

Shield

Materials Needed:

- 1 shield per student
- Markers
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue

Discuss character with students, talk about personal identity.

Students can use their personal identity and character to protect them from negative influences.

Have students decorate their shields to reflect their personal identity and character.

Knights wear a lot of armor, don't they? It doesn't seem like there is any weakness in all that metal, but they still need to carry a shield. No matter how well protected a warrior may seem, there is always a weakness somewhere. All the enemy has to do is find the weakness and they will be able to take the knight down. That's why warriors have shields. What makes the shield different from the other pieces of armor? Have a few students answer. Unlike the other pieces of armor, the shield isn't strapped on to a certain part of your body. The shield can move to cover weaknesses in a warrior's armor and keep arrows from piercing through. Great warriors know how to use their shield to protect them from danger.

Once the character shields are created, have the students write down on small sheets of paper some negative influences or pressures they might face and ball them up. Then have them all line up along the wall. Gently toss the crumpled balls of paper at the children. (Not towards their heads, of course.) The kids have to use their shields to block the "arrows" flying toward them. Once they are hit, they are out. They can help throw things, if you want. Play until everyone is out. Discuss how their character shield protected them from the negative influences.

Next have all the students line up again but this time one student should not have a shield.

Does the group help protect the unshielded? How can we help our peers?