



By Giving our Lives

Cesar Chavez
California, U.S.

☀ Values

- Courage
- Comitted
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Sacrifice
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

Do you know anyone who participated in the grape boycott? Ask them to tell their story.

Cesar Chavez believed that leadership required sacrifice. What do you think about that?

Cesar fasted for 25 days. Why? What did he accomplish by taking such strong action?

How do you measure success? Do you think that Cesar Chavez was a successful man?

☀ Lessons Learned

Young people can learn from and listen to leaders who set a good example by their actions.

We can reach people by the actions we take and the personal sacrifices we make.

We can replace the culture of fighting back by practicing the power of non-violence.

When we have a difference of opinion, we can discuss our differences and respect others.

Economic boycotts can be effective to increase awareness, gain support and create change.

Following the tradition of his hero, Gandhi, Cesar Chavez became one of the greatest Hispanic leaders of our time. In the 1960's, he organized the famous grape boycott to get average Americans to help migrant farmworkers to have a better life. In this story, he demonstrates his leadership by fasting as an act of penitence, inspiring his own people to turn them away from violent revenge of past abuses. "The truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice," Cesar told them. "Only by giving our lives do we find life."

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity and Social Studies : Diversity

Research various biographies about Cesar Chavez like *Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Struggle* by Ricardo Sandoval and Susan Ferris. The United Farm Workers website (www.ufw.org) offers a complete bibliography and biographies. Watch video/film about Cesar and farmworkers (PBS documentary on *Fight in the Fields*). Create a list of other Hispanic leaders who have made a difference in this country. Study the lives of community organizers in Hispanic countries like Mexico, Central and South America. Write a report on how they improved the quality of life for their people. Research newspapers from the '60 is on the grape boycott. Write a report about who was involved, which papers wrote editorials, how many cities/states were supportive, what was the response from the grape growers, what was the impact on the United Farm Workers. Research current projects of the United Farm Workers that need your support. Investigate differences between local farms and corporately owned farms in California. Develop a list of creative alternatives to deal with our own and other people's anger.

☀ Community Service : Service Learning

Learn about the UFW's efforts to create a national day to honor Cesar Chavez and non-violent work to carry on his dream (www.ufw.org)

