

## Recommended Reading

Yo Yes by Chris Raschka

Say Hello by Jack and Michael Foreman

Reaching all by creating Tribes Learning Communities by Jeanne Gibbs

The Legend of Ninja Cowboy Bear by David Bruins and Hilary Leung

Silver Bullets by Karl Rohnke

Teamwork and Teampay by Cain and Barry Jolliff

## Pre Visit Activities

- Organize students into groups of 3 or 4's as discussed with Forest Valley program staff (required)
- Review '[Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre, Map Reading Courses, Mapping – a Life Skill](#)' (required)
- Review the appropriate [site maps](#) with your class
- Review mapping features with students (see document above)
- Have students take part in various mapping activities before the trip such as mapping a desktop, a classroom, the school yard and generating their own legends for the map.
- Familiarize students with cooperative games (e.g., TRIBES, name games, line up games...etc.)
- Practice communication activities (e.g., Back-to-Back drawing: students follow each other's drawing instructions without looking and debrief what worked and how to improve)
- Participate in a TDSB Character Trait assembly, and talk about how it relates to the classroom and wider community
- Begin a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) about the TDSB character trait to bring with you to Forest Valley
- Brainstorm the types of learning skills that will support success during their day at Forest Valley (e.g., self-awareness, self-monitoring, taking responsibility for personal actions, coping with stress, teamwork, risk-taking, communication etc.)
- Have students assess their learning skills before coming (e.g., What are my strengths? What is my next step?)

- have students write a personal goal statement based on their self-assessment to bring with them to Forest Valley
- Read books related to character development
- Engage students in reflective follow up activities after reading using oral, visual, written and/or dramatic communication

### **Post Visit Activities**

- Have students work in groups to create (and follow) maps of the schoolyard or classroom
- Try one of the cooperative activities you learned at Forest Valley back at school to review the learning skills
- After practicing with your own class, partner with another class to teach them the cooperative activity
- Make a Character Trait or Learning Skill Board and use photos and/or words to capture student examples of the Trait or Skill in action
- With your students, develop a presentation about what they have learned to share at your next Character Trait Assembly
- Have students reflect on their learning at Forest Valley in relation to their goal statement and plan a next step
- Consolidate the learning from the day by collecting strategies or ideas that were learned at Forest Valley and making an anchor chart
- Give students the opportunity to add positive captions to any of the photos taken of their Learning Skills Development and share them in a book, on a bulletin board and/or digitally
- Students reflect on how the concepts learned during the day can be applied to other school, social or family activities
- Continue debriefing shared and guided reading opportunities in terms of character traits and/or learning skills.