Honesty

"It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place."
                                                                                        —H.L. Mencken

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

                                                                                        —George Orwell

Theme: Gaining Credibility
Film: Big Fat Liar
(PG) 0:31

We all know the story: You don't have your homework because your dog ate it. Jason Shepherd (Frankie Muniz) can spin a tall tale the likes of which are rarely seen on planet earth. His penchant for telling a lie to get out of a hole gets him in big trouble with those who want to trust a boy who hasn't yet figured out that honesty is the best policy.

Watch Video Clip – Channel 67 – after Channel 1

Teaser Question: How can you earn the trust of others?

Going Deeper: How can a person who has a history of lying regain the trust of others? Have you ever been caught lying and not known how to break the pattern? Who could you talk to about this?

Making Choices: You witness a friend telling lies to his/her parents and teacher. What do you do?

Activity: "Dictionary"
Performance Objective:
The learner will be able to express his/her own opinion on a topic through written or oral expression.
Materials Needed:
Paper, pencil.
Teachers Instructions:
- Before the activity, pick a word (or two) out of the dictionary that will not be known by the students and write it on a piece of paper.
- Divide the class into four groups.
- Write the word on the board and ask if anyone knows what the word means.
- If someone knows the word, he/she should use an alternate word. If no one knows the word, instruct the four groups to make up a definition for the word that sounds reasonable and write down that definition.
- Tell the class they will be voting on which definition they think is true.
- Read the definitions, including the true one, and the students vote.
- Remind the students to work quietly so others cannot hear their definition.
- This game can be repeated with as many words as you have time for

Lead a large group discussion using the following questions:
1. How were you able to detect the false definitions?
2. How can you tell someone is lying? What made the best "false" definitions?
3. Why is it sometimes hard to tell if someone is lying?