

STUDY GUIDE - STEVE TRASH – CHARACTER LIVE SHOW

Afterschool & In-School Field Trip Experience
Grades K–8

SHOW OVERVIEW

Steve Trash's **Character Show** uses **magic tricks, music (on a cigar-box guitar), comedy, and audience participation** to help students explore what it means to be their **best selves**.

Through humor and wonder, students learn that **character is a choice** — and that choosing the **BIG YOU** over the **LITTLE YOU**, while living by the **Golden Rule**, helps make schools, families, and communities better places.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After participating in the show, students will be able to:

1. **Understand and apply the Golden Rule**
Learn why treating others the way they want to be treated is a powerful guide for everyday choices.
2. **Recognize and manage strong emotions**
Learn how to pause, think, and respond thoughtfully instead of reacting impulsively.
3. **Choose the BIG YOU over the LITTLE YOU**
Practice making honest, kind, respectful, and responsible choices — even when it's difficult.
4. **Understand why character matters**
Explore how trustworthiness, empathy, and respect build strong relationships and communities.

KEY VOCABULARY

The Golden Rule

Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Emotions

Feelings we experience, such as happiness, anger, sadness, fear, excitement, or frustration.

The BIG YOU

The version of yourself that chooses kindness, honesty, responsibility, and respect.

The LITTLE YOU

The impulsive or selfish version of yourself that reacts without thinking.



VIDEO EXTENSIONS (Teacher-Friendly & Short!)

Perfect for **post-show reflection**, **morning meetings**, or **SEL circles**:



The BIG YOU or The LITTLE YOU

A short, one-minute video reinforcing the idea that character is a choice.



<https://youtu.be/qY4Mg-F7E-U?si=PcMpykEUbAQyAO09>



STOP. THINK... THEN ACT

A short, one-minute video reinforcing the idea that character is a choice.



https://youtu.be/LzalC8iB_rs?si=HvqMzJrTc1F4_F-D



STEVE TRASH SAYS – Character Playlist

42 one-minute, discussion-ready videos focused on kindness, honesty, respect, and empathy.



<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1545465BA84137F8&si=Dwv2vQ7nZHMPYMjx>



POST-SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions to guide meaningful conversations:

- What does it mean to follow the **Golden Rule** at school or at home?
- How would our classroom change if everyone followed the Golden Rule?
- What does choosing the **BIG YOU** look like when someone upsets you?
- Why is it sometimes hard to treat others kindly?
- Can you share a time when someone treated you the way they wanted to be treated?



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (Optional & Easy)

Golden Rule Drawing

Students draw themselves showing kindness or respect to others.

BIG YOU / LITTLE YOU Role Play

Read short scenarios aloud and ask students to decide which choice follows the Golden Rule.

Golden Rule Wall

Students write or draw examples of kind actions they've seen during the week.



ALABAMA COURSE OF STUDY ALIGNMENT (High-Level)



Alabama SEL & Character Education

- Responsible decision-making
- Relationship skills and empathy
- Positive school climate and respectful behavior



Alabama English Language Arts (K–8)

- Speaking and listening during discussions
- Explaining ideas and reasoning
- Vocabulary development through oral discussion

✓ **Alabama Physical Education & Health**

- Personal responsibility
- Respect for self and others
- Emotional regulation and self-control

(Strongly supports 21st CCLC enrichment goals and after-school SEL objectives.)

★ **ABOUT STEVE TRASH – Rockin’ Eco Hero**

Steve Trash has entertained over **25 million kids and grownups worldwide** with his unique blend of magic, music, and meaningful messages. He is the star of the PBS show **Steve Trash Science** and a long-time champion of character education.

 www.stevetrash.com

 <https://www.stevetrash.com/bio>

★ **TEACHER TIP**

This guide works beautifully as:

- A **same-day reflection**
- A **next-day SEL lesson**
- A **weekly Golden Rule reminder**

Short. Joyful. Memorable.
Just like the show.