

teacher resource guide

**schooltime
performance
series**



**character
rocks**

**arts
education
njpac**

about the performance

Travel with Carly on a visit to an interesting rock garden that shows her how cool it is to do the right thing because *Character Rocks!*

This highly interactive performance, with cheerful music and some fun characters (who just happen to be rocks), will have students clapping, singing, moving and learning about the components of good character, such as respect, integrity, compassion and citizenship.

Carly isn't happy that everyone seems to be paying special attention to a friend because it's her birthday. But she learns a little something new when she visits a rock garden and encounters some interesting talking rocks who teach her some important lessons. Meet Caring, Respect, Trustworthy, Fairness, Citizenship, Kindness and Compassion!

Rock Citizenship steps up and explains how everyone is special. Rock Kindness explains that — no matter who might be unkind to you — it's important to stay true to yourself. It's cool to be kind!

Learning to be a good person is a lifelong endeavor. This theatrical performance, while fun and interactive, will impart lessons that the audience will take away, long after the singing has faded.

Remember, "It's always cool to do the right thing."

about winceyco

Wincey Terry-Bryant, a native of Newark, New Jersey, is a multitalented singer, performer, public speaker, book publisher, businesswoman and community activist.

Her love for performance and the arts was nurtured in her church growing up where she sang with the choir. From this fertile beginning, she has gone on to work in the music and film business, working with industry giants such as Spike Lee, Bill Cosby, Sting, Tom Jones and Tina Turner. She has also worked with gospel music star Dorothy Norwood and saxophonist Grover Washington, Jr. Her television credits include *Soul Train*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *The Cosby Show*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, *Spike Lee & Company: Do It a Cappella* documentary and BET's *Dr. Bobby Jones Birthday Celebration*.

Her voice can be heard on TV commercials and on the famed, iconic children's television series *Sesame Street*.

She has opened for great performers like Regina Belle, Tamela Mann and Ben E. King, to name a few. She is also the featured singer on Monie Love's hit single "It's A Shame."

As a community activist, she is a member of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking and of Zonta International, an organization that empowers women through service and advocacy.

Among her honors and credentials, Wincey was awarded the "Phenomenal Women Award" from Kiss FM for her arts integration work, was nominated as one of the top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs and Business Owners of New Jersey and has also earned the Minority Women's Business Owner Distinction from the NJ Small Business Development Center. She also recently received the "Woman of the Year" award from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. for her efforts in raising human trafficking awareness.

She is a Master Teaching Artist for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, a presenter of arts integration assembly programs for the Arts Horizons Agency and a teaching artist for the National Wolf Trap Early Childhood Professional Development Training program.

Wincey Terry-Bryant founded Winceyco, a performing arts company, in 1988 to combine her love for music, education and children. Winceyco teaches audiences about serious social issues in schools throughout New York and New Jersey. The productions are curriculum-based educational programs that marry music and National Core Standards and are NJEA certified.

Winceyco programs offer alternative approaches to learning by integrating performing arts techniques such as music, drama and dance to teach various topics, including Black history, Latinx history, women's history, human trafficking, drug awareness, cancer awareness and other subjects. The participatory format requires students to exercise critical thinking, social skills and more throughout the performance.

The troupe includes professional actors, singers, dancers and musicians. *Character Rocks* is one of Winceyco's productions.

In addition to the theatrical productions, she founded the publishing arm of her business in 2010. Among her book offerings is the published version of *Character Rocks*, complete with illustrations and a Spanish translation.

njpac on the mic podcast

with Wincey Terry-Bryant



Wincey Terry-Bryant at an Arts Education Professional Development event

About NJPAC On the Mic

NJPAC On the Mic is an audio resource that takes SchoolTime performances to the next level. This podcast series features three exclusive, curriculum-aligned episodes for all of NJPAC's 2022-2023 SchoolTime performances. On the Mic offers students the opportunity to engage their listening skills, deepen their understanding of the performance and learn about the process of bringing a live or recorded production to life. This immersive audio experience features a theme song by students in the NJPAC arts education program.

How to listen to this episode of NJPAC On the Mic

Scan the QR code above or visit: njpac.org/education-program/wincey-terry-character-rocks-resources/ to access the podcast and the following show notes:

Part 1: About | *Pre-show audio, 6 minutes*

Includes: An introduction to the performance, artists and venue, welcome message

Written and hosted by Dania Ramos

Additional writing by the team behind *Character Rocks*

Sound editing, sound design, voiceover, theme and outro music by Michael Aquino

Additional music from Epidemic Sound

Welcome message voiced by Wincey Terry-Bryant

Series producers: Michael Aquino and Dania Ramos

Part 2: Connect | *Post-show audio, 8 minutes*

Includes: Reflection questions, a look at seven qualities of good character

Written and hosted by Dania Ramos

Sound editing, design theme and outro music by Michael Aquino

Additional music from Epidemic Sound

Opening question voiced by Wincey Terry-Bryant

Series producers: Michael Aquino and Dania Ramos

Part 3: Spotlight | *Post-show audio, 12 minutes*

Includes: An exclusive interview with the creator of *Character Rocks*

Written and hosted by Dania Ramos

Sound editing, design theme and outro music by Michael Aquino

Additional music from Epidemic Sound

Special Clip from "Character Rocks" written and performed by Wincey Terry-Bryant; produced by Shaunbass and Winceycomusic

Interview guest: Wincey Terry-Bryant

Series producers: Michael Aquino and Dania Ramos

inspired ideas in the classroom

Teacher Focus

Student Activity

NJ Student Learning Standards

P

Prepare for the performance

Review with your students what it means to “do the right thing”. Breakdown the word “right” into an acronym standing for Respect, Integrity, Generosity, Honesty and Truth, all of which are core character values that you would look for in a good person and friend. Discuss with them the meaning of those words and how having these character traits will make each of them a rock star in their own way. Teach them the sign language symbols for each of these traits.

Have students write one word of their choice, each on a rock with a sharpie you supply, which illustrates one of the core character traits of doing the right thing. (They may go outside of the box if it applies to positive character traits). They can discuss a time or experience when they used that specific word or had someone use it towards them. Then they can all place their rocks together and create their own rock garden collectively as a class.

English Language Arts
NJLSA.W3
NJLSA.W4
NJLSA.SL1

E

Experience the performance

As you are waiting for the performance to begin, ask your students to experience the performance with all of their senses. How does the performance make them feel? What parts of the performance speak to them most strongly?

1. Do the inanimate objects (rocks) come to life for you through the actors and actresses performances, costumes and music?
2. Did you learn anything about the core character values discussed earlier in the classroom?
3. How does the performance make you feel?

English Language Arts
NJLSA.SL1
NJLSA.SL2
NJLSA.SL3
NJ Arts Standard
1.4 Aesthetic Response & Critique

R

Reflect, respond and read

Ask the students to discuss a scene or song from the performance that they feel reflected the core values discussed earlier. Do they think this was a successful way of representing a lesson, while making it fun? Can they relate the scene or song to an experience they've had in their lives?
Read out loud to your students *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler.

Discuss a scene or song from the performance that you feel reflected the core values discussed earlier. Do you think this was a good way of showing a lesson, while making it fun?
Can you relate a scene or song from the performance to an experience you've had in your life?
Read the book *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler.

English Language Arts
NJLSA.SL2
NJLSA.SL5
NJ Arts Standard
1.4 Aesthetic Response & Critique

F

Focus

Have students work on the activity assignment for *Kindness is Cooler* for an in class assignment or for homework. Have students focus on details from the story to answer their questions.
When students are finished with their assignment, encourage them to begin thinking of ways they can perform their own acts of kindness they can do in school and at home. Challenge them by asking if they think that they can beat the score of Mrs. Ruler's class.

Work on questions 1 – 8 on your **Activity Sheet** for *Kindness is Cooler*. Read or listen to details from the book to help you answer the questions.
After you have completed the activity, think about ways that you can perform your own acts of kindness, similar to the students in Mrs. Ruler's class. Do you think your class together can beat the score of Mrs. Ruler's class?

English Language Arts
NJLSA.R1
NJLSA.R2
NJLSA.R7

O

Originate

For the first week, have students make a list of at least five acts of kindness they performed at home. (They are encouraged to do as many as they can). At the end of the week have students share their acts of kindness list with the rest of the class for show and tell.
For the second week, have students create another list of acts of kindness that they performed in school. Again, have students share their list with the class at the end of the week. Refer to **Activity Sheet 2** for *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler*.

For the first week, create a list seeing how many acts of kindness you can perform at home. After you're done writing your list, be prepared to share your acts of kindness list with the rest of your classmates and teacher in school.
For the second week, create another list seeing how many acts of kindness you can do in school this time. After you're done writing your list, be prepared to share your acts of kindness list with the rest of your classmates and teacher in school.
See if you can do the most acts of kindness in your class!

English Language Arts
NJLSA.SL1

R

Rehearse

Break the classroom into groups of four to five students and have them share their lists with one another each day leading up to the final day of full class show-and-tell. Have them compare and contrast any acts of kindness they may have done.

Break up into groups of four to five students per group and share your lists with one another each day leading up to the final day of full class show-and-tell. Compare and contrast with your classmates any acts of kindness they may have done similarly or differently from yours. This may give you some new ideas for acts of kindness you can perform and then add to your list the next day.

English Language Arts
NJLSA.SL1
NJLSA.SL2
NJLSA.W4

M

Make magic

Set the stage for show and tell and allow for students to read from their list, the acts of kindness which they have performed at home. Facilitate the show and tell and encourage students to clap for one another on their acts of kindness. Ask students how did performing these acts of kindness make them feel?

Share your list of acts of kindness with the class for show and tell! You may read from your list. Be proud of your good deeds and acts of kindness accomplishments! You rock!

English Language Arts
NJLSA.W3
NJLSA.W4
NJLSA.SL4.
NJ Arts Standard
1.3 Performance

curriculum standards

NJ Visual & Performing Arts Standards

1.1 The Creative Process

All students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles that govern the creation of works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

1.2 History of Arts & Culture

All students will understand the role, development and influence of the arts throughout history and across cultures.

1.3 Performance

All students will synthesize skills, media, methods and technologies that are appropriate to creating, performing and/or presenting works of art in dance, music, theatre and visual art.

1.4 Aesthetic Response & Critique

All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre and visual art.

FIND THE STANDARDS

For more detailed information on the standards, visit these websites:

NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy

NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

socialstudies.org/standards

NATIONAL CORE ARTS ANCHOR STANDARDS

nationalartsstandards.org

common core state standards

English Language Arts

NJLSA.SL1.

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

NJLSA.SL2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

NJLSA.SL3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

NJLSA.SL4.

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

NJLSA.SL5

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

NJLSA.W3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

NJLSA.W4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJLSA.R1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

NJLSA.R2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

NJLSA.R7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

vocabulary

Caring

Showing understanding of others by treating them with kindness, compassion, generosity and a forgiving spirit.

Character education

An educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is a proactive effort by schools, districts and states to instill in students important core, ethical values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility and respect for self and others. Character education provides long-term solutions to moral, ethical and academic issues that are of growing concern in society and schools. Character education teaches students how to be their best selves, how to do their best work and how to treat others.

Citizenship

Being law abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.

Courage

Doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following your conscience instead of the crowd.

EQ

Abbreviation of Emotional Quotient, a psychological measure of a person's adequacy in such areas like self-awareness, empathy and dealing sensitively with other people. People use it as shorthand for the term emotional intelligence. Some experts say the five qualities of emotional intelligence are self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and development of good social skills.

Fairness

Practicing justice, equity and equality. Cooperating with one another. Recognizing the uniqueness and value of each individual within our diverse society.

Honesty

Telling the truth, admitting wrongdoing. Being trustworthy and acting with integrity.

Integrity

Firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values. Being honest, trustworthy and incorruptible.

IQ

A number used to express the apparent relative intelligence of a person. Some intelligence experts say that the measuring of IQ may have a latent bias, meaning that it simply favors groups of people who are good test takers and discriminates against underrepresented groups. Some critics say these tests don't encompass other forms of intelligence, such as social intelligence, street smarts, etc.

Kindness

The quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.

Perseverance

Pursuing worthy objectives with determination and patience while exhibiting fortitude when confronted with failure.

Responsibility

Being accountable in word and deed. Having a sense of duty to fulfill tasks with reliability, dependability and commitment.

Respect

Showing high regard for an authority, other people, self and country. Treating others as you would want to be treated. Understanding that all people have value as human beings.



resources

NJPAC

Arts Education programs
njpac.org/arts-education

About NJPAC
njpac.org/about

Teacher Resources
njpac.org/arts-education/teacher-resources

Websites

Winceyco
winceycomusic.com

Wincey Terry-Bryant bio
winceyco.com/about

Wincey Terry-Bryant | Arts Horizon Feature
winceyco.com/arts-horizons-feature

Character Education...Our Shared Responsibility
ed.gov/admins/lead/character/brochure.html

Character Education: An Historical Overview
charactercounts.org/history

The History of Character Education
doi.org/10.1080/07303084.1997.10605027

What is Character Education?
talkingtreebooks.com/teaching-resources-catalog/definitions/what-is-character-education.html

20 Good Character Traits Essential For Happiness
liveboldandbloom.com/10/relationships/good-character-traits

Bullying Prevention
character.org/key-topics/bullying-prevention

Stop Bullying
stopbullying.gov

Character Rocks coloring book/CD set
winceyco.com/shop/ols/products/character-rocks-coloring-book--music-cd-set

Character Rocks music download
winceyco.com/shop/ols/products/char-rocks-music-download

Videos

Character Rocks sample
youtu.be/mtRIRNmoVaA

Winceyco YouTube account
youtube.com/user/winceyco1/videos

Sesame Street Character Education Videos
youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCq6_Cnw4TaOQLKt4xQ82Wl78Vfry0tE

Sesame Street: Zac Efron and Elmo - Patience
youtu.be/qgeuCGODgv4

Sesame Street: Mark Ruffalo: Empathy
youtu.be/9_1Rt1R4xbM

Sesame Street: Cobie Smulders shows Grover how to be Courteous
youtu.be/JhVMDLY_A2s

Teaching Moral Character in the Classroom
youtu.be/fjofs5A6doQ

The Importance of Character Education in Schools
youtu.be/cmHf7qTxfRo

Effective Character Education Takes Time
youtu.be/wUVsf_IQ9RI

The Science of Kindness
youtu.be/OgUByLyOjBM

Using Babies to Decrease Aggression, Prevent Bullying
youtu.be/fvelYfCZCZs

Books

The Big Umbrella
 Amy June Bates and Juniper Bates, Simon & Schuster/
 Paula Wiseman Books, 2018

The Book of Virtues: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories
 William Bennett, Simon & Schuster, 1993

Stick and Stone
 Beth Ferry and Tom Lichtenheld,
 HMH Books for Young Readers 2015

The Bad Seed
 Jory John and Pete Oswald, HarperCollins, 2017

What Do You Stand For? For Kids: A Guide to Building Character
 Barbara Lewis, Free Spirit Publishing, 2005

10-Minute Life Lessons for Kids: 52 Fun and Simple Games and Activities to Teach Your Child Honesty, Trust, Love, and Other Important Values
 Jamie Miller, William Morrow Paperbacks, 1998

Books That Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values Through Stories
 Gregory and Suzanne Wolfe, Touchstone, 1994

Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ
 Daniel Goleman, Bantam Books, 2005

UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World
 Michele Borba, Touchstone, 2017

How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character
 Paul Tough, Mariner Books, 2012

njpac staff

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NJPAC Arts Education performances team:

Treasure Borde, Randal Croudy, Natalie Dreyer, Rosa Hyde, Danielle Vauters. On the Mic is an NJPAC Arts Education production, produced in partnership with CM Studios. NJPAC and CM Studios are located in Essex County, New Jersey, situated on the traditional territory of the Leni Lenape people.

the arts in your school

In-School Residencies: NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development: Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education

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+ deceased

study the arts at njpac

Saturday Programs: NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs: Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.