Grade: Second

Topic: Personal Responsibility

Materials: But It’s Not My Fault, by Julia Cook (You can find the read aloud on YouTube)

Objective: Students will learn how to take ownership for their actions by explicitly teaching them how to turn blame statements into responsibility statements.

Activity: I will start the lesson by doing the read aloud of But It’s Not My Fault. I will read it the first time through without stopping. Then I will ask the students is they can pick out the theme or lesson learned. Once they have done that we will read it again, but stopping when there is blame. I will have my students A/B partner talk about how they know it is blame and what could that character do to change it to taking responsibility. The students will then return to their desk and each team will receive a speech bubble that has a blame statement in it. They will work as a team to turn that statement into a responsible one. I am going to use statements I actually hear my students use.

Examples:

1) “I don’t have my math homework but it is not my fault. My brother made me play legos instead.”

2) “It wasn’t my fault I cut in line, she was too slow.”

3) “She got me in trouble because she tattled that I took her pencil.”

After students have had time to change their statements to responsible ones, they will write it on a gigantic speech bubble. They will then share with the class.

Then each student will create a I am in Charge of poster. We will discuss how Noodle from the story learned how he was in charge of himself and learned to take responsibility. Now it is their turn. They will draw a self-portrait and then think of 3 things they are in charge of at home and at school. They will then write what they are in charge of in precut speech bubbles and we will add them to the self-portraits.

Reflection: We will end this lesson by having a community circle. I will ask the question “Why is it important for us to not blame others?” And “What is one thing you have learned or what are you going to try and practice after today?”