

MR. WHEELER AND MR. WALKER

Learning Objectives: Students will


1. Meet a municipal judge or clerk and hear about pedestrian and traffic safety issues;
2. Watch the Disney short film *Motor Mania* (1950);
3. Discuss the problems that pedestrians face and the power that motorists have when interacting with each other; and
4. Explain ways they will be more careful when walking near cars so that they are not hurt by a “Mr. Wheeler.”

TEKS: Social Studies K.8A,B; K.9A; K.14B; K.15A; 1.11A,B; 1.12A,B; 1.13A; 1.17A; 1.18A; 2.11A; 2.13A,D; 2.18B; 2.19A; ELAR K.21A; K.22;1.27A; 1.28; 2.28A; 2.29

Materials Needed: Computer and projector; Walt Disney Presents *Goofy in Motor Mania* video clip (available on YouTube or for download from the TMCEC website)


Teaching Strategy:

1. Teacher explains to the class that there is a guest who is going to talk to them about being safe. The teacher should then introduce the judge or clerk.
2. Judge or clerk will introduce him/herself to the students and begin by asking the students if they know what a pedestrian is. Many will not, so the judge/clerk should then ask how many walk to school; walk to the park; walk to their friend’s house; or walk across the street. Ask the students who drives them places and whether they think that person is a good driver.
3. Ask other questions to get the students engaged and talking:
 - Are you looking forward to driving someday?
 - Do you think cars are dangerous?
 - Do you think guns are dangerous?
 - Did you know that more people are hurt by cars every year than by guns?
4. Tell the students that they are going to watch a short movie today starring Goofy, and that after the movie they will talk about what happens.
5. Play the *Motor Mania* video clip. The video is 6 minutes and 39 seconds in length. Caution: the video does use the words “stupid” and “shut up,” so teachers should evaluate whether or not this lesson is appropriate for their class. A script of the video is included at the end of this lesson plan.
6. After the video, ask the students what they thought and let them discuss for a bit.
7. Ask the students what rules they follow when they are walking? What rules did Mr. Wheeler follow? Examples of answers:

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- Look both ways before they cross the street.
 - Watch out for cars.
 - Cross at the crosswalk when the light is green.
 - Stay on the sidewalk.
 - Watch out for bicyclists/skateboarders.
8. Ask the students what rules people driving should follow when they are driving? What rules did Mr. Wheeler break? Examples of answers:
 - Watch out for pedestrians.
 - Don't speed.
 - Don't cut off other cars.
 - Don't change lanes without signaling.
 - Don't slam on your brakes just because.
 - Don't hit other cars.
 - Stay in your lane.
 - Don't honk and yell at other drivers.
 - Drive with your feet on the pedals and hands on the wheel.
 - Don't race other cars.
 9. If they haven't already said this, ask the students if they know what The Golden Rule is: ***Do unto others as you'd like them to do unto you.***
 10. Tell the students that the biggest thing Mr. Wheeler should remember is how he felt as Mr. Walker. He wanted cars to be polite and respectful of him, so as Mr. Wheeler, he should be polite and respectful of pedestrians.
 11. Remind the students that although this video made them laugh (hopefully it did) and was meant to make the pedestrian and motorist safety funny, that it really is a serious subject and that people die every day or drivers go to prison every day for not following those simple rules. Elaborate with some local examples or stories.
 12. The judge/clerk should then spend some time going over the laws in their community or under state law that are an issue in the city. Tell the students things you want them to remember or go home and tell their parents. Tell them that you are there to help keep them safe so that when they are walking, they don't get hurt by a "Mr. Wheeler."

Extension for AP/GT:

Have the students produce their own video by acting out being the car, interacting with pedestrians, and have them spin around in circles when they get hit. This will require the students to be creative with sets, costumes, and what laws they will show being broken.





Script for Walt Disney Presents *Goofy in Motor Mania (1950)*

Narrator: Truly the average man is a creature of strange and unorthodox habits. Take the case of Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker lives in a quiet respectable neighborhood. He is a typical average man, considered a good citizen and of average intelligence. He is a kindly man, courteous, punctual, and honest.

[sound of birds chirping as Walker leaves his house and walks towards his driveway]

Neighbor: Good morning Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker: Good morning to you Mr. Geef. Lovely day. *[tips his hat showing he is polite]*

Narrator: Mr. Walker wouldn't hurt a fly nor step on an ant. He believes in live and let live. Mr. Walker owns a motor car and considers himself a good driver. *[Walker gets behind the wheel]* But once behind the wheel, a strange phenomenon takes place. *[tries to start the car]* Mr. Walker is charged with an overwhelming sense of power. His whole personality changes. Abruptly, he becomes an uncontrollable monster. A demon driver. Mr. Walker is now Mr. Wheeler- a motorer. *[Walker morphs into mean-looking Wheeler]*

[Wheeler quickly backs out of his garage making Mr. Geef spin in circles]

Mr. Wheeler: Hey Geef – watch where you're going stupid!

[sound of a crash, then Wheeler and the other motorist are yelling and shaking fists at one another]

Other Driver: Do ya think you own the whole road?!?!

Mr. Wheeler: Hmm..... *[with his nose up in the air]* Of course I own the road. My taxes pay for them. I voted for road bonds. I pay for the roads and I'll use them.

[Wheeler pulls onto the freeway, cutting off other drivers]

Mr. Wheeler: Get off my road! Move over! Lemme pass!

[Wheeler drives crazy- like driving bumper cars- changing lanes, causing wrecks, and driving fast despite "drive slow" sign, then suddenly slams on his brakes and crawls along with other drivers honking]

Mr. Wheeler: Ahhh shut up!

Narrator: Let them wait. It's a beautiful day. Fresh air. Nice music.

[he is singing, driving really slow down the middle of the road in both lanes, with his feet up]



on the dashboard]

Other Driver: Hey get over you road hog! *[Wheeler morphs into a pig]*

Narrator: *[as Wheeler approaches a red light and slams on brakes]* Signals! Ooohhh – 30 seconds gone from your life! *[Wheeler is beating on steering wheel throwing a fit, then sees other cars stepping on the gas ready to go when the light turns]* Oh wanna race do they? Well they ain't gonna get ahead of me.

[drivers take off and slam on brakes at each red light. Wheeler runs into a stop light pole. Bus riders get off the bus and walk through his car to the street. Last one tips his hat and says good morning]

[Wheeler speeds through a water puddle to splash water on a pedestrian, laughs, until another car drives through puddle and splashes it on him. More yelling and fist shaking]

Narrator: Oh look – a parking place. The motorist's pot of gold. Not everyone has a spot to park in.

[another driver is backing into the spot, and he races to take it. He laughs. While trying to parallel park, he hits cars in front and behind the spot. Another car races by and takes the door off his car. More yelling and fist shaking]

Narrator: Deprived of his protective armor, Mr. Wheeler-motorist-becomes Mr. Walker-pedestrian. *[turns back into Walker, nice looking]*

Narrator: Of a pedestrian crossing the street it has often been said fools step in where angels fear to tread. *[gets his foot run over by a car]* Or a friend in need is a friend indeed. *[he starts crossing, gets hit and flips back over to sidewalk]* Where there's a will, there's a way.


[tries to cross again and becomes a literal target for a car that hits him and flips him back to sidewalk. Motorist laughs and stamps a pedestrian on the side of his car. Cars are rushing all directions spinning him around in the middle of the intersection. He finally escapes to safety and jumps onto a light pole. The cars start honking at him and jumping at him like barking dogs]

Paperboy: Extra! Extra! Read all about it.

Mr. Walker: Here boy, here. *[he buys a newspaper]*

[Headline says: "Accidents increase" as he crosses without looking and cars whiz past. Four cars get into a wreck in the middle of the intersection. He gets hit by a kid on a skateboard who also stamps his board with a pedestrian stamp]

Narrator: Safe. Mr. Walker gains the haven of his car with the knowledge of how the other fellow feels. Except, once behind the wheel, Mr. Walker reverts to form and again becomes Mr. Wheeler-motorist. *[turns back into Wheeler, mean looking]*



[Wheeler pulls out of parking space, hitting cars in front and back several times, pulls into lane and you hear a crash, with car parts rolling down the street]

Mr. Wheeler: *[honking his horn at the tow truck in front of him]* Come on! Move over! Get out-
ta the way road hog!

[the tow truck is really pulling him!]

Narrator: Too bad Mr. Wheeler. You've broken your toy. But let this be a lesson Mr. Wheeler. Drive safely. Play fair. Give the other fellow a break, and....

Mr. Wheeler: Ahhh... shut up!