

Name: _____

Date: _____



Women's History Month: Educators

Directions: March is Women's History Month! During this month, people all over celebrate women and their achievements. It's also a great time to learn about famous and accomplished women from history.

Prepare to read Passage A. This passage is a speech from a woman named Maria Montessori. She was a teacher. After you finish reading, think about Maria's words. What does she want people to know?

Passage A

By learning about children for over forty years now, I will say that children can bring a feeling of hope.

All children talk, no matter where they come from. They all walk and even lose their teeth. All children share similar experiences. Children learn from their environment. They learn language, religion, customs, and more.

They should not be forgotten and I feel they should be thought of as more important than anyone else. We depend on each other. Children should not be ignored. They can be part of how we solve problems. We can all find hope and plan for a better future when we teach children.

1. What does Maria Montessori think? What does she want people to know?

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Prepare to read Passage A. This passage is a speech from a woman named Rita Pierson. She was a teacher for 40 years. After you finish reading, think about Rita's words. What does she want people to know?

Passage A

One of the things that we never discuss is the value and importance of relationships. Someone once said that learning will not happen without a good relationship. Someone else said all learning is understanding relationships.

I have had students who had a hard time learning things. One year I came up with a bright idea.

I gave them a saying to say: "I am somebody. I was somebody when I came. I'll be a better somebody when I leave. I am powerful, and I am strong. I deserve the education that I get here. I have things to do, people to impress, and places to go."

And they said, "Yeah!" If you say that long enough, it starts to be a part of you.

1. What does Rita Pierson think? What does she want people to know?

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Prepare to read Passage A and Passage B. Passage A is a speech from a woman named Michelle Obama. Passage B is from a woman named Indira Gandhi.

After you finish reading, think about their words. What do both women want people to know? What ideas do they have that are similar (the same)?

Passage A

All the wonderful parts of us will not be much good unless we use them and make them better.

The muscles must be used, or they become weak. The mind must be used so it keeps working.

Every person who chooses to make themselves better than before helps the world.

By not getting stuck by distractions, we can reach our goals.

Learning must be continued throughout life.

Passage B

Nothing in life is entirely bad or entirely good. Everything is somewhat of a mixture and it depends on us and our thinking. We need to find the good and make use of what is around us.

There are people who can learn from what is around them. There are people who can do this, but choose not to.

If your teacher tells you, "Go along. You have done very good work, now try a little harder," then try a little harder and you will be able to do it.

Resources:

The original sources have been adapted to suit the needs of younger students and aim to capture the spirit of each speaker's words.

Citations:

Maria Montessori's Letter

<https://montessori150.org/maria-montessori/forgotten-citizen>

Rita Pierson's TED Talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion/transcript?language=en

Indira Gandhi's Speech:

http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches/indira_gandhi_educated.html

Michelle Obama's Speech:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/16/michelle-obama-london-schoolgirls-education-first-lady>