

# The Leadership Shop Lesson Plan

## Overview

The following short story, *The Leadership Shop*, services the purpose of both introducing the writing style and the method for presenting ideas and information found in *The Friend Factory*, *The Yes Bank* and *the Success Train*.

## Goals

1. Students will read *The Leadership Shop* (short story) and discuss differences/similarities between this writing style and others with which they are familiar.
2. Students will know the four leadership tools.

## Materials Needed

- Several copies of *The Leadership Shop (short story)* by Gary A. Crow, Marissa Crow for student and teacher use
- Any other leadership books for independent reading

## Lesson Procedure

1. Prior to distributing and reading *The Leadership Shop*, facilitate a short discussion with the class about their thoughts and ideas on the topic of leadership, personal leadership, “doing the right thing,” and general character education principles.
2. Distribute and read *The Leadership Shop*.
3. Discuss the four leadership tools presented.
4. If other leadership books are used in the classroom, compare and contrast the material as well as the writing style used in each book.

## *The Leadership Shop*

Welcome to The Leadership Shop. I'm glad you stopped by. There are some pretty interesting ideas here. They'll help you be a better leader.

There are different kinds of leaders. The leader of a parade is the Grand Marshal. The leader of an orchestra is the Conductor. The leader of a school is the Principal. What do you call the leader of your classroom? Sure, you're right. The classroom leader is the Teacher.

Can you play follow-the-leader? It's a lot of fun. Someone is the leader. you try to do what the leader does. If the leader jumps on one foot, you jump on one foot too. If the leader runs fast, so do you. If the leader walks around in a circle, that's what you do. You follow the leader.

Here's a good question. Do you follow the leader no matter what the leader does? Of course not. You don't let people talk you into doing things you shouldn't do.

Are there people who want you to do things you shouldn't do? You won't find people like that here. At the Leadership Shop, you'll learn to be a totally terrific leader. You'll be a leader people will be proud to follow.

To be a great leader, you need special tools. Here's the deal. I'm your guide. I'll tell you about some special leadership tools and show you how to use them. That's my part of the deal.

Here's your part of the deal. You have to promise to keep this stuff a secret. Only you get to know about it. It's just for the Leadership Shop boss. That's you. You're in charge. These leadership tools are just for you. No one else gets to know about them.

Lean in close to the page. I'll whisper so no one will accidentally learn about this stuff. Check to be sure there isn't someone looking over your shoulder. Is it okay to go ahead? Thanks for checking. Here's the first leadership tool.

### **Leaders understand what people want and believe it's important.**

This leadership tool has two parts. You understand what people want. You believe it's important. Let's think about that.

You're in your classroom. Your teacher is talking about a science experiment. What do people want?

Your teacher wants you to learn about science. Most students in your class want the same thing. A few students want to fool around and don't pay attention.

Do you get the idea? You can understand what people want, can't you? Sure you can. I

know you can because I know a little secret about you. Here it is. You can do leadership stuff like this because you're **soooo smart**.

That's the first part of this leadership tool. You understand what people want. Let's think about the second part. What's important?

You're a leader. Are you with the students who want to learn or with the students who want to fool around? Which group is for you? Sure, you'll stick with the students who want to learn.

This is tricky but you can handle it. The important part is learning. It's important to learn about science.

Most people want to do what's important. In your classroom, learning is what's important. At The Leadership Shop, we call this "the goal." People want to accomplish their goal.

To be a leader, you need to understand the goal. You also need to believe that it's important. You understand what people want and believe that it's the right thing to do. Students want to learn. Learning is the right thing to do.

Let's try another example. You're on the playground with some friends. What is their goal? They want to play and have fun. That's a great goal.

You know what they want. You believe that it's important. You understand their goal and believe that it's the right thing to do.

Let's try another example. You're riding your bike with friends. They want to ride in the street. They are supposed to stay on the bike path. You understand their goal. They want to ride their bikes but don't want to stay on the bike path. You decide that's not the right thing to do.

Do you want to be a leader with that group? Of course not. You only want to be a leader when the group's goal is also the right thing to do.

A little rhyme will help you remember this leadership tool.

- What do people want?
- Is it the right thing to do?
- Is their goal a good one?
- Is it your goal too?

**Leaders care about people and want to do stuff with them.**

This is another two-part tool. The first part is this. You care about the people you hang

around with. You can't be a classroom leader if you don't like the other students. You can't be a leader on the playground if you don't like the people you hang around with. Do you get the idea? Leaders care about the people they spend time with.

What leaders do is important. When they are in the classroom, learning is important. When they are on the playground, playing and everyone having fun are important. They care about the people and believe that what they are doing is important.

That leadership tool was pretty easy, wasn't it? Let's use another rhyme to help us remember the tool.

- Are they people you like?
- Do you like what they do?
- Will you hang around with them?
- Is that a good choice for you?

Wow, you've finished two leadership tools. You're rolling right along.

### **Leaders make good choices.**

This leadership tool is easy. You're in your classroom. Your teacher is talking about social studies. Most students want to learn about social studies. A few students want to fool around and not pay attention. What's your goal? Sure, your goal is to learn about social studies. Your goal is the right goal.

You're on the playground. What's your goal? Your goal is to play and have fun. Some people want to argue and not get along. They don't want to follow the rules. You're a leader. You know the right goal. You know about that kind of stuff because you're **soooo smart**.

Here's a little rhyme to help you remember this leadership tool.

- Some people make bad choices.
- You don't like what they do.
- Other people make good choices.
- Their goal is your goal too.

### **Leaders help people achieve the right goal.**

Can you help people in your class learn? Can you help people play and have fun on the playground? Can you help people achieve the goal? Sure, you can help people. You can help

so you do help. That's what leaders do.

One more rhyme makes it easy to remember this leadership tool.

- You work hard to achieve your goal.
- You do what you can do.
- You help other people.
- They can always count on you.

You've done a spectacular job. That's all for now. You know about four totally terrific leadership tools. You can use them whenever you want to be a leader.

The End

The End