



EACH KINDNESS
by Jacqueline Woodson
Illustrations by E.B. Lewis

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2015
Grades 3-5

*Submitted by Avery Woodard, student worker, Dept. of Culture Recreation and Tourism
and
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Title: *Each Kindness*
Author: Jacqueline Woodson
Illustrator: E.B. Lewis
Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books
Pages: 32

SUMMARY

Chloe, an elementary school student, seems content. She has two best friends, Kendra and Sophie, and together the three girls spend their lunch hours laughing and sharing secrets on the playground. Chloe is not open to making new friends, which becomes clear when a new student joins her class. The new girl Maya tries to make friends with the girls in her class, but they refuse to welcome her. She continues to reach out, inviting the girls to play jacks with her and even brings a few other toys to school in hopes that someone might want to play with her, but she always gets the same answer.

One day Maya does not return to school and the children's teacher, Ms. Albert, gives a lesson on kindness. She drops a small stone into a big bowl of water and explains that every kind thing done goes out like a ripple into the world. She then invites the children to drop the stone into the bowl and say one kind thing that they have done, and everyone except for Chloe has something to say. She promises herself that she will greet Maya with a smile the next time she sees her, but Maya never returns to school. Days pass, and Ms. Albert informs the class that Maya has moved away. Chloe is filled with regret as she realizes that she has missed her chance to show any kindness to Maya.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jacqueline Woodson resides in Brooklyn, New York. She is the winner of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. She is a five-time Newbery



Honor winner and author of two National Book Award finalists (*Hush* and *Locomotion*).
Biographical information found at the author's website, www.jacquelinewoodson.com,
Accessed August 27, 2014.

ILLUSTRATOR'S BIOGRAPHY

E.B. Lewis currently resides in Folsom, New Jersey. He has illustrated over fifty books for children and young adults. He has taught art for twelve years and is now teaching at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He also illustrated *Coming on Home Soon*, a Caldecott Honor winner written by Jacqueline Woodson.

Biographical information may be found at the illustrator's website, www.eblewis.com,
Accessed August 27, 2014.

AWARDS

Coretta Scott King Award

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author's website <http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/>

OTHER TITLES BY AUTHOR

Coming on Home Soon (2004)

Miracle Boys (2002)

The Other Side (2003)

Show Way (2005)

OTHER TITLES BY ILLUSTRATOR

Coming on Home Soon (2004)

D is For Drinking Gourd (2007)

Only a Pigeon (1997)

The Secret World of Walter Anderson (2009)

RELATED TITLES (Students may also enjoy these titles)

Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller by Doreen Rappaport

The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

English:

- Point of View Writing: The entire story is told from Chloe's point-of-view. Chloe seems to be unaware of the potential pain that she may be causing Maya. Individually or in groups, create a short retelling of the story from Maya's perspective. Discuss how it would feel to move to a new school and have to try so hard to make new friends only to be rejected each time.
- Random Acts of Kindness: Individually or in groups, ask students to brainstorm some ways they can show kindness to others. Ask students to share some of their ideas. Challenge students to practice these ideas in the next week and discuss their experiences. You could even make a bulletin board and have students put stickers on the board when

they show kindness to others. Below are some examples of ways to show kindness to others at home and school:

- Hold the door open for others
- Offer to help carry groceries
- Help clean and put away dishes
- Help fold clothes
- Clean your room
- Make your bed
- Pick up and throw away trash and litter
- Don't spit gum on the ground
- Be kind to animals
- Offer to help a neighbor with yard work
- Call friends and family to let them know you care and are thinking of them
- Tell people thank you
- Tell people you appreciate them
- Wish people a "good morning", "good night", "good weekend", etc.
- Go out of your way to say something nice to a shy classmate or include them
- Look someone in the eyes, smile encouragingly at them and mean it
- Invite someone new to eat lunch with you
- Invite someone new to play with you at recess
- Help with a younger brother or sister
- Do something before being asked to do it

- Discuss what an acronym is and consider the word "THINK".

Think can stand for:

- T = Is it True?
- H = Is it Helpful?
- I = Is it Inspiring?
- N = Is it Necessary?
- K = Is it Kind?

Discuss how your students can apply this acronym in day to day life to help them "think" before they speak and act.

- Distribute the Looking vs. Seeing handout to students. Discuss the meaning of the quote at the top of the handout "It's not what you look at that matters. It's what you see." Direct students to read the parts of the story depicted on the bottom part of the strip. Discuss Maya's characteristics that the children looked at and discuss Maya's potential qualities that they missed seeing. Students are to cut out the rectangle and fold it lengthways in half. Then they are to cut along the dotted lines that separate each paragraph so that each paragraph can be flipped to reveal the paper underneath. On the blank paper under the paragraph students are to write descriptions of what the children did not see in each of the situations described from the book. After the activity is completed post the strips on a bulletin board with the quote "It's not what you look at that matters. It's what you see." - <http://www.witsprogram.ca/schools/books/each-kindness.php?source=book-lists#sthash.PTRJndb4.dpuf>

Art:

- Create a kindness board or kindness box in the class. Each time a student experiences an act of kindness (in giving or receiving) they draw their kindness on a small index card and post it on the board or insert it in the box. Review the acts of kindness described by the students. Reflect on the “ripple effects” of the kind act and celebrate the kindness expressed by the students. <http://www.witsprogram.ca/schools/books/each-kindness.php?source=book-lists#sthash.PTRJndb4.dpuf>

Class Service Projects:

- Operation Christmas Child <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>
- Color a Smile <http://www.colorasmile.org/>
- The Pencil Project <http://www.thepencilproject.com/index.html>
- A Million Thanks, send a letter to a soldier <http://www.amillionthanks.org/send-letter-guidelines-get-started>
- Participate in a Food Drive for a local food bank
- Ten ideas <http://www.pointsoflight.org/blog/2013/03/26/10-kid-friendly-volunteer-service-projects>
- Thirty-five ideas <http://kidworldcitizen.org/2013/02/20/35-service-projects-for-kids/>

Guidance:

Repeat the activity Chloe’s teacher did in the book. Fill a large bowl with water and pass a small stone around the classroom. Ask each student to think of something kind they have done and instruct them to then drop the stone into the water and watch their kindness form a ripple. Discuss what it mean to have a ripple effect of kindness. Repeat this activity one week later and see how the kindness within the classroom has grown.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on the clues the author gives and the illustrations, where do you think this story takes place?
2. Bullying can take on many different forms. Sometimes it can be hard to spot an act of bullying. Would the way that Chloe and her friends treat Maya be considered bullying? Explain why or why not?
3. Make a list all of the attempts that Maya makes to reach out to the other girls to be friends with them. How do Chloe and her friends respond to each attempt?
4. When Andrew makes fun of Chloe after Maya whispers something to her, Chloe hastily tells Andrew, “She’s not my friend.” How do you think Maya felt when she heard Chloe say this? What could Chloe have said to Andrew instead?
5. Kendra comes up with a hateful nickname for Maya—“Never New.” Is it Maya’s fault that she is not able to afford brand new clothes? Is that any reason for the girls not to befriend her?
6. When Ms. Albert gives Chloe the rock to drop into the bowl, Chloe cannot think of one nice thing she has done. Make a mental list of the ways that you have showed kindness at school or at home this week. Share one or more of the ways you have shown kindness.
7. What is something that you can do tomorrow to be kinder than you were today?

8. Ms. Albert says that “each little thing that we do goes out, like a ripple, into the world.” Explain what she means. How can one kind act turn into a million kind acts?
9. Chloe never got another chance to be kind to Maya. If Maya came back to school, what could Chloe do differently? What should she say to Maya?

REALTED WEBSITES

National Bullying Prevention Website

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/activities/toolkits/>

Classroom toolkits page with resources and activities for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Random Acts of Kindness Website

<http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

Information about the effects of teaching kindness in schools as well as ideas for how to share kindness.