**World History**

**Confucius Quotations Activity**



*Instructions:* In your small group, create a 4-5 frame (minimum) comic strip to explain and illustrate a Confucian relationship. A student audience should be able to easily read and understand the cartoon strip. Characters’ conversations should be written in your own words and should reflect an accurate depiction of Confucius’ philosophy. Underneath your comic strip, write the original quotation you used as your inspiration and what type of relationship is being represented. Be creative!

Selections from *The Analects of Confucius*

Friend to Friend

1. To be petty with one’s lord will mean humiliation. To be petty with one’s friends will mean estrangement.
2. Don’t worry if people do not recognize your merits; worry that you may not recognize theirs.
3. Give friends loyal advice and guide them tactfully. If that fails, stop; do not expose yourself to rebuff.
4. Silence is a friend who will never betray.
5. Keep all promises; refuse the friendship of all who are not as good a person as you; and if you have made a mistake, do not be afraid of admitting the fact and amending your ways.
6. To have faults and to be making no effort to change them is to have faults indeed!
7. He that is really good can never be unhappy. He that is really wise can never be puzzled. He that is really brave is never afraid.
8. A man who has committed a mistake and doesn’t correct it is committing another mistake.
9. A blemish may be removed from a diamond by careful polishing, but evil words once spoken cannot be effaced.
10. Between friends, frequent reproaches make the friendship distant.

Ruler to Subject

1. To govern is to act correctly. If you set an example by being correct, who would dare to remain incorrect?
2. If a man is correct in his own person, then there will be obedience without orders being given; but if he is not correct in his own person, there will not be obedience even though orders are given.
3. He who rules by virtue is like the polestar, which remains unmoving in its mansion while all the other starts revolve respectfully around it.
4. Raise the straight and set them above the crooked, and you will win the hearts of the people. If you raise the crooked and set them above the straight, the people will deny you their support.
5. A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.

Parent to Child

1. Being good as a son and obedient as a young man is, perhaps, the root of a man’s character.
2. When the father is alive, watch the son’s aspirations. When the father is dead, watch the son’s actions. If three years later, the son has not veered from the father’s way, he may be called a dutiful son indeed.
3. In serving your father and mother, you ought to dissuade them from doing wrong in the gentlest way. If you see your advice being ignored, you should not become disobedient but remain reverent. You should not complain, even if by so doing you wear yourself out.
4. Nowadays people think they are dutiful sons when they feed their parents. Yet they also feed their dogs and horses. Unless there is respect, where is the difference?
5. Give your father and mother no other cause for anxiety than illness.
6. Being good as a son and obedient as a young man is, perhaps, the root of a man’s character.