



Ed's Word for August is...

ACCOUNTABLE

Definition: To consider the consequences of your actions, and to recognize that you are held liable for your choices.

"The ancient Romans had a tradition: whenever one of their engineers constructed an arch, as the capstone was hoisted into place, the engineer assumed accountability for his work in the most profound way possible: he stood under the arch."
C. Michael Armstrong, business leader

"To succeed as a team is to hold all for the members accountable for their expertise."
Mitchell Caplan, business leader

"What kind of people are we, if we don't have the character to own up to our own short comings and responsibilities? To have and enjoy certain liberties requires us to hold each other and ourselves accountable for our actions."
Gary Ryan Blair, motivational speaker

Importance of Being Accountable

Here's a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody have done.

**Accountable is... Taking credit for your successes, but also taking the blame for your mistakes.
 Being answerable for your behavior.**

***You are accountable to your children. Don't worry that they never listen to you.
 Worry that they are always watching you. – Robert Fulcrum***

The Starfish Thrower

While writing one early morning near the ocean, author Loren Easley decided to take a walk. A storm had just subsided and as he walked, he noticed that thousands of starfish had been washed up on the beach. Ahead of him was a gigantic rainbow shimmering in the air. At the base of the rainbow stooped a little boy, gazing at an object in the sand. Eventually, he flung the object back into the ocean, beyond the breaking surf.

Easley walked up to the boy and asked him what he was doing. The boy answered, "I'm throwing starfish back into the sea, because if I don't, they're going to die." Easley replied, "But there are thousands of starfish. Are you really going to make a difference when you can't possibly throw them all back in?" The boy looked up at him, stooped down to pick up another starfish and gently flung it back into the ocean. "It's going to make a big difference to that one!" he replied.

Easley was embarrassed, uncomfortable with the boy's innocence in contrast to his mature indifference. He left, but the encounter stayed with him. After awhile, he turned around, found the boy, picked up a starfish and threw it into the waves. "I understand," he said. "Call me a starfish thrower too!" If Easley didn't come back to help, he knew he would have regretted his choice. Instead, he and the boy took it upon themselves to make a difference, spending hours throwing starfish back into the ocean.



Block 32:

Can plan ahead and make decisions.

www.commpartnership.org



Led by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, **Character Education** is a community-wide initiative working to create a culture of character.

www.characteredspringfield.com