

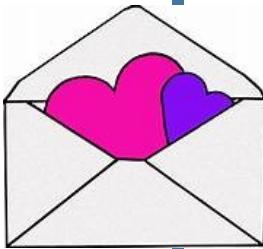


December's Key Character

Kindness is the quality of being warmhearted, considerate, humane and sympathetic.

Celebrate Character!

Just before Christmas hand out a sheet of paper with a pretty border. Instruct each student to put their name at the top of the page in bold print. Some even can decorate their names. Then each student passes their sheet to the right. The students are instructed to write a positive message to the classmate whose name is on the paper. No comments are allowed about appearance. This page is all about character! Pages continue to be passed until every student has written on every page. At the end we will watch hearts soar when they read what their classmates think. Also send one around with your name.



It's a real keepsake.

Related Words or Phrases

Generosity	Consideration
Forgiveness	Thoughtfulness
Charity	Benevolence
Favor	Helpfulness
Compassion	
Loving-Kindness	



Oath of Kindness

As a kind person, I am caring, helpful and generous to everyone. I am considerate and always think about how my conduct affects others. I care how others feel and I am giving and forgiving. As a kind person, I do good deeds without the thought of reward. I have compassion and empathy for others.



Source: Shimek Elementary, Iowa City,

Websites:



www.randomactsofkindness.org—free classroom resources and lesson plans

www.freestoriesforkids.com—an excellent site full of free stories emphasizing different character traits

www.storiestogrowby.com—Absolutely Whootie— teacher resources

www.dosomething.org—social activism areas; grants



“The Man and the Mugger”

Julio Diaz had a daily routine. Every night, the 31-year old social worker ended his hour-long subway commute to the Bronx one stop early, just so he could eat at his favorite diner. But one night, as Diaz stepped off the No. 6 train and onto a nearly empty platform, a teenage boy approached and pulled out a knife. “Give me your money,” the teenage boy demanded. Julio calmly gave the boy his wallet and told him, “Here you go.” As the teen began to walk away, Diaz stopped him, “Hey, wait a minute. You forgot something. If you are going to be robbing people for the rest of the night, you will need my coat to keep you warm!” The boy looked incredulously as his would-be victim shucked out of his coat, and stammered, “Why are you doing this?” Diaz replied, “If you're willing to risk your freedom for a few bucks, you must really need the money. All I wanted to do was get dinner.....if you really want to join me.....you're more than welcome.” The boy schlepped along beside Diaz as they entered the diner, and they sat in a booth near the kitchen. The boy noticed that everyone knew this man he had robbed. The manager, waiters and even the busboy came by to greet the guy. The kid warily asked, “You own this place? You know everyone here.” Diaz smiled and said, “No, I just eat here a lot.” The boy looked puzzled, “But you're even nice to the dishwasher.” Diaz replied, “Well, haven't you been taught you should be nice to everybody?” “Yeah, but I didn't think people actually BEHAVED that way!” the teen retorted. When Diaz asked the boy what he wanted out of life, the teen looked down and didn't answer. When the bill arrived, Diaz told the teen, “Look, I guess you're going to have to pay for this bill „cause you have my money. If you give me my wallet back, I'll gladly treat you.” Without hesitation, the teen returned the wallet. Diaz looked at the kid who not more than an hour before had robbed him at knifepoint. The boy looked sad and alone. Diaz reached in his wallet and pulled out a \$20. He leaned in and told the boy, “I want you to have this, but I'm going to need something in return—the knife.” The boy slid the knife across the table to Diaz and accepted the money with a sheepish grin. After the bill was paid and they stepped outside into the brisk fall evening, Diaz looked at the boy and asked, “See you around?” The boy stopped, turned to the man and grinned, “You eat here every night, right? Yeah, I'll see you around.” The boy pulled the twenty from his pocket showing it to Diaz and added, “Except next time, I'm paying.” — Adapted from an entry on www.helpothers.org

“Modern Nomads” By Pedro Pablo Sacristan www.freestoriesforkids.com

One day, Mister Arnold was teaching a lesson, and things were going as normally as ever. He was explaining the story of mankind to his pupils. He told them that, in the beginning, men were nomads; that they never stayed in the same place for very long. Instead, they would travel about, here and there, in search of food, wherever it was to be found. And when the food ran out, they would move off somewhere else. He taught them about the invention of farming and keeping animals. This was an important discovery, because by learning to cultivate the land, and care for animals, mankind would always have food readily available. It also meant that people could remain living in one place, and this made it easier to set about tasks that would take a long while to complete, like building towns, cities, and all that was in them. All the children were listening, spellbound by this story, until Lucy jumped up: “And if that was so important, and improved everything so much, why are we nomads all over again, Mister Arnold?” Mister Arnold didn't know what to say. Lucy was a very intelligent girl. He knew that she lived with her parents in a house, so she must know that her family were not nomads; so what did she mean? “We have all become nomads again,” continued Lucy, “The other day, outside the city, they were cutting the forest down. A while ago a fisherman told me how they fish. It's the same with everyone: when there's no more forest left the foresters go elsewhere, and when the fish run out the fishermen move on. That's what the nomads did, isn't it?” The teacher nodded, thoughtfully. Really, Lucy was right. Mankind had turned into nomads. Instead of looking after the land in a way that we could be sure it would keep supplying our needs, we kept exploiting it until the land was bare and barren. And then off we would go to the next place! The class spent the rest of the afternoon talking about what they could do to demonstrate how to be more civilized... The next day everyone attended class wearing a green tshirt, with a message that said “I am not a nomad!” And, from then on, they set about showing that indeed they were not. Every time they knew they needed something, they made sure that they would get it using care and restraint. If they needed wood or paper, they would ensure that they got the recycled kind. They ordered their fish from fish farms, making sure that the fish they received were not too young and too small. They only used animals that were well cared for, and brought up on farms... And so, from their little town, those children managed to give up being nomads again, just as prehistoric men had done, so many thousands of years ago.





Recognition of National Inclusive Schools Week December 3-7

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event which is held each year during the first full week in December. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population.

This year's Inclusive Schools Week theme is **Kaleidoscope of Friends**. If you look into a kaleidoscope, you see an infinite array of patterns of brilliant light created by repeated reflection. Kaleidoscope comes from two Greek words: kalos, meaning "beautiful," and eidos, "shape." And indeed, education takes on a beautiful shape when all children belong and are valued as contributing members of the school community. That is the vision of inclusive education; it drives decisions, actions, and core beliefs.

Best Buddies



Best Buddies will be sponsoring a fundraiser in conjunction with Inclusive Week which begins on 12/3/18.

The theme for Inclusive Week is **"Kaleidoscope of Friends"** and part of Best Buddies is building new friendships.

On Monday December 3rd, Best Buddies will have their Color Wars Fundraiser. Students will be allowed to wear the colored shirt designated for their grade level. Students will pay \$2.00 upon entering campus and will receive a friendship bracelet signifying they paid to be out of uniform. We would also like for the teachers to wear a shirt to support their grade.

6th Grade- BLUE
7th Grade- GREEN
8th Grade- RED



DECEMBER 3RD, 2018



FUNDRAISER



CHAMPIONS OF INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

Inclusion in Action Comic

Have students brainstorm how they could be a champion of inclusion at school or at home. Students will select a comic book template and create a comic describing an event where they are helping someone feel included. Use free online tools like [Make Beliefs Comix](#) or [Toondoo](#).

If I Were a Superhero



1. Identify a few well-known superheroes with your students and brainstorm adjectives that describe these superheroes and their actions.
2. After reviewing the list, ask students to identify people in their real lives that possess these characteristics.

Decorate Your Walls Superhero Style!

Have students create their own superhero persona! They will use this [thinksheet](#) to describe and illustrate themselves as a superhero.

I Spy a Champion!



Introduce the 2016 ISW theme and ask students to share how they have observed someone at school helping to include others. As a class, create a poster describing what a hero or champion is. See this great example from the [Beyond the Beanstalk Blog](#). Provide time for students to journal about a hero in their life and how this person has made a difference in others' lives.