



Grade Level: K-5

Time Needed: Two to three class periods

Lesson Plan:

# *Listen to the Wind* Good Citizen

## **SUMMARY**

Central Asia Institute (CAI) was started when Greg Mortenson, in a failed attempt to reach the summit of K2, found himself in a remote village in Pakistan. Upon seeing that the village children had very little access to education, Mortenson set out to raise money to build a school. Today, CAI empowers communities of Central Asia through literacy and education, especially for girls; promotes peace through education; and conveys the importance of these activities globally.

While reading the picture book *Listen to the Wind*, students will be taken on Dr. Greg's journey to build the first CAI school in Korphe, Pakistan. Students will learn about obstacles that Dr. Greg faced along the way and how he overcame those challenges.

In this lesson, students will consider what it means to be a good citizen, as Dr. Greg is in the book, and how they can make a difference in the world by being kind, caring, and considerate citizens.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Students will read the picture book *Listen to the Wind*.
- Students will use critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and form opinions about what it means to be a good citizen.
- Students will demonstrate understanding and apply learning by writing a "pledge" to support facts and opinions.

## **SUBJECTS**

- Language Arts
- Art

**LISTEN TO THE WIND GOOD CITIZEN continued**

---

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

- What does it mean to be a good citizen?
  - What are the character traits of a good citizen?
  - Is Dr. Greg a good citizen? Why?
  - What makes a good citizen in your class, family, or city?
  - Is good citizenship attained through values (what you believe in, such as sharing), actions (doing something to help people, such as sharing half of your sandwich with a classmate who forgot his lunch), or both?
  - How can we make a difference in the world? How can we make something better? How can we make someone's life better? How can we be kind and caring to one another?
  - What can we learn from Dr. Greg's story about handling hardships?
- 

**RESOURCES AND MATERIALS**

- The picture book *Listen to the Wind* by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth
  - *Listen to the Wind Study Guide*
  - Central Asia Institute & Pennies for Peace Story (located in the Pennies for Peace Toolkit section)
  - Good Citizen Pledge (below)
  - Videos (located in the Pennies for Peace Toolkit section)
  - Photos (located in the Pennies for Peace Toolkit section)
  - Fact sheets (located in the Pennies for Peace Toolkit section)
  - Printable Map (located in the Pennies for Peace Toolkit section)
  - Research tools such as newspapers, news magazines, and, if appropriate, the Internet
  - Central Asia Institute blog, which can be found at <http://centralasiainstitute.org/field-notes/>
- 

**LESSON**

1. Introduce students to *Listen to the Wind*, using resources listed above.
2. Read the book aloud to students, or allow them to read the book silently to themselves.
3. Have a whole-class discussion about Dr. Greg's quest to build the first CAI school in Korphe, Pakistan.
  - Did anyone *force* Dr. Greg to build a school for the children of Korphe?
  - Why did Dr. Greg *want* to build a school for the children of Korphe?
  - What challenges did he encounter while building the school? Who helped him?
  - What was the result of Dr. Greg's work?

**LISTEN TO THE WIND GOOD CITIZEN continued**

---

4. Ask students if they can recall a time when someone helped them with something that was important to them, or that they couldn't do on their own. Ask, "How did that make you feel?"
  5. Ask students if *they* have ever helped someone else with something that was important, or that the person couldn't do alone. Ask, "How did that make *you* feel?"
  6. Have students brainstorm, or have a whole-class discussion, about why it is important to help people. What would the world be like if people didn't help one another? Would you want to live in a place like that?
  7. Ask students to think about one thing that they would like to do to make the world a better place.
  8. Have students complete the Good Citizen Pledge (see reproducible below). When students have completed their pledges, post them in your classroom or in a prominent place in your school for others to admire.
  9. If time is available, ask students to journal or write a short essay about a time when either they helped someone else or someone helped them, and how that made them feel.
- 

**IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE ALL LEARNERS**

- English Language Learners
    - Re-read the book as many times as necessary to ensure that the students comprehend the vocabulary, the story, and its meaning.
  - Special Education
    - Allow students to work together in small groups to complete the Good Citizen Pledge.
  - Gifted and Talented
    - Ask students to consider the responsibilities of citizenship. Do we have a *responsibility* to take care of others and/or to make the world a better place? Why or why not?
- 

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

- Imagine that you are one of the students for whom Central Asia Institute has built a school, like the children of Korphe. Write a speech to celebrate the opening of the school.
- Write a book review of *Listen to the Wind*.
- Have students read the "Artist's Note" at the end of the book. What do students think of Susan L. Roth's illustrations (collages)? Have they ever seen artwork like that? What makes these collages special to the story?
- Create a Good Citizen Poster for your school and hang it in the lobby. Ask other students, teachers, parents, and your principal to write on the poster—describing how *they* plan to be a good citizen. Have students research other figures (modern day or historical) who fit the definition

**LISTEN TO THE WIND GOOD CITIZEN** *continued*

---

of “good citizen” and have helped others or helped to make the world a better place. Examples include Jane Goodall, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, and Malala Yousafzai.

---

**DIGITAL ACTIVITY**

- Practice desktop publishing! Have students use classroom digital tools to illustrate their pledges.

Tell us about your project! We’d love to see samples of your Good Citizen Pledges or your Good Citizen Poster. Send photos and/or descriptions to [info@penniesforpeace.org](mailto:info@penniesforpeace.org).



# Pennies for Peace

## Good Citizen Pledge

I (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
promise to be a good citizen in (circle one)  
my classroom / my school / my family / my  
neighborhood / my city / my country / the world by:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Now, use magazine clippings, small scraps of paper,  
and other materials that you already have in your  
classroom to create a collage to illustrate your pledge.