Do Unto Otters Lesson Plan

**Character Trait:** Good Citizenship

**Small group:** Classroom behavior

**Grades:** 1-4

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:**
- Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners by Laurie Keller
- Character Education Posters

**Lesson:**

1. Tell students that the word for today is Good Citizenship. Ask, “What is a citizen?” Students will usually answer things like a person, a neighbor, a part of a group. Ask, “Then what is a good citizen?” Students will usually answer things like: someone who follows the rules, doesn’t get arrested, etc.

2. Show Character Education poster for Good Citizenship, which defines it as, “We do our part to make our community and our world a better place.” This might include following the rules or other things. However, I always tell students that it also means I do all the other traits that we have talked about all year: Respectful, Responsible, Caring, Trustworthy and Fair.

3. Explain that this book talks about how good neighbors/good citizens do all these things. Rabbit has new neighbors; they are otters. He’s never known any otters, and he isn’t sure about them being good neighbors. Ask students to listen as you read to see if the otters show all of our character traits and are, therefore, good citizens.

4. Read the story with lots of expression. Students are always entertained by the side notes, the puns, and the humor in the book. I usually really try to play it up. I begin telling this story from the opening art, with Rabbit hopping along and saying “doot-dee-doo!” Students especially love seeing the otters join in with the “doot-dee-doo”ing at the end of the book.

5. Once the story is over, use the posters to prompt students to think of ways that they otters showed each of the character traits.

6. Encourage students to strive to be good citizens by demonstrating all the character traits and being good citizens.