Teaching Aids (Provided): TRD

Concept-Value Connection:

A report is a factual description of an issue or a problem. A report is written for a clear purpose and for a particular audience. It is important to give a truthful message. Similarly, the quality of being truthful, is a defining part of our character..

Type: Role play

Characters: Father and Son (Rohan)

Rohan: (happily) Daddy! I need to share some good news. I got appointed as a reporter on a National news channel.

Father: Congratulations! That's wonderful news.

Rohan: Now I can write exciting news and give reports on the current happenings, then and there.

Father: You are going to take up an important job. I will share with you a great philosopher Socrates' Triple Filter Test. It is very important not only for your profession but also for life.

Rohan: What is the Triple Filter Test? I am excited to hear about it.

Father: Rohan, we are always surrounded with information, news and even gossip. This old test, known as the 'Triple Filter Test' helps to ensure that you filter information or gossip and determine the value of it. This triple filter test stands on three pillars – Truth, Goodness, and Usefulness. Let me tell you the story of Socrates.

Rohan: What is the story about, Daddy? I am very much eager to listen.

Father: One day, an acquaintance came running into Socrates' house and was trying to tell him about his friend, based on something he had heard. Socrates asked him to answer his three questions before he talked about his friend. The first was whether what he was going to say about his friend was true. Now, the neighbour was not sure about it, as he had heard it from someone else. So he said that he was not sure whether it was true or not.

Rohan: Interesting! What were the second and third questions?

Father: The second question was whether the news was good for him to know. The neighbour said 'no', as it was to the contrary. The third question was whether it would be useful to him, and the answer was again a 'no'. Then Socrates said that if it is neither truthful, useful nor good, then it is of no use to him or any one else.

Rohan: Oh, that's a powerful message! No wonder Socrates is called a great philosopher!

Father: Rohan, since you are going to take up an important job of report writing, you should confirm that the information you are going to share is truthful before speaking or writing it. Likewise, to assess the goodness of the messages you get, ask yourself if they can inspire hope in others and help you and others grow. And the last filter is, whether saying or writing it will be useful to others or not. Not only for the report writing task but also in our life, we need to be honest and productive, based on the filters of truth, goodness and usefulness.

Rohan: That's profound advice Daddy. Surely, I will use these filters whenever I write a report on anything happening and ensure that I write what is true, good and useful. Only then shall I take it to the public.

Points to ponder upon:
A good report is one which is:

- truthful
- accurate
- useful