

## Lesson 31

### *The Mysterious Director*

#### TEACHER PREPARATION

##### KEY CONCEPTS

The character traits we see manifested in the Director are the same kind of character traits we should desire in our own lives.

##### OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. name the character traits of the Director.
2. identify the ways the Director relates to the three children in the story.
3. see connections between the Director and heroic characters in other stories.

##### KEY TERMS

**Sustain:** strengthen or support physically or mentally.

##### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Director has been an invisible force throughout the story. In this lesson, we will be meeting the Director and learn more about his character. His interaction with Trish, Hector and Dugan will allow your students to become aware of the Director's love, forgiveness and sacrifice.

##### MATERIALS/PREPARATION

In **Applying the Lesson**, you will need one blank sheet of paper and a pencil for each student.

#### LESSON

##### BEGINNING THE LESSON

*[Say to the students:]* Throughout the stories, we've been hearing about the unseen Director of the library. In this episode, the three children will actually get to meet him. I wonder what he is going to be like.

**READINESS** (10 minutes)

*[Read to the students:] Chapter 31 – The Director*

The green door opened once again, but this time it made no sound as it swung on well-oiled hinges. A ragged snout appeared from behind the door sniffing the air.

“Edgar, is that you?” exclaimed Dugan. Edgar came bounding out and jumped up on Dugan. “I knew the library was real!”

“Visibility is such an overrated thing,” said the Librarian as she joined Edgar. “Come inside. I expect you have a few questions now that you didn’t have the first time you visited.”

She turned to guide them back through the maze of lighted book aisles and into the room with the Map of Wonders.

“Why couldn’t we keep doing all the wonderful things the library taught us?” asked Trish.

“Yes, we started out well enough, but over time, it became harder to practice things like forgiveness and courage,” added Hector. “You know, the things that fight against the diseased parts of our world.”

“Quite true,” remarked the Librarian. “The Director taught me that a long time ago.”

“Can we meet the Director?” asked Dugan. “Ever since you first mentioned him, I’ve had the feeling he holds the answer to a secret I can’t quite seem to name.”

“I’m afraid it isn’t up to me,” answered the Librarian.

“Doesn’t he like us?” asked Trish.

“Oh, yes, he likes you very much!” said the Librarian.

“Then why wouldn’t he want to see us?” persisted Trish.

“You have it backwards,” laughed the Librarian. “He has always wanted to spend time with you. It is you who have been avoiding him.”

“You mean we could have met the Director at any time, if we’d really wanted to?” exclaimed Hector.

“Your question is too big for me to answer,” smiled the Librarian. “But I have a question for you I couldn’t ask until now.”

“What is it?” they all shouted with joyful impatience.

“What is the difference between life in the library and life outside the library?” she asked.

“Well, all sorts of magical things happen here that don’t happen there,” offered Dugan.

“There’s more magic in your world than you might imagine,” said the Librarian, “but it’s not what you think it is. What I’m really asking is how are you different when you are inside the library compared to when you are outside the library.”

“Well,” replied Hector. “We seem to be able to actually do the things we learned while we were in the library, but not so much when we are away from the library.”

“Well said!” complemented the Librarian. “That is true for everyone but most don’t know it.”

“If only we could live here all the time,” sighed Trish.

“Or take the library with us,” suggested Dugan.

“The library isn’t the answer, though I can see how you might think so,” said the Librarian. “The Director is the real answer you seek.”

The Map of Wonders began to glow and a distant horn sounded the purest note they’d ever heard. The oceans and seas burst into shades of emerald blues and greens. Every tree in every forest seemed to stretch skyward. And every creature on and under earth and in the sky bowed down toward a small craft being carried on a wave from some distant shore.

“The Director is coming,” announced the Librarian.

“I’m not ready,” blurted Dugan.

“No one ever is,” soothed the Librarian.

The three friends could not take their eyes off the craft growing ever larger or its passenger. They were holding hands, but didn’t even know it. Each one felt more exposed than at any other time in their lives. Excitement and fear left room for little else.

The craft landed and a man stepped onto the beach and began to walk toward them. He stopped and smiled. Everyone took a breath for the first time in a long time.

“Well! Well!” said the Director, for it could be no one else. His voice was both kind and strong. “I’ve been waiting a long time to meet you three.”

Hector dropped to one knee. Dugan bowed his head. Trish blushed and then put her hand to her cheek, not sure what else to do.

“Come!” smiled the Director. “Walk with me.”

The Librarian held Edgar in her arms as the three joined the Director on the beach. They walked and talked for a long time. Some of the time, it seemed like all three were accompanying him together. Other times, each felt alone in his presence.

He spoke to them about a promise he had made a long, long time ago and his words brought both joy and sorrow. They laughed and cried, full of both relief and regret. The Director's love was so real and pure it hurt in a wonderfully puzzling way. They each felt so unworthy, guilty of great wrong, yet fully accepted and forgiven.

He told them how the whole human race had betrayed his love and wandered so far away from home, imprisoned and under a sentence of death. He then said he had promised to rescue them from captivity and death by sacrificing himself in their place.

Which is exactly what he did!

At this point in the story, each of the children wept bitterly as they tasted just a small portion of the anguish, suffering and death the Director had endured on their behalf. But just when it seemed they could bear no more, he told them how he had come back to life, and they were finally free to come home.

Thoughts of home and the Director pushed everything else aside. They shouted and jumped for joy! This was the best news in the whole wide world — they were being welcomed home! And they realized as clear as anything that had been the problem all along – they had each lost their way and couldn't get back home. And now, they could! All they had to do was take his hand and he would lead the way.

### EXPLORE (30 minutes)

*[Lead a discussion with your students about these questions.]*

1. **Why did the children want to meet the Director?** *["He holds the answer to a secret I can't quite seem to name."]*
2. **How did Dugan, Hector and Trish answer the Librarian's question "What is the difference between life in the library and life outside the library?"** *["All sorts of magical things happen here that don't happen there ... we seem to be able to actually do the things we learned about that are **DreamMakers** when we are here."]*
3. **What is the Director like?** *[Kind, loving, patient, faithful, accepting, forgiving, sacrificing, alive, etc.]*
4. **Do some of these qualities sound familiar to you?** *[Some of the character traits we learned in **DreamMakers** lessons.]*

5. What made Dugan, Hector and Trish so sad they cried while they were listening to the Director? *[They understood a small portion of the anguish and suffering the Director had endured on their behalf.]*
6. Have you ever felt like you lost your way inside your heart? Have you found the way home?

**DISCOVER** (10 minutes)

*[Say to the students:] Can any of you think of characters in other stories you've read or seen in the movies or on TV who are a little bit like the Director in this story? [Let several students answer. If they've not already named them, you might suggest Gandalf (the good wizard in the Lord of the Rings), Aslan (the great lion in the Chronicles of Narnia), Neo (in the Matrix movies and cartoons), Obi-Wan Kenobi (in the Star Wars stories), Superman, Batman, Spiderman, etc. If they are not familiar with these characters, think of other heroic, self-sacrificing characters with which your students might be familiar.] What do these various heroes have in common with the Director in this story? [Let several students answer, then add:] Each one of these characters has good qualities, has unusual powers and is willing to sacrifice his own life for the ones he cares about.*

**APPLY** (15 minutes)

*[Say to the students:] Earlier, we talked about some of the character traits we noticed in the Director. Raise your hand if you can name one of the qualities of the Director, and I will invite you to write that quality on the board. [For younger elementary students, you may need to be the writer.]*

*[Use this opportunity to remember the character traits (kindness, love, respect, thankfulness, humility, generosity, truth, forgiveness, patience, courage, etc.) we have discussed in this curriculum, which should also be what the students gleaned about the Director in the story. After all the character traits have been listed on the board, hand out a blank sheet of paper to each student.]*



**For Younger Elementary Students**

*[Say to the students:] I want you to trace one of your hands on this paper. Then, write one character trait on each finger you want to work on in your own life.*

### For Older Elementary Students

*[Say to the students:]* As you grow older, you will begin to think more about your career and what you want to do in life. Think about the job you want to have when you grow up. Write the job on your paper. We have talked a lot about *DreamMakers* this year. In this lesson, you learned more about what the Director was like and what kind of qualities he has in his life. Write on your paper the qualities you think you will need in your future job.

### SHARE (5 minutes)

*[Say to the students:]* Think/Pair/Share your hand or your future job qualities with your neighbor. Talk about the character traits you want in your life.

### ENDING THE LESSON

*[Say to the students:]* In this lesson, we met the Director and learned about his love, sacrifice and forgiveness. Dugan, Hector and Trish all felt the joy which can only come from knowing him. We need to continue to seek ways we can become more like the Director in our own lives.

### GOING DEEPER (optional)

*[This Going Deeper will be centered on The Father's Love Letter. It is a collection of verses from the Bible showing various things God says are true about us. It has been translated into more than 100 languages and is available online at: [fathersloveletter.com](http://fathersloveletter.com). There you will also find a version for adults. Reproduced here is the children's version, called 'The Best Dad Ever.' You can read the letter to your students, or you may want to choose creative alternatives. You might have your students begin by brainstorming what they think is true about God. Or with **older elementary students**, you could have a "reader's theater" with several students taking turns in the front of the classroom reading alternating lines of the letter. Or you could first read the letter, then have one or more students come to the front and pretend to be the Father talking to His children using various ideas they remember from the letter. If you don't have time to use the entire letter, reading only the lines preceded with an asterisk (\*) would be one way to make a shorter version.]*

\*My Child,

- \*You may not know Me, but I know all about you. (Psalm 139:1)
- I know when you sit and when you get up. (Psalm 139:2)
- I know everything you do. (Psalm 139:3)
- I even know how many hairs are on your head. (Matthew 10:29-31)
- Because I made you to be like Me. (Genesis 1:27)
- I give you power to live, move, and be who you are. (Acts 17:28)
- For I am the One who created you. (Acts 17:28)
- I even knew you before you were born. (Jeremiah 1:4-5)
- I picked you from the beginning. (Ephesians 1:11-12)
- \*You are not a mistake. I planned out every day of your life. (Psalm 139:15-16)
- \*I decided when you would be born and where you would live. (Acts 17:26)
- I am excited for how wonderful I made you. (Psalm 139:14)
- I created you in your mother's tummy. (Psalm 139:13)
- And brought you out when it was time to be born. (Psalm 71:6)
- \*Those who don't know Me have told lies about Me. (John 8:41-44)
- \*I am not distant and angry, but full of love. (1 John 4:16)
- \*And I would like to give My love to you. (1 John 3:1)
- \*Simply because you are My child and I am your Father. (1 John 3:1)
- I give you more than your human dad ever could. (Matthew 7:11)
- For I am the perfect dad. (Matthew 5:48)
- \*Everything good you get comes from Me. (James 1:17)
- \*I am the One who meets all your needs. (Matthew 6:31-33)
- \*I have really big plans for your future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- Because I love you with a love that lasts forever. (Jeremiah 31:3)
- I think of you more often than there is sand on a seashore. (Psalm 139:17-18)
- And I am so excited about you that I sing. (Zephaniah 3:17)
- I will never stop being good to you. (Jeremiah 32:40)
- You are My treasure. (Exodus 19:5)
- I will take care of you with all My heart and soul. (Jeremiah 32:41)
- \*And I will show you great and wonderful things. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- \*If you look for Me with all your heart, you will find me. (Deuteronomy 4:29)
- Get excited about Me and I will give you your heart's desire. (Psalm 37:4)
- For I am the One who gave you those desires. (Philippians 2:13)
- \*I can do more for you than you will ever imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)
- \*I am your biggest cheerleader. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)
- \*I am also the dad who helps you with your problems. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

- \*When your heart aches, I am near. (Psalm 34:18)  
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I carry you close to me. (Isaiah 40:11)
- \*One day I will wipe away all your tears. (Revelation 21:3-4)  
And I'll take away all the pain in your life. (Revelation 21:3-4)
- \*I am your Father, and I love you just like I love My Son, Jesus. (John 17:23)
- \*For in Jesus you can see My love for you. (John 17:26)
- \*When you see Him, it's like you're looking at Me. (Hebrews 1:3)
- \*He came to show that I am on your side. (Romans 8:31)
- \*And to tell you I am not keeping track of your sins. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
- \*Jesus died so that you and I could be together. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
- \*His death was the best way to show you My love. (1 John 4:10)
- \*I gave all that I loved so you could love Me back. (Romans 8:38-39)
- \*If you receive the gift of My Son Jesus, you receive Me. (1 John 2:23)
- \*And nothing will ever stand in the way of My love for you. (Romans 8:38-39)
- \*Come home and I'll throw the biggest party Heaven has ever seen. (Luke 15:7)
- \*I have always been a Father to My family in Heaven and on Earth.  
(Ephesians 3:14-15)
- \*My question is, will you be My child? (John 1:12-13)
- \*I am waiting for you. (Luke 15:11-32)

\*Love,  
\*Your Dad,  
\*Almighty God

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### PARENT-TEACHER CONNECTION

In this lesson, the three friends finally got to meet the Director.

**Questions you might ask your child:** These were all discussed during the class session, so please listen to your child's answers and compare them to the answers given here. If you are confused, please schedule a conversation with your child's teacher.

1. Why did the children want to meet the Director? (Dugan said, "He holds the answer to a secret I can't quite seem to name.")
2. How did Dugan, Hector and Trish answer the librarian's question "What is the difference between life in the library and life outside the library?" (The children said, "All sorts of magical things happen here that don't happen there ... we seem to be able to actually do the things we learned about that are **DreamMakers** when we are here.")
3. What did the Librarian tell them about life inside and outside the library? (She said the library wasn't the answer, a relationship with the Director was the real answer.)
4. What is the Director like? (Kind, loving, patient, faithful, accepting, forgiving, sacrificing, alive, etc.)
5. Do some of these qualities sound familiar to you? (These are some of the character traits we learned in **DreamMakers** lessons.)
6. What made Dugan, Hector and Trish so sad they cried while they were listening to the Director? (They understood a small portion of the anguish and suffering the Director had endured on their behalf.)
7. Have you ever felt like you lost your way inside your heart? (Let your child tell you about times he or she felt lost. Then, share about a time when you felt lost.)



