



***Self Directed Student Handout Activity.
In Black & White ~ A Ready-to-Go Printable***

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WHAT WOULD JOHN-BOY DO?

Student Activity in Ethics & Character Development



“John-Boy” of The Waltons



John Legend

The TV series “The Waltons” was a popular show in the 1970s. If you are unfamiliar with The Waltons, watch reruns and enjoy the morality and ethics inside every episode!

John-Boy was a character played by the actor, Richard Thomas. He played the eldest son who always did the right thing to make honorable decisions. John-Boy's character showed how a good citizen lives his life, and how his actions always helped others.

Fast forward to today. John Legend exemplifies another upstanding citizen with a high moral code. A musician, songwriter, and actor John Legend also knows how to give back. His philanthropic efforts include: raising awareness for Hurricane Katrina victims, performing for U.S. military troops, serving as a member of the Young Global Leaders and sitting on at least three charity boards. (BTW~ Mr. Legend was chosen for his morality and good character, not because his first name happened to be “John”!)

Throughout time there have been- and will be many exemplary “John-Boy” personas. As you know every person has behaviors attached to them that defines their character. Famous people are especially defined by social media, tabloids, and sensational headlines. However, famous people are not unlike ordinary citizens. Many are stellar citizens. And, yet select others challenge authority and create drama wherever they go.

This exercise is about character development and the behaviors that are attached to sticky awkward human situations. So here is your challenge....



And the Line Up ...

* Donald Trump * Beyonce Knowles * Bill Gates * Placido Domingo * Paul McCartney
* Oprah Winfrey * Paul Allen * Michael Jordan * Sister Theresa * Bob Dylan
* Hilary Clinton * Wayne Gretzky * Colin O'Brien * Marilyn vos Savant
* Terrence Tao * Mark Zuckerberg * Madonna * Sting * R.K. Rowling * Brad Pitt
* Barack Obama * Richard Branson * Britney Spears * Jay Leno * George W. Bush

Pick a person out of this line up of famous people. Your person pick does not have to come with "John-Boy's" character. Rather this is an exercise to think in the realm of how another might perceive their situation—and more importantly > react to it.

Your assignment is to have fun with the following scenarios. Enlighten others with your thoughts around the actions, reactions and responses your character might exhibit. Add a dose of humor and blend your ideas to offer character development options. You will be sharing your comments and ideas with your classmates, so create thoughtful answers to enlighten your peers.

There are 3 different scenarios. Choose 3 different people; each will be the subject of a different situation.

Who is Your Person ? Now based on this person's famous persona, describe how you think he/she would react if caught in these scenarios:

SITUATION 1

Describe his/her reaction to getting a DUI:

Identify his/her behaviors when going to court for the DUI.

Explain what actions he/she might demonstrate for repentance for the DUI.

Do you think this person would behave ethically and in good conscience?
Explain why or why not?

How would you handle the above DUI and share your remedies if this happened to you.

SITUATION 2

Explain what you believe your person's reaction would be for being falsely accused for shoplifting and theft, and booked into jail:

What behaviors do you believe your famous idol might display?
Why do you believe this?

If you were in the position of being falsely accused of shoplifting what is the first statement you would say to the police? And, to the public who adores you?

SITUATION 3

Identify how your person might respond if accused of alleged animal abuse, but not incarcerated.

What products do you believe this person might display publicly to defend their honor?

Innocent or guilty how do you think your person would campaign to maintain their distinguished status . . . or would he/she bother?

In your opinion what would YOU do to regain public trust in a situation where you were were really innocent? Name behaviors that would reinstate public trust.

SITUATION 1

What Would _____ DO?

Describe his/her reaction to getting a DUI:

Identify his/her behaviors when going to court for the DUI:

Explain what actions he/she might demonstrate for repentance for the DUI:

Do you think this person would behave ethically and in good conscious?
Explain why or why not.

How would you handle the above DUI and share your remedies if this happened to you.

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