

What Should DANNY DO?

Discussion Topics

Personal Accountability

- 1) When Danny makes all the wrong choices in the book, he asks himself "I wonder what I could have done to make my day better." Can you help him find the answer? How did his choices shape his day and what can we learn from them?
- 2) When Danny makes all the right choices in the book, how does his day change? Did he have anything to do with it?
- 3) In some of the storylines, Danny's day doesn't start so great, but then gets better. Was he the one who made his day better, or was it someone else? We all make mistakes in life, but it is within our control to change the course of our day.

Danny's Decisions vs. Your Decisions

- 1) Compare how Danny needed to share the video game and/or his dog Oreo to sharing something that belongs to the class or school. If you share nicely, are the other kids more likely or less likely to enjoy playing with you?
- 2) Compare how Danny chose to think ahead and offer some of his ice cream to his brother to a time when a friend in school may have needed some help. If you try to understand how your friends feel and offer them help before they ask, is your friendship likely to grow (and are they more likely to reciprocate)?

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Discussion Topics (contd.)

We All Have the Power to Choose!

- 1) The Power to Choose is a special power within us all. Many times things happen to us which we cannot control, but how we react to them is within our control. Some examples are: If someone spills water on you by mistake, you can get really upset and yell at the, or you can CHOOSE to laugh it off... If someone is mean to you, you can hit them, or CHOOSE to use your words...
- 2) There are many ways we can use our Power to Choose to make our lives better, as well as the lives of those around us. Sometimes we know the right thing to do, but we CHOOSE to do the easier thing, or the lazy thing, or the selfish thing instead. Using our Power to Choose wisely is something we need to work on all the time, but the more we do, the easier it becomes.

Danny's Power to Choose

- 1) Danny used his Power to Choose on his own without your help a few times in the book. Can you find those times? What happened because of the choices he made? Did his day become better or worse because of them? Some examples:
 - a) Choosing to lie about eating chocolate instead of telling the truth.
 - b) His mom gives both him and Charlie the option to make a lemonade stand at the park. Danny CHOOSES to do it, while Charlie CHOOSES not to.

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Activity Suggestions

Driving the Power to Choose Home!

- 1) Power to Choose Pledge! We have included drawing worksheets where your students can describe a time in the past where they did not use their power to choose wisely, another when they did, and a third where they pledge to use their Power to Choose wisely in the future. Doing them in this order is a great way to internalize their pledge. Note: There are two worksheets which discuss using their Power to Choose in the future. Depending on your students, you may want to use the worksheet which discusses using their Power to Choose wisely for the upcoming week instead of year. You can then post the one where they pledge to use their Power to Choose wisely in the future on a bulletin board. Throughout the year (or week), you can remind the students that mistakes happen, but their entire pledge does not fall apart as a result. They can learn from their mistakes, and continue their pledge. Doing the right thing is a choice they will have to make many times in their lives, not just once.
- 2) Making the worksheets into an art project: Your students can paint (or create in some other way) their pledge instead of drawing it.

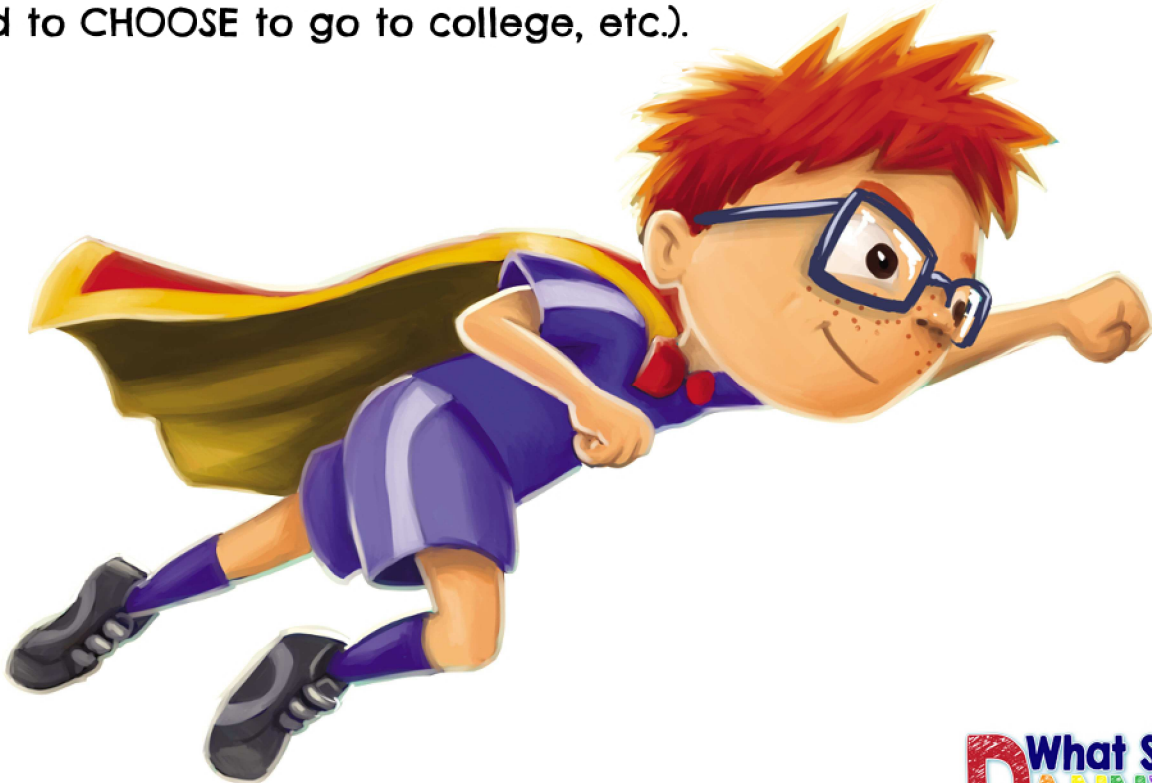


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Activity Suggestions 2

Age Dependent Activities:

- 3) Extrapolating their pledge and its benefits into a short essay. Ask them these questions: How will you use your Power to Choose wisely this year? (e.g. sharing more, work harder at school, read more, etc.) What were the consequences when you did not use your Power to Choose in this way in the past? What are the primary benefits you will receive by using your Power to Choose in this way? Will anyone else benefit from your pledge? How will you feel after a year of making good choices?
- 4) Future Leaders: Another drawing/posting project that can be done to show the scope of the Power to Choose, is having the kids draw what they want to be when they grow up, and then describe how they will need to use their Power to Choose to become it. (e.g. if they want to become a Doctor/Lawyer/President/Scientist/Teacher/etc. they will need to CHOOSE to study hard over choosing to be lazy. They will need to CHOOSE to go to college, etc.).



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Activity Suggestions 3

Acting Out!

5) Break the class up into groups of two-eight students each. Have each group come up with a scenario (or give them a list to choose from) where one child might have to use their Power to Choose wisely. Have them decide what might happen if they do use their power wisely, and what might happen if they don't. To insure scenarios do not overlap between groups, you may want to narrow their choices by limiting the scope of what they have to choose from (e.g. some kids can choose a scenario from a playground, some can choose a scenario from a home setting, some can choose something about choosing to study hard or not, etc.).

They can then act out the skit both ways. Bonus points can be awarded to groups who use ingenuity and attention to detail in the scenarios they come up with.



★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Name: _____

Date: _____

★ ★ ★ I have the **POWER TO CHOOSE!** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Draw a picture that shows a time you didn't use your
★ ★ ★ **POWER TO CHOOSE** wisely in the past. ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ Describe: ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Name: _____

Date: _____

★ I have the **POWER TO CHOOSE!** ★

★ Draw a picture that shows a time you've used your
★ POWER TO CHOOSE wisely in the past. ★



★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Describe: _____

★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Name: _____

Date: _____

★ ★ ★ I have the **POWER TO CHOOSE!** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Draw a picture that shows how you will use
your POWER TO CHOOSE wisely this week. ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ Describe: ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Name: _____

★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

Date: _____

★ ★ ★

I have the **POWER TO CHOOSE!**

★ ★ ★

My P2C pledge! Draw a picture of how you pledge to use your Power to Choose wisely this year.



★ ★ ★

I pledge to use my Power to Choose wisely by:

★ ★ ★

Why is this important? Who will it help, and how will it help them?

★ ★ ★ ——— ★ ★ ★

For more writing space, use the back of this sheet.

★ ★ ★

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