
The Crown Inside — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Awareness

Objective: Students will understand that self-worth comes from character (kindness, courage, heart) rather than appearance or possessions, and will identify and celebrate their own character strengths.

Essential Question: *"What makes someone truly royal — and does it have anything to do with a crown?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Paper crowns or cardstock strips, Markers, stickers, glitter, Paper and crayons

Vocabulary: Royal, Crown, Character, Kindness, Genuine, Self-Worth, Castle, Glow, Heart, Strength

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Hold up a toy crown (or paper crown). "If I put this on my head, am I a king/queen? Why or why not?"
Discuss what ACTUALLY makes someone admirable.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Lean into the comedy: robot wave, frog kiss (do the voices!). Pause at the glow moment. Ask: "What was the hero doing when the crown finally glowed? Were they even THINKING about the crown?"
Emphasize: kindness is the key, not performance.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Frog Kiss Comedy Skit. Discuss: what's the difference between trying to look good and actually BEING good?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Design your Character Crown with written strengths. Draw one room of your Inner Castle. Write: "My crown glows when I ____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Royal Parade: wear crowns, announce your character strength. Class declaration: "We are all royalty because we are ____."

ASSESSMENT

Can children distinguish character from appearance? Can they name their own character strengths? Exit ticket: "True royalty means ____."

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide pre-cut crown strips and character strength word cards to choose from.

Extend: Write a new fairy tale where the hero earns their crown through character. Create a "Character Strength Awards" system for the class.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home the character crown. Ask families to use the phrase "Your crown is glowing!" when they catch kindness at home.