

## An Identity lesson with the story **Flight School** - Exploring Strengths, Stretches, Contributions and Connectedness

### Big Ideas:

Exploring stories and other texts help us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

Everyone has a unique story to share.

Through listening and speaking, we connect with others and share our world.

Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.

### Curricular Competencies:

Use a variety of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading, listening, or viewing to deepen understanding of text.

Apply a variety of thinking skills to gain meaning from texts.

Use writing and design processes to plan, develop, and create **texts** for a variety of purposes and audiences.



**Learning Targets:** I can explore my strengths, stretches, contributions and connectedness as part of my identity.

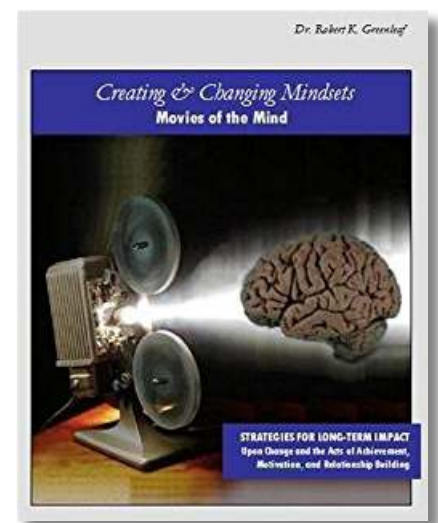
**Driving Questions:** What are your Strengths? Your Stretches? How do you contribute? Who are your people?

**Establishing a Need to know:** Share the video clip *For the Heroes, A Pep Talk From Kid President* (4:00)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgF1Enrgo2g>

**Co-constructing ideas:** Looking to Robert Greenleaf's Four Foundation Mindsets: I am capable, Today connects with tomorrow, I make a difference and Someone believes in me.

*Creating "Can-Do" attitudes is a process we can influence. This book provides seven strategies for helping to generate a productive foundation of internal movies from which to make decisions. "Creating and Changing Mindsets, Movies of the Mind" deploys strategies that impact people's actions in a sustained manner, then tomorrow may be a bit easier... and more pleasant for all of us!*

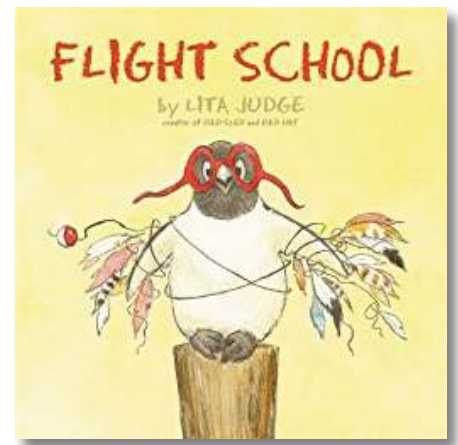


As part of personal identity, the 4 foundation mindsets represent the essential components of a healthy disposition, an I CAN mindset. When we hold are four, we are very nearly 'invincible', believing we can do just about anything.

I Am Capable	Today Connects	I Make a Difference	Someone Believes in Me

**Shared Read:** *Flight School* by Lita Judge.

Before reading: Establish a purpose for listening/viewing. What evidence of the 4 foundation mindsets are you alerted to in this story? Based on the title and the cover, invite predictions about what students believe will happen in the story.



*A persevering penguin is determined to fly in this adorably inspiring picture book.*

*Although little Penguin has the soul of an eagle, his body wasn't built to soar. But Penguin has an irrepressible spirit, and he adamantly follows his dreams to flip, flap, fly! Even if he needs a little help with the technical parts, this penguin is ready to live on the wind.*

During Reading: Talk about the story as it unfolds. Invite children to make connections, visualize, ask questions, and make inferences.

After reading: Invite students to reflect on the story using the 4 Foundation Mindsets.

**Performances of Understanding:**

Students explore and 'define' these mindsets for themselves (on the think mat provided):

*I am capable:* What are my personal strengths / my passions

*Today connects with tomorrow:* identifying the things that I am doing now in school and life that I believe are an investment in my future success (for example learning to play the piano)

*I make a difference:* Exploring, "What do I contribute/what do I do that makes a positive difference at home, at school, in my class, in my community?"

*Someone believes in me:* Who can I name and list that I know believe in me through life's struggles and celebrations? Who are my people?

**Closure:** Share the short film Piper, again, using the 4 foundations mindsets as a lens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loxXZcB1IXU>

**Invite students to reflect on the short film asking** "What evidence did you see of the 4 foundation mindsets?"

**Possible next step for representing ideas:** Students can design a personal crest (see example BLM on the following page). Personal crests could include their responses to the 4 foundation mindsets and other ideas that represent their interests, personality characteristics, stretches... **The crest could serve as a metaphor for strength and identity...**

