

Learning[®]



2016 Teachers' Evaluation Comments

Learning® Magazine
2016 Teachers' ChoiceSM Award for the Classroom
Evaluation Form

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. **We do not use comments in the scoring process.** They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2016 for the 2017 Teachers' ChoiceSM Awards programs.

Product: Smile & Succeed for Teens
Company: Solid Press, LLC

What aspects of this product did you like most?

The book is a fun and an easy read. The format keeps it interesting and doesn't have the appearance of being so wordy which is a plus for middle school students. The front and back covers are eye catching. I like having the teacher's guide, it is a nice compliment to the book. The lesson layout, examples, and reproducibles in the teacher's guide were a great plus and helpful. The website also had some good information.

This is a great book for pre-teens and teens to understand the what, how, and why of good communication.

I love the format: easy to read, big print, bold titles, wired tips, straight to the point, pictures. The fact that each chapter is short makes it easy as well. I also like the website with the free section which is full of tips and links.

How would this product need to improve to better support your curriculum?

Unfortunately, with more and more emphasis on Common core/essential standards, it is hard to fit character education in, which is really needed. The biggest challenge with trying to use the teacher's guide was that I did not have a copy of the book for each student and budget restraints aren't good for making copies.

While there are some places to interact with the text, I would recommend having short application exercises as an option at the end of each chapter.

I would like to see more examples to practice what is in the book (on the website or in the book). I would like to have a workbook type where students can write stuff following the book. Could be reflections, examples, etc.

How did you make use of this product or integrate it into your lesson plans?

We do novel reading for the first ten minutes of class. I read to the class twice a week. I read Smile & Succeed for Teens during this time, as well as used some of the lessons in the teacher's guide. For some of the activities in the teacher's guide, I did more of a question and answer or I would pull out a quote from the book (versus them looking through it) and have them complete the assignment. The scenarios were fun to do with the students.

I used this with several students and then had a class presentation - this promoted a lot of discussion.

We definitely used some chapters that were more broad and not specific to finding a job. I used it with my EXCEL group (leadership) so they can use the skills listed when they do a tour of the school for the parents and the new students. I would love to share this with a high school teacher as well so they can use the job finding techniques.

Would you recommend this book to a teacher at the appropriate grade/age level?
Why or why not?

Yes, this is great for character education and life skills. I think it is a great book for this age group. I think it would be a great book for all parents of teens. I think it is a good book for adults as well and is a quick read!

I would recommend this for the school - possibly the guidance office and library. Not sure which content area I would use this in - it bridges several areas.

Very simple ideas that can be introduced and practiced to make our students better people and friend in general.

Definitely recommend!