

UNIT 1

Introduction

DreamMakers – DreamBreakers

The opening unit of *DreamMakers-DreamBreakers* introduces students and their parents to the course structure as well as to several important components necessary for the successful completion of the course. These include several things. First, planning for successful attainment of goals is presented, helping students to choose appropriate goals and how to recognize barriers to them. The interrelationship of freedom and responsibility in forming good habits for life is introduced next. And, to facilitate the success of the class as a whole and to teach the students the importance of having constructive relationships with others, a section on the characteristics of a productive and supportive learning community (i.e., this class) is included.

Students learn to use their course notebooks and Personal Journals to record information from class and their personal applications of that information. They are given practice in small-group dynamics and develop a set of ten rules for working in such groups throughout the remainder of the course. In this unit, the students are introduced to the dramatic frame for the course. This is a continuing scenario involving three teenage students, their teacher, an enigmatic box, and a series of letters from their grandmothers. In their letters, the grandmothers use their life experiences to illustrate the wisdom they have to share with their grandchildren.

In the optional GOING DEEPER sections, teachers have the opportunity to help students personalize and apply the content of the main chapter sections. The PARENT-TEACHER CONNECTION pages introduce parents to the subject matter and structure of the course so they can support their adolescents and the teacher at home.