

**Which of the pillars of character do you value as the most important in helping you make the right choice?**

I chose caring as the most important pillar of character. I've been bullied. It's not a good feeling and brings me down. I've known many of my classmates since kindergarten. Sometimes they are mean to me. They call me names, pull my hair, push me and make fun of my size. This hurts my feelings and I wouldn't want anyone else to get bullied and not feel cared about. I don't know why they don't care about me. We need to remind kids often about being caring to people.

I do my best to care about others and how they feel. It says on the caring pillar that we also forgive others. I still try to be nice to those who bully me and I forgive them.

Next year I'll be going to Maple with new kids. I think we should stick up for each other if someone gets bullied. I don't understand that when we were in lower grades all of us cared and were nice to each other. Now that we are older that doesn't happen.

I think kids follow their parents' behavior. For example, if a parent calls others names, kids will do the same. Parents sometimes don't realize their kids imitate them. I also think parents need to be aware of what kids watch on TV. Many shows have kids saying bad things and acting in bad ways and kids learn from that.

My teacher told me I need to stand up for myself when I get bullied. I need to care more about me and tell them to stop. The bullies should start caring about how others feel.

This is what I think. When you start to care, people start trusting you. They also respect you. It's our responsibility to act this way. You are also being fair and this makes a good citizen. So starting with care, the six pillars can all come together.

Caring is important in life. It helps you make the right decisions. When you can care about people, work, school or anything, because you care, it makes you do your best.