**Being Frank Lesson Plan**

**Character Trait:** Trustworthiness  
**Grades:** 1st-3rd  
**Time:** 30 minutes  
**Materials:**  
- Being Frank by Donna W. Earnhardt  
- Character Education Posters  
- Trustworthy Foldable activity

**Lesson:**
1. Introduce the character education trait of Trustworthiness with the character education posters. The definition of trustworthy is “We are honest, reliable, loyal, and live with integrity.” (I usually have to define all these words with students)
2. Ask students if they have ever heard the phrase, “Can I be frank?” Most of them have not. So, I usually give this example: “Let’s say that (student) invited me to a party at his/her house. I think the party is boring. The next day, (student) asks me, ‘did you have fun at the party?’ If I say, ‘Can I be frank?, then I am probably going to say something like, ‘That was the most boring party I’ve ever been to.’” Say, “Is that the truth?” Yes. Ask, “Is it kind?” No.
3. Ask, “Does being truthful need to also be kind?”
4. Introduce the book, saying the book is called Being Frank, and the main character is Frank.
5. Stop at various points in the story to ask questions:
   a. Why do Dotty and Carol get upset with Frank?
   b. Is Mr. Wiggins right when he says, “Some things are better left unsaid?” (Note: you may have to teach kids what a toupee is in order for them to get the joke!)
   c. Does Frank’s Grandpa Earnest lie when he tells Mrs. Peacock that he likes the purple flower on her hat? How is this an example of “if you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all?”
   d. Ask for examples of things Frank could have said to people at the carnival but doesn’t. (i.e. Instead of “You tell great jokes!”, he might have said “You laugh like a horse!” before.)
6. Ask, “Does telling the truth mean it’s okay to hurt feelings?”
7. To think a little more about what it means to be trustworthy—besides telling the truth with kindness—complete the foldable activity. Ask students to cut out the rectangle then cut on the dotted lines to create a foldable activity with a thinking map: Trustworthy is, does, says, is not.
8. Brainstorm answers together and then ask them to take it home to talk with their families about what it means to be trustworthy.