



PURPOSE

To commit to a daily practice of excellence.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

1. Promise to practice daily respect and excellent traits.
2. Imagine stages of excellence toward which they'll aspire.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- ***The Hero's Charter*** worksheet (see Materials)
- ***The Hero's Map*** worksheet (see Materials)

VOCABULARY

No new vocabulary.

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Explain the purpose of the last class: We have spent a number of weeks learning about the human person: about who we are, what we can do, and who we can become. With our special powers to think and choose, we can work daily to grow in excellence and become heroes.

Ask: What are the three main things we've learned about our human dignity? Allow the students to answer the following:

- **universal:** every person has dignity, regardless of abilities, status, etc.
- **intrinsic:** our dignity is with us our entire life; it is part of who we are
- **inalienable:** dignity cannot be given to us or taken away from us

Explain: Today we are going to take the time to put all of the pieces together, and make a commitment to live in an excellent way.

Step 3: Hand each student a copy of ***The Hero's Charter*** worksheet. Students should copy the charter statement from the board onto their worksheet, filling in the blanks with the correct information:

On this day, the [date] of [month], I, [name], promise to: show respect for my human dignity and the dignity of others, to try to be excellent in all my choices, to try again when I fall, and to work toward becoming a hero. I promise to do this by: [fill in with personal goals, especially those articulated in materials and homework from HDC lessons].

Upon copying, students should sign the charter, as a commitment to their practice for excellence.

Step 4: Hand each student a copy of *The Hero's Map* worksheet. Students should fill in examples of places and goals toward which they are aspiring.

If time permits, gather in a circle and ask students to share their favorite part of the curriculum as well as excellent things toward which they aspire.

Step 5: Conclude the course: Each of us is a human person, with human dignity—our value which no one can give us or take away from us, a value we always have because we are human! It is a value that can be expressed by the use of our two special powers: our power to think and our power to choose. The way to use these powers is to always choose the excellent thing; to always show respect.

If we make these excellent choices every day, by practicing effort and patience, kindness and generosity, and by never giving up, we will grow up to be heroes who can change the world. Some heroes are known, others are hidden heroes. Regardless of the path that we will take, every day, every choice is practice for us so that we may be ready for the challenges ahead.

FOLLOW-UP & HOMEWORK

Ask students to share their charter and map with their parents/guardians.

SUPPLEMENTS

None.

THE HERO'S CHARTER

Signature

Date

THE HERO'S MAP

Name: _____

Directions: Fill in the dreams for your life in the boxes below.

What job do you want to have when you grow up?	What's one new thing you want to learn how to do?	Who is one person you would want to meet?

What is one trait about yourself you want to make perfect?	What is one way you can give of yourself to another person?	If you could do anything, how would you change the world?

Images Used

All images contained in the Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC) Grade 4 were created by the World Youth Alliance (WYA), are in the public domain, or are used under a Creative Commons license. The use of images under a Creative Commons license does not imply endorsement of the HDC by the owner of the image.

Lesson 1

I have human dignity! Image: © WYA Foundation, Inc.
Dignity Defender cartoons: © WYA Foundation, Inc.

Lesson 2

Optical illusion: Public domain

Lesson 4A

The World's Homes #1 Mijas, Spain: CC0/Public domain *via MaxPixel*
The World's Homes #2 Cave Paintings: CC0/Public domain *via MaxPixel*
The World's Homes #3 Japan: CC0/Public domain *via MaxPixel*
The World's Homes #4 Burano, Italy: CC0/Public domain *via MaxPixel*
The World's Homes #5 United States: CC0/Public domain *via MaxPixel*
School of Athens, Rafael: Public domain

Lesson 5A

What's Good For Me Cartoon © WYA Foundation, Inc.

CC0 is a legal mechanism allowing creators to waive their rights and interests in their work and release them into the public domain. More information is available at <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>.