

Each Kindness

Recommended for Grades K-3

Book Summary: Each Kindness

A new girl, Maya, arrives at school and her classmates notice her worn clothes and broken shoes. None of her classmates welcome her. When Maya tries to be friendly to Chloe, Chloe does not even smile back. Maya continues her attempts to make friends with her classmates by bringing toys to share, but they continue to ignore her.

[SPOILER]

On the day Maya stops coming to school, Ms. Albert talks to the class about the effects of kindness. When her turn comes to share an act of kindness she did for someone else, Chloe is ashamed to have none to share. She thinks about all the kind things she will say to Maya when she returns, but she never comes back.

Author Biography: Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson was born February 12, 1963 in Columbus, Ohio. When she was growing up, she loved to write and create stories. After completing college, she began working with the children's packaging company Kirchoff/Wohlberg and then enrolled in a writer's class which resulted in her first book being published. She has since written more than thirty books and continues to write more. In 2015 she was named the Young People's Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation.

In addition to writing, she teaches teens in the National Book Foundation's summer camps. Her books have won many awards including the Coretta Scott King Honor, the Newbery Honor Award and the Josette Frank Award. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family.



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272

Each Kindness

Recommended for Grades K-3

Discussion Questions: Each Kindness

1. The story begins with Maya joining the class. Her classmates notice her worn clothes and few of them welcome her. What do you notice first about a new person? Is it good to judge new people based on how they look? Why or why not?
2. Every day Maya smiles at Chloe but Chloe never smiles back. Why do you think she never smiles? Why do you think it's so important to smile?
3. One day Chloe is playing with her friends when Maya comes over offering to share her new toys. Why do you think none of the girls wanted to play with Maya? How do you include others in your games at school?
4. Chloe is teased about having Maya as her new friends, which she promptly denies. Why do the kids act as though having Chloe for a friend is a bad thing? Do things like this happen in your class? If yes, what is your response when they happen?
5. What are some of the ways Maya tries to make friends? What would you do if you were Maya? Have you ever been teased about what you wore or what you ate for lunch? If yes, how did you respond to the teasing?
6. Eventually Maya stops asking her classmates to play with her. Why does she stop asking? Do you think she's happy to be playing by herself? Why or why not?
7. Ms. Albert demonstrates the effect of an act of kindness through the ripples a stone makes in water. If one act of kindness has such a large effect, what kind of effect do you think an act of unkindness has? Why?
8. Ms. Albert tells the class "Each kindness makes the world a little bit better." How does kindness change the world? Have you ever seen this happen? If so, what happened?
8. When Maya stops coming to school, Chloe thinks about all the kind things she wished she had said to Maya. Why do you think she is upset about not being able to say those things? How would you feel if you were Chloe?
9. The story ends with Chloe thinking about how her chances to be friends with Maya are gone. Why do you think the author chose to end the story this way? Is it a sad ending? Why or why not?
10. What lesson do you think the author is trying to tell the reader through the story? Is she successful? Why or why not?



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272