THE OP STOP · FREE CLASSROOM RESOURCE
For school counselors, SEL teachers, librarians & families

When Opportunity Knocks

Discussion Guide · Ages 8–12

Use these questions after reading with a class, a small group, or one-on-one. Each question connects to a social-emotional learning skill. There are no wrong answers — the goal is conversation.



Opportunity
Decision-Making



Hope
Self-Management



Optimistic
Social Awareness



Obstacle
Self-Awareness

1 How did the Ops feel when they faced an obstacle? Have you ever felt that way?

SELF-AWARENESS

2 If you met Obstacle, what would you say?

SELF-MANAGEMENT

3 When Obstacle got in the Ops' way, they had to decide what to do next. Think of a time something didn't go the way you planned. What did you do next?

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

4 Opportunity helps us look for possibilities. When something goes wrong, how can you look for a new opportunity?

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

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5 The story shows that challenges can be opportunities in disguise. What does that mean to you?

SELF-AWARENESS

6 Optimistic always looks for the good, even on a hard day. What is one good thing you noticed today?

SOCIAL AWARENESS

7 What is one thing that gives you hope?

SELF-MANAGEMENT

8 How did the Ops help each other? Who helps you when things get hard?

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Classroom Ideas

Op Feelings Check-In
During morning meeting, ask students which Op matches how they feel today and why.

Signs of Hope Journal
Students write or draw one sign of hope they noticed this week.

Obstacle to Opportunity Cards
Students write an obstacle on one side of a card and a possible opportunity on the other.

Optimistic Shout-Outs
Students write a kind note about a classmate and add it to a class "Optimistic Wall."

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