

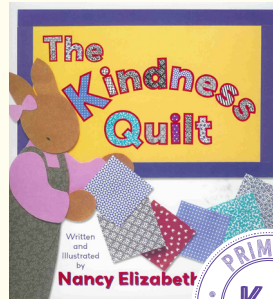


# The Kindness Quilt

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

## Themes

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



Minna and her classmates have been asked to work on Kindness Projects. Her acts of kindness keep growing and she can't decide which ONE she will use for the project so she uses all 4 of them and puts them together to build a kindness square. She soon discovers that kindness can grow and grow and grow and pretty soon everyone is "encouraging others" and helping out!

### Key Vocabulary

- Quilt:** sewn together fabric shapes to make a new piece of patterned fabric
- Scampering:** to run quickly or playfully
- Snoozing:** a short nap
- Plucked:** to pick off
- Scurrying:** to move quickly or in a hurried way
- Gnawed:** to bite or chew on again and again
- Practice:** to repeat or do over and over in order to get better
- Celebrate:** to party in honor of something special
- Community:** people, homes, schools and businesses in the same part of town
- Litter:** pieces of paper and trash scattered around where it shouldn't be
- Moral of a fable:** the good message in the story – what you can learn from the story

## Discussion Starters

### 1. What is a fable?

*A short story that teaches a lesson, the characters are usually talking animals*

### 2. What was the lesson to be learned in the fable Mrs. Bloom read to the kids?

*In the fable, the lion decided not to snack on the mouse and instead let the mouse go. Later the mouse helped the lion. This showed kindness back-and-forth between the two animals. Who was the lion kind to? Who was the mouse kind to? Use a pendulum or a teeter totter or a scale to demonstrate back-and-forth kindness.*

### 3. The E in NED's name reminds us to Encourage others. How do you feel when someone encourages you with kindness? Do you feel the same way when YOU encourage others with kindness?

*Answers will vary. Kindness makes me smile, makes me happy, feels good. Being kind to someone can make you smile, feel happy and feel good too!*

### 4. Discuss the difference between 'back-and-forth kindness' and 'pay-it-forward kindness.'

*Answers will vary. Back and forth means – you are kind to me and in return, I am kind to you. Pay it Forward kindness is when you are kind to someone with nothing expected back. You may not know this person but you choose to be kind in hopes that you can make them a little happy and then they will be kind to someone else. Sometimes you are kind to others who are not kind in return. Use a scale to demonstrate balancing out kindness by going back and forth with kindness. Show how sometimes you give out kindness and get nothing in return.*

## 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](http://theNEDshow.com/lessonplans)



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**5. Is it easy to be kind to someone who is kind to you? How does it make you feel?**

*Answers will vary. It is often easy to be kind back and forth. Remind students to be kind because it makes them feel good.*

**6. How do you feel when you are kind to someone who hasn't been kind to you? How do you feel if someone has been kind to you and you weren't kind to them? How does it feel when you are unkind to someone?**

*Answers will vary. Some will say it feels strange when someone "pays back" unkindness with kindness. You may wonder why they did that. It may stop you from being unkind because you realize how odd it feels when they are nice to you for no good reason. Sometimes you can lose an enemy and make a friend by "paying back" unkindness with kindness.*

**7. When you pay kindness forward, you are not expecting kindness in return. Give examples from the book of how kindness was paid forward from one person to another and so on.**

*Jadelyn was kind to Keisha (gave her an apple)  
 Then Keisha was kind to Zack (shared the computer)  
 Then Zack was kind to A.J. (helped build blocks)  
 Then A.J. was kind to Minna (shared yellow cards)*

PRINTABLE:  
 Writing Prompt

## Writing Prompt

**I did it!** Choose one act of kindness that you can pay forward today at recess or lunch. Afterwards, write in your journal about the experience and focus on the *who, what, when, where* and *why*. Don't forget to write *how* you felt!

## Activities

### Do IT!

Have two kids come up and model kindness back-and-forth by saying kind words, just between each other. To emphasize the point – have them go back and forth a couple of times.

Then have kids model pay-it-forward (with kind words) by starting a linked arm chain until everyone in the class is part of the chain. Teacher starts by saying something kind about one student. That student joins the teacher in the front of the room. 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.

**ASK: Now what? How can we pay-it-forward from our classroom?** Answers will vary. Help students brainstorm how to pay kindness forward to their families, their school and their community. Help them come up with ideas and categorize them appropriately. Have kids share new ideas throughout the week and keep the list growing.

Example:

FAMILY KINDNESS	SCHOOL KINDNESS	COMMUNITY KINDNESS
Offer to help wash dishes	Pick up trash on playground	Pick up trash in your neighborhood
Take care of a pet ( <i>when it's not your job</i> )	Deliver message to office	Help neighbor with a project
Do an extra chore	Ask someone new to eat lunch with me	Donate clothes & toys to those in need
Help a sibling	Straighten up a mess in the classroom	Collect pennies for a good cause
Clean up a mess someone else made	Share supplies with someone who has none	Write thank you note to police or firemen



# The Kindness Quilt

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PRINTABLE:

Kindness Jar

## Kindness Jar

Create a classroom Kindness Jar. For each act of kindness witnessed, add a dried bean to the jar. When the jar is full, have a celebration. (The beans could become jelly beans and enjoyed by all students!)

NOTE: Have private conversations with kids who are doing unkind acts and explain that it's like taking two beans out of the jar because unkindness often does a lot more damage than a small act of kindness. Encourage students to do two acts of kindness to undo an unkind act!



Additional Resources

### For more info...

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 110112

Author website:

[www.nancyelizabethwallace.com](http://www.nancyelizabethwallace.com)

### Create a Kindness Day at Your School!

Check out all the activities, available at [www.thenedshow.com/kindness](http://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](http://www.thenedshow.com/shop_ned). Use them as a reward or incentive to encourage your students as they pay kindness forward!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I did it! Draw a picture and write a sentence about an act of kindness you did today.



Four sets of horizontal lines for writing. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

## Classroom Kindness Jar Label

Directions: If possible, print on full-sheet label paper. Cut out the label and attach to a jar.

 CUT OUT



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