at school to encourage others.
- 4 Everyone has their own talents. What are some of the things that you are really good at?
- 5 What would NED really like about you? What would he see you doing that he would think is special?
- 6 Tell how someone has shown you kindness today.
- 7 When we are working on something new or difficult it helps to have others helping and encouraging us. Make a list of family and friends who have helped you.
- 8 Many people at school encourage us to do our best. Make a list of people at school who help you to do your best. Teacher note: Remind students about office staff, lunch room volunteers, and custodial staff. Talk as a class about how all of these people working at the school help students to learn and do their best.

### Teacher Tip



Consider working as a class to create responses to the prompts. This format encourages conversations and provides opportunities to model writing and scaffold journaling expectations for young writers. Share the pen and invite students to participate when appropriate.

### Common Core State Standards

**Kindergarten:** Writing.K.1. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is...).

Writing.K.2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Writing.K.3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

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### Scenario Prompts



The following prompts are based on fictitious scenarios that students may be able to relate to. They can be used as a topic for discussion, as journal prompts or as writing topics to practice an assessed written response. A simple rubric can be found at the end of the follow-up curriculum materials.

#### Scenario 1

It's the first day of school, and Katie is nervous to get on the bus. Her mom gives her a big hug and tells her that she loves her and will meet her at the bus stop at the end of the day. When she gets on the bus, her bus driver gives her a big smile and helps her find her seat. At school, Mrs. Clark welcomes Katie to kindergarten with a high five and a smile. Katie sits next to a boy named Will who invites her to play with him at recess. Katie has a great first day of school!

As you think about Katie's day, who were the people who encouraged her on her first day? How did all of these people follow NED's advice?

#### Scenario 2

Kyle is playing coach pitch baseball for the first time this summer. He had a great time playing t-ball with his friends last year, and when he got the chance to sign up for baseball this year, he was very excited! Kyle knows that coach pitch is going to be much harder than hitting the ball off of the tee.

How will perseverance help Kyle as he starts getting ready to play ball this summer? How can Kyle's friends and family encourage him? What would NED do?

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### Audio Prompt



Students may be familiar with the story of Tiana, the hard working girl from New Orleans who kisses a frog and later becomes a princess. This is her song of perseverance. She is a driven young lady, who depends on no one except herself to meet her goal of buying her own building to open a restaurant. This tune illustrates that even songs we know from ‘fun movies’ can teach important lessons.

### Almost There

from Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog*

Ain’t got time for messing around  
And it’s not my style  
This old town can slow you down  
People taking the easy way  
But I know exactly where I’m going  
And getting closer and closer, every day

And I’m almost there, I’m almost there  
People down here think I’m crazy, but I don’t care  
Trials and tribulations I’ve had my share  
There ain’t nothing gonna stop me now cause I’m almost there

I remember Daddy told me “Fairytale can come true  
You gotta make ‘em happen, it all depends on you”

So I work real hard each and every day  
Now things for sure are going my way  
Just doing what I do  
Look out, boys, I’m coming through

And I’m almost there, I’m almost there  
People gonna come here from everywhere  
And I’m almost there, I’m almost there  
There’s been trials and tribulations

You know I’ve had my share  
But I’ve climbed the mountain, I’ve crossed the river  
And I’m almost there, I’m almost there  
I’m almost there!

### Prompts



Multi-sensory learning opportunities allow students to be engaged in different ways. Play the following song for students and then invite them to write about one of the following.

- 1 How does the singer of this song demonstrate perseverance?
- 2 How is she like NED?
- 3 Can you think of another character in a movie that demonstrates perseverance?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

My writing has a topic sentence.

**1      2      3**

My writing includes detail sentences  
that relate to the topic.

**1      2      3**

My writing has a conclusion or wrap up sentence.

**1      2      3**

My sentences begin with a capital letter  
and end with a punctuation mark.

**1      2      3**

Total points \_\_\_\_/12

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