

# Be Kind

## Be Kind

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Ages: 3-6, Grades: PreK-1

Themes: Friendship, Tolerance and Respect

### SUMMARY

It starts when Tanisha spills grape juice all over her new dress and everyone laughs. Her classmate knows she should be kind, but she isn't sure how. What is kindness anyway? A young girl puzzles through this question, recalling ways that she tries to be kind. She wonders what will work for Tanisha. She wonders how to spread more kindness in the world. And the wondering leads to a painting and a small, but significant, act of kindness.

### Common Core Connections:

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4

Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will discuss kindness.
- Students will use illustrations to deepen their understanding of the movie.
- Students will write personal definitions of kindness.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss kindness with students. Guiding questions:

- What does being kind mean to you?
- What are some examples of being kind?
- What impact does being kind have on others?
- What is the opposite of kindness? Do you have any examples of this?

Tell students that they're going to see a movie about a girl who tries to be kind, but isn't sure if it worked. Encourage them to watch and listen for ways that kindness is defined in the movie.

Ask students to respond orally or in writing to the following question:

- Describe a time when you or someone else performed an act of kindness. What were the results of this act?
- Tell students that you will revisit their answers to this question after watching the movie. Encourage them to watch and listen for the acts of kindness that are shown in the movie and to notice the results of those acts.

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Tell students that often we can learn more about a book or a movie when we pay attention to the illustrations and the words. Go back to the part of the movie where the girl thinks about other people being kind and that kindness spreading. Ask students:

- What are the words saying in this part of the movie? The girl's small kindnesses can be part of other people's kindnesses, which together, make something bigger.
  - What do the illustrations show? A man giving a woman back her ball of yarn, the woman using the yarn to knit a scarf for someone, etc. The illustrations show the acts of kindness and their effects on others.
  - How do the illustrations help you understand kindness more deeply? The illustrations show the effects of kindness and how small acts of kindness by many people can be significant.
  - Based on the words and illustrations, what do you think the message of the movie is? There are many ways to be kind. Being kind to one person can inspire them to be kind to another and kindness can spread. It's important to try to be kind, even when others aren't.
- (CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2)

Revisit the discussion on kindness. What definitions and/or examples did students see and hear? Responses may include: greeting someone by name, recycling, helping out, painting a

picture. Connect this to the second question that students wrote about or discussed before viewing the movie: what were the impacts of these actions? Responses may include: people helped others not have a bad day, people smiled, people were inspired to help others. Ask students: Based on what you saw and heard in the movie, how would you define kindness? Have students write a personal definition of kindness and draw a picture to illustrate an example of their definition.

(CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2)

Culminate the class discussions with an activity to promote kindness in the classroom and community. Ideas include:

- Create a "Kindness Tree". Make a bulletin board display of a bare tree, with cut-out leaves that students can draw on, or have a teacher write on, ways that they will show kindness to others. Alternatively, students can make leaves that recognize others that have been kind to them. Set a goal to get the tree full of leaves.
- Designate one week per month as the "Focus on Friendship" week. During this week, challenge students to play with other children that they haven't played with very much. Organize activities, such as a puzzle center or game center, and encourage children to work with new friends. During writing, have students write and draw about the activities that they did with their new friends. Hang the students' work around the room. At the end of the week, students can make cards for their new friends thanking them for playing together.
- Connect with local organizations such as a soup kitchen, nursing home, or animal shelter to find volunteer opportunities for the students to participate in. After the service projects, allow students to share their experiences, including how helping others made them feel.

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