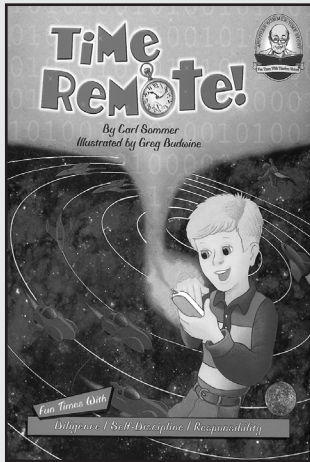


# Character Education Activities

## 21. Time Remote!



### Story Description

Christopher has great dreams of becoming an inventor, but he dislikes anything requiring work. When he discovers that his neighbor Dr. Finkle has invented a time remote, Christopher uses it to avoid schoolwork, wholesome food, and jobs he doesn't like. Sending himself quickly through a life of avoiding problems, right into old age, he finally realizes the misery of an easy life. Discovering a hidden button on his discarded remote, he fortunately gets a chance to start his life over.

In this fascinating and inspiring story, Carl Sommer teaches the value of diligence, self-discipline, and responsibility.

### Major Objective

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

- **Diligence:** constant effort and work to complete a project; perseverance
- **Self-Discipline:** controlling one's conduct for improvement
- **Responsibility:** being trustworthy to complete assignments and duties

### Story Time Interaction

Read the story, *Time Remote*, and then write these three virtues on the board: diligence, self-discipline, and responsibility. Define and discuss these virtues.

Discuss the main characters: Christopher, Dr. Finkle, Mom, and Dad, boss in the food department, manager in the machine shop, and medical doctor.

### Activities

**Objective:** To use the following activities to help reinforce the virtues of diligence, self-discipline, and responsibility

### Life's Choices and Reactions

**Goal:** To help students realize that the choices they make now will affect their future. To teach students the importance of eating right and getting a proper education.

**Lesson:** Let us examine Christopher at different times of his life. What was Christopher's reaction when he:

- Was in school? Christopher didn't like schoolwork; he wanted to play.
- First received the time remote? Christopher was thrilled to get the time remote.
- Began using the time remote in school? Christopher was extremely happy with his time remote. He avoided everything that he didn't like.
  - Used the time remote to get out of school? Christopher was thrilled at not having to go to school anymore.
  - Was at his job stocking shelves? Christopher was miserable.
  - Sought employment? Christopher was miserable.
  - Was sweeping floors? Christopher was miserable.
  - Was a family man? Christopher was miserable.
  - Was retired: Christopher was miserable.
  - Was a young boy again? Christopher was thrilled he had another chance to live his life over again. Now he was going to eat right and do his schoolwork.

Stress with the students the importance of making wise choices.

## Seeking Advice

**Goal:** To teach children that much can be learned by seeking advice from people with experience

**Assignment:** Students are to ask their parents and their grandparents this question: "What's the most important thing that I should do to become successful?" If students cannot get to their grandparents, let them ask someone who is older.

Have students give their reports in class. Use this time to encourage students to become diligent, self-disciplined, and responsible.

### Ask students:

1. Why is it wise to seek advice from those who are older?

*It is wise because older people have had much experience in life.*

2. Who are the best individuals to seek advice from?

*One of the best individuals to seek advice from is your dad and mom. They love you the most and want you to have the best.*

## Interview Report

**Goal:** To help students understand that there are certain steps they must take to become successful

**Assignment:** Students are to find someone they admire and write a report showing what that individual did to become successful. They are to show the educational requirements and other activities that were taken by the individual to become successful.

**Share:** Encourage students to share their reports with the class.

**Teacher:** Find one or more common themes in the reports, and emphasize the themes so they will be reinforced.

## Time Capsule

**Goal:** To show students that studying and learning produce results

**Assignment:** Ask each student to write or draw a simple project to enclose in a time capsule. Put the students' projects into a box labeled "Time Capsule." Seal the box and put the date when it can be opened, preferably at the end of the school year.

**End of school year:** At the end of the school year, ask the students to write or draw a similar project. Take out the time capsule and let the students compare their current work with what they did at the beginning of the year. This is an excellent way to record personal progress.

### Goal Setting—Inventor

**Goal:** To teach students that it is important to have goals in life and then to take the necessary steps to achieve those goals. Wishing alone does not produce results—they must take intelligent action to accomplish goals.

**Lesson:** Christopher wanted to become an inventor of an airmobile. Have students label a sheet of paper: Invent an Airmobile—Goals

**Draw:** Have the students draw and color their concept of an airmobile.

**Steps necessary to become an inventor:** Discuss with the class what Christopher should have done to become an inventor.

Discuss Dr. Finkle's advice to Christopher with the class.

#### Questions:

1. What should Christopher have done about schooling to become an inventor?

*Christopher should have been a good student in school.*

2. What subjects should Christopher have taken to become an inventor?

*Christopher should have taken subjects as English, reading, math, drawing (drafting), college, (engineering), etc.*

3. What habits should Christopher have to become a successful inventor?

*Christopher should be an avid reader and learner, diligent in doing his homework and assignments, self-disciplined, etc.*

### Goal Setting

**Goal:** To teach students that to achieve certain goals, proper procedures must be followed.

**Assignment:** Students are to put on a sheet of paper a particular goal they want to obtain. If they cannot think of any goal, they are to pick a goal, such as to become a doctor, lawyer, dentist, nurse, engineer, accountant, electrician, auto mechanic, sports champion, etc.

Students are to write down the steps they would need to take to achieve the goal they have chosen.

When students finish their assignment, have them share what they have learned. Use this opportunity to stress the importance of diligence, self-discipline, and responsibility in order to become successful.

## Food Guide Pyramid

**Goal:** To teach children that to be healthy, they must eat the proper foods

Get a copy of the “Food Guide Pyramid” and teach the guide to the students. If one is not accessible, go on the Web and type in: “Food Guide Pyramid.” Stress that eating properly and getting regular exercise is essential to good health.

### Questions:

1. What did Christopher do when he looked at the food that his mom was cooking?

*Christopher held his nose and complained, “I don’t like to eat meat and vegetables.”*

2. What did his mom say?

*His mom said, “But they’re good for you. They will make you strong and healthy.”*

3. What did Christopher do?

*Christopher dialed thirty minutes into his time remote.*

4. What did Christopher say when he was eating the homemade pie?

*Christopher said, “This is great! From now on, I’m eating only what I want.”*

5. What kind of person did Christopher become because he did not eat properly?

*Christopher became a sick man.*

## Tying It All Together

Christopher learned the hard way the consequences of procrastinating or putting things off. Bypassing the jobs that seemed too hard led him to become a sad, lonely old man in pain and without a future. It is important that students understand that life is what they make of it.

Fortunately, Christopher had the chance to do things the right way—in real life one gets only one chance. Whatever is put into it will determine how it turns out. Stress that students should be wise and make proper use of their time.