

Bring Maddie To Your School

PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

Consider how easy it would be to provide some of the most important lessons our youngsters need by just giving them these books!

Dale Baumwoll is available to come to your school as a visiting author and presenter to discuss the story behind the books, the writing process, the quest for social acceptance, and tips to help young people gain confidence.

After reading Maddie Morrison books in your school and using any of the following suggested lesson plans or one of your own, call us at 973-632-0462 or email us to set up a workshop with the author!

How to use these books as a tool for:

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND A CONNECTION TO SCHOOL:

As educators we all want to help middle school boys and girls deal with the social aspect of adolescence. As a school community we focus on academics, of course, but I think it is important to also use school as a forum for social awareness and life lessons. While teaching at the middle school level, I have watched my students deal with fitting in, wondering how school relates to them, and developing their sense of self. For so many of them the journey has been extremely difficult and unsuccessful, at least in their minds. It's almost impossible to tell them it will all make sense and have them believe you. But a helpful guide could possibly steer them in the right direction and help them with the balance.

Peer mediation, conflict resolution, bullying assemblies, dedicated teachers, and other character education programs have been presented to our students with some effectiveness for some kids. We need a program that children can connect with. Adolescents deal with fitting in, peer pressures, new responsibilities, independence, and much more every day. Their school work is just one more thing to balance in their lives. For many of these boys and girls their school work is last on the list.

There's No Room for You, Maddie Morrison and You Can Make a Difference, Maddie Morrison can be used as teaching tools for character development by telling a story both boys and girls can relate to. These books can help adolescents find their own place in the social world of middle school and make connections to academic subjects, too.

These engaging stories tell of a seventh grader, Maddie Morrison, whose journey to find the answers that all adolescents seek sends her back in time. Her discoveries will make it evident to readers that they are not alone in their struggles.

Pre-teens will come to realizations while unaware of the lessons being taught as they get wrapped up in Maddie's story.



PLANNING A LESSON WITH MADDIE MORRISON

Here is a list of some exciting lesson plans to incorporate Maddie Morrison Books into your classroom.

Maddie Morrison books are fun, quick, easy-to-read novels for boys and girls from 4th through 8th grade at any ability level.

Independent Reading Book (IRB)


When students are given free reading time in class they are not preoccupied with tests or reports due for that book. This is a great way to encourage the simple enjoyment of reading. Why not select a book for all the students to read during their independent reading time. Maddie Morrison adventures will keep the children engaged and also open up discussions about very important middle school issues on fitting in and feeling good about oneself. It's a great way to get your students to open up, since they are all on the same page, so to speak!

Book Club selection

Reading teachers can create a book club within their classroom. Using these books as a book club pick for the class, children will be asked to read and keep a journal. Entries in the journal can be about feelings, predictions, connections, etc. that they feel as they read. The teacher may recommend a journal entry after each chapter. The teacher will then facilitate a book club meeting at a specified class time. The discussions can be generated from the students' journal entries. Without any graded assessment, students will be more likely to contribute information in an informal book club meeting atmosphere. If possible you can include parents in this book club selection and invite them to the discussion meeting too. It will open up communication between children and their parents while promoting reading together, too.

Literature Circles

You can use these books as required reading for your reading or language arts class. The time travel and historical information in the books will lend itself to a social studies class, too. The teacher creates groups of 4 or 5 students. Within each group there are roles for each member to focus on while doing the assigned 1 or 2 chapter reading. The next day each group uses the role sheets provided to facilitate discussions. Roles include discussion director, literary luminary, connector, summarizer, and vocabulary enricher. Roles change for each member with each reading assignment to give every student a chance to experience all aspects of the reading experience. All students will be engaged in a successful conversation about a variety of topics and themes.





Character Development

This character development relates to the students and the characters in the book. As the characters in the book develop and grow you can also develop character in your students. Many of the characters in the book are going through changes as they navigate the journey through adolescence. While students read this, many of them will be able to relate to these same issues. Use issues in the book such as tolerance, self esteem, respect for parents, and more to prompt conversations with your students. Discuss the moral development of each character and then see how your own students might grow in character from the knowledge they have gained in the book.

Have the students write down some of the problems or issues they see the characters facing as they read the book. Midway through the book, and then again at the end, have the students gather in a circle or on the floor to make the atmosphere comfortable. Since the students have already created a list of issues, it will be easy to find conversation starters from the students themselves.

Creative Writing

- ⚙ Teachers can use excerpts from the book to prompt writing assignments.
- ⚙ Another way to prompt creativity in your students is to predict what will happen next at the end of any chapter. Many of the chapters end with a cliffhanger and motivate readers to come up with possible story lines.
- ⚙ Students can write from the point of view of any character in the story. For example: assign different characters to each student and give the same scenario to each. Have them write how they would react as the character they've been assigned. Compare and contrast the scenarios. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge on many story elements such as character traits, settings, theme, and of course creative writing skills will be reinforced.

Role Playing

Children love to be dramatic. Give out parts in a role play. Have students become the characters in the book. Using the same prompts as in the creative writing lesson, have the students act out the predictions at the end of each chapter. Or, let them each play a different character and act out how they would react to a certain situation from that character's point of view.

