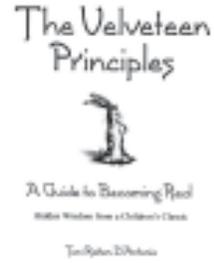


To be Real in a World of Objects~Real is Possible~Real is a Process~Real is Emotional~Real is Empathetic~Real is Courageous~Real is Honest~Real is Generous~Real is Grateful~Real Can Be Painful~Real is Flexible~Real Love Endures~Real is Ethical~Real Has Meaning~ To be Real~



# LEADERSHIP LESSONS



FROM THE

# VELVETEEN RABBIT

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## To be Real in a World of Objects

### **Real Has Meaning**

*That night he was almost too happy to sleep, and so much love stirred in his little sawdust heart that it almost burst. And into his boot-button eyes, that had long ago lost their polish, there came a look of wisdom and beauty, so that even Nana noticed it next morning when she picked him up, and said, "I declare if that old Bunny hasn't got quite a knowing expression!"*

Real is Honest~Real is Generous~Real is Grateful~Real Can Be Painful~Real is Flexible~Real Love Endures~Real is Ethical

## **Leadership Lessons from the Velveteen Rabbit**

### **Washington State Law**

#### **☞ RCW 28A.230.020 Common school curriculum -- Fundamentals in conduct.**

All common schools shall give instruction in reading, penmanship, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography, the history of the United States, English grammar, physiology and hygiene with special reference to the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the human system, science with special reference to the environment, and such other studies as may be prescribed by rule or regulation of the state board of education. ***All teachers shall stress the importance of the cultivation of manners, the fundamental principles of honesty, honor, industry and economy,*** the minimum requisites for good health including the beneficial effect of physical exercise and methods to prevent exposure to and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, and the worth of kindness to all living creatures and the land. The prevention of child abuse may be offered as part of the curriculum in the common schools.

#### **☞ RCW 28A.150.211 Values and traits recognized.**

The legislature also recognizes that certain basic values and character traits are essential to individual liberty, fulfillment, and happiness. However, these values and traits are not intended to be assessed or be standards for graduation. The legislature intends that local communities have the responsibility for determining how these values and character traits are learned as determined by consensus at the local level. These values and traits include the importance of:

- (1) Honesty, integrity, and trust;***
- (2) Respect for self and others;***
- (3) Responsibility for personal actions and commitments;***
- (4) Self-discipline and moderation;***
- (5) Diligence and a positive work ethic;***
- (6) Respect for law and authority;***
- (7) Healthy and positive behavior; and***
- (8) Family as the basis of society.***

#### **☞ Six Pillars of Character**

- |                    |                   |                |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Trustworthiness | 3. Responsibility | 5. Caring      |
| 2. Respect         | 4. Fairness       | 6. Citizenship |

#### **☞ Goals of the Washington Student Leadership Program**

*Students involved in programs of Washington Student Leadership will have the opportunity to increase their understanding and/or effectiveness in the following processes:*

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** *Students will have the opportunity to:*

- Improve speaking skills in small or large groups.
- Improve listening skills in small or large groups.
- Improve group skills necessary to get others to listen.
- Increase poise while working in groups.

**SELF-AWARENESS:** *Students will have the opportunity to:*

- Increase their self-esteem and self-concept through an increased understanding and awareness of self.
- Increase their understanding of self through self-inventory, values clarification, goal setting and evaluating experiences.
- Increase their skills in areas of assertiveness, risk-taking, conflict resolution, and time management.
- Increase their self-help skills in areas of stress management, coping with failure/success, and dealing with criticism/praise.

**HUMAN RELATIONS SKILLS:** *Students have the opportunity to:*

- Increase their understanding of the values of positive reinforcement, trust, and honest communication.
- Increase their awareness of social, cultural, ethnic and racial diversity, and develop strategies to promote respect and acceptance of diversity.
- Increase their understanding of techniques used to develop positive school and community climates.
- Increase their understanding of the lonely/alienated students and ways to increase their sense of belonging.

# *The Velveteen Principles...To be Real in a World of Objects*

## **Real is Possible:**

"After a long time he lived in the toy cupboard or on the nursery floor, and no one thought very much about him. He was naturally shy, and being only made of velveteen, some of the more expensive toys quite snubbed him. The mechanical toys were very superior, and looked down upon every one else; they were full of modern ideas, and pretended they were real."

## **Real is a Process:**

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept."

## **Real is Emotional:**

"That night, and for many nights after, the Velveteen Rabbit slept in the Boy's bed. At first he found it rather uncomfortable, for the Boy hugged him very tight, and sometimes he rolled over on him, and sometimes he pushed him so far under the pillow that the Rabbit could scarcely breathe. ... But very soon he grew to like it..."

## **Real is Empathetic:**

"The mechanical toys were very superior, and looked down upon every one else; they were full of modern ideas, and pretended they were real...the only person who was kind to him at all was the Skin Horse. "

## **Real is Courageous:**

"...the little Rabbit lay among the old picture-books in the corner behind the fowl-house, and he felt very lonely...Of what use was it to be loved and lose one's beauty and become Real if it all ended like this? And a tear, a real tear, trickled down his little shabby velvet nose and fell to the ground."

## **Real is Honest:**

"He was wise, for he had seen a long succession of mechanical toys arrive to boast and swagger, and by-and-by break their mainsprings and pass away, and he knew that they were only toys, and would never turn into anything else."

## **Real is Generous:**

"And then, one day, the Boy was ill. His face grew very flushed, and he talked in his sleep, and his little body was so hot that it burned the Rabbit when he held him close... and through it all the little Velveteen Rabbit lay there, hidden from sight under the bedclothes, and he never stirred, for he was afraid that if they found him some one might take him away, and he knew that the Boy needed him."

**Real is Grateful:** "You must have your old Bunny!" she said. "Fancy all that fuss for a toy!" The Boy sat up in bed and stretched out his hands. "Give me my Bunny!" he said. "You mustn't say that. He isn't a toy. He's REAL!" "When the little Rabbit heard that he was happy, for he knew that what the Skin Horse had said was true at last. The nursery magic had happened to him, and he was a toy no longer. He was Real. The Boy himself had said it."

**Real Can Be Painful:** "What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day... "Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real." "Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit. "Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

## **Real is Flexible:**

"He saw two strange beings creep out of the tall bracken near him. They were rabbits like himself, but quite furry and brand-new. They must have been very well made, for their seams didn't show at all, and they changed shape in a queer way when they moved; one minute they were long and thin and the next minute fat and bunched, instead of always staying the same like he did. "

## **Real Love Endures:**

"Weeks passed, and the little Rabbit grew very old and shabby, but the Boy loved him just as much. He loved him so hard that he loved all his whiskers off, and the pink lining to his ears turned grey, and his brown spots faded. He even began to lose his shape, and he scarcely looked like a rabbit any more, except to the Boy. To him he was always beautiful, and that was all that the little Rabbit cared about."

## **Real is Ethical:**

"And so time went on, and the little Rabbit was very happy—so happy that he never noticed how his beautiful velveteen fur was getting shabbier and shabbier, and his tail becoming unsewn, and all the pink rubbed off his nose where the Boy had kissed him."

*The Velveteen Principles...To be Real in a World of Objects*

**Real is Possible**

**Real is a Process**

**Real is Emotional**

**Real is Empathetic**

**Real is Courageous**

**Real is Honest**

**Real is Generous**

**Real is Grateful**

**Real Can Be Painful**

**Real is Flexible**

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**Real is Ethical**