

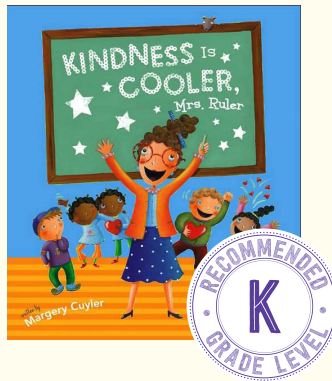


Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler

by Margery Cuyler and illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa

Themes

Encourage Others
Pay-It-Forward
Acts of Kindness
Service Projects



Even kindergartners can make a difference when they all work together to do acts of kindness. Mrs. Ruler's class builds a kindness bulletin board but they soon find that their classroom isn't big enough to show the many different ways that kids can be kind to others. Author Margery Cuyler inspires children of all ages to have a heart and pay kindness forward.

Key Vocabulary

Kindness: *doing something nice or good or caring for someone else*
Scowled: *to make an angry frown*
Good Deed: *a good act, action or work*
Doing something nice for someone else
Grated (cheese): *to rub against a tool with small sharp edges, cutting the cheese into small pieces*
Blackboard: *smooth, hard writing surface to write on with chalk. Often black.*
Canes: *a stick that helps someone walk*
Bravo: *a saying that means good or well done*
Exclaimed: *to say in a loud voice*
Congratulate: *to praise when a good thing happens*
Gerbil: *small mouse-like creature with a furry tail*
Community: *your neighborhood. Usually includes homes, schools and businesses*
Hooray: *something you say when you are excited or encouraging someone*
Manners: *proper behavior, polite conduct*

Tricky Phrases

Count on me: *do what is expected, or what was promised to do*
Puppy chow: *food for a young dog*
Shelved books: *to put the books away on a bookcase*
Skinned her knee: *scraped the skin off her knee, a boo-boo*
Ran for cover: *what you might say when running away for protection*

PAY-IT-FORWARD

When your school had The NED Show, most likely it was gifted to you by another school. So...when you bought a yo-yo after the assembly, you helped pay-it-forward to the next school. Now that's keeping kindness going!

Aligned to Common Standards

For correlation information for all of our lesson plans, please visit theNEDshow.com/lessonplans

Discussion Starters

1. Why was the class “jumpy and grumpy”? *It was rainy all week and they hadn't been able to move and play outside. What kinds of things were they doing?* Teacher Note: encourage students to use illustrations and text to provide answers. *Whispered during story time, staring off in space, falling asleep, playing with paper, throwing things, playing ball, swinging legs, kicking ball, looking out the window, pulling hair, stealing hat. Has our class ever been like that? What kinds of things do we do when we are jumpy and grumpy?*
2. What was the consequence for the five kids who Mrs. Ruler kept in from recess? *She challenged them to perform five acts of kindness for their families and then share with the entire class.*



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3. What did it mean when Mrs. Ruler said “Good deeds fill needs”?

Answers will vary: Look for something that someone else needs done. When you help, you are doing a good deed.

4. What were some of the examples of the good deeds that Anaya and Tawana did at home? They made special placemats, drew hearts on napkins to say they loved their mom, grated the cheese for dinner, helped make the salad, loaded dishwasher, etc. What was their mom’s reaction to their good deeds? It put her in a good mood and then they wanted to do more nice things for her.

5. What good deeds did David do on the first day? He didn’t do any. What was Mrs. Ruler’s reaction? She encouraged him to not give up and try harder

6. Share some of the ways that Raquelita and Connor practiced being kind.

Walked the dog, played ball with the dog, filled his water dish, played blocks with little brother, helped carry groceries in the house.

7. What did David finally do to be kind to others?

Complimented his brother and shared his comb.

8. Why did Mrs. Ruler make it a class project instead of just for the 5 kids? The other kids wanted to try it too. What did they do with all their acts of kindness? Wrote them on hearts and make a bulletin board.

10. The E in NED’s name stands for Encourage Others. What are some ways you could encourage others in our school and our community by paying forward kindness?

NOTE: The story itself does NOT tell what the kids and their families did in the community but the author listed 100 Acts of Kindness in the back of the book. Help your kids think of kind things they could do to PAY-IT-FORWARD and keep kindness going!

Writing Prompt

 PRINTABLE:

Write and Color

Discuss ways to be kind to other students in the class. Then have each student pick their favorite action and draw it. Use dictation or kid writing to have students talk about their pictures and write the words that they use to talk about their pictures.

Throughout the day – the teacher can choose one of the pictures and have the student explain their act of kindness. Then have all students stand up and start the pay-it-forward process by finding someone in the class to pay it forward to, spreading the kind act from student to student to student. After each child pays-it-forward – they should sit down until there is only one child left standing. Encourage that child to pay-it-forward to someone in another class at recess or after school! Remind students that they can ALL pay it forward to someone new as they become more like NED and keep kindness going.



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PRINTABLE:

Count to 100

Activities

100 Acts of Kindness

Many classrooms count the first 100 days of schools. Consider adding a count for each day that someone encourages others and extends kindness. Make it part of your daily calendar activity as you count 1-100. You can write them on a chart, make a heart bulletin board, have kids share, or use a special counter to keep track of kindness (using heart-shaped paperclips, etc.). Just like in the book, integrate math into your special collection of 100 hearts as you encourage your classroom to keep kindness going. This project can also be done as part of a Valentine's Day celebration in your classroom.

Pay-It-Which-Way?

Discuss and model the difference between back-and-forth kindness and pay-it-forward kindness. Model kindness with the demonstration described here. ----->

Being kind usually begins with those closest to you-big brother, mom, dad, sister, and then it can extend to kids at school that you play with and consider friends. Being kind isn't always about being kind because someone was kind to you first. It is usually easy to be kind to someone if they are kind to you first - but what about when someone isn't kind to you - or if they are even mean to you? Can you be kind to someone and expect nothing in return - that's how you keep kindness going by paying-it-forward!

Pay-it-Which-Way Demonstration:

Model 'back-and-forth kindness' by saying kind words, just between each other.

1. Pick two students to come to the front of the classroom
2. Ask them to each say something kind to the other. To emphasize the point, have them go back and forth a couple of times.

Then, have students model 'pay-it-forward kindness' by starting a linked arm chain until everyone in the class is part of the chain.

1. Start off by saying something kind about one student.
2. That student will join you in the front of the room.
3. The student now calls out another student's name and says something kind. That student joins the chain. The chain keeps growing until ALL students in the room are part of the chain.
4. Discuss what could happen when the last student is added to the chain!

Additional Resources

For more info...

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 118479
Author website:
www.margerycuyler.com

Create a Kindness Day at Your School!

Check out all the activities, available at www.thenedshow.com/kindness, for creating an all-school celebration of kindness at your school! Daily announcements, a poster, a bulletin board kit, kindness cards and more can help kick start a Kindness Day!



Kindness Button

Did you know you can purchase NED's kindness buttons for your class? Visit www.thenedshow.com/shop_ned. Use them as a reward or incentive to encourage your students as they pay kindness forward!

Name: _____

Directions: Color NED and write a sentence about how you can keep kindness going.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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