

## Each Kindness - Reading Guide

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Themes: kindness, regret, natural consequences, friendship, empathy

Lesson/Notes: Honored with the Coretta Scott King Award. Maya is excluded by peers. Chloe regrets her hurtful actions toward Maya, but it is too late. She learns a convicting lesson about kindness. *Sometimes we regret mean or hurtful choices. We can apologize but cannot change the past. We can choose kindness now. "Each kindness makes the whole world a little bit better."*

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### Discussion Questions

- *Did the new classmate Maya do anything wrong? (no)*
- *How can you tell Maya wanted to have friends?*
- *Why do you think Chloe wouldn't smile at Maya or play with her?*
- *Is it okay to be hurtful if someone wears different clothes or eats different food? (no)*
- *When Maya didn't come back, how did Chloe feel? (guilty, regretful, sad)*
- *What is something you wished you hadn't done?*
- *What could Chloe have done differently?*

### Activity: Ripple of Kindness

Supplies: coffee filters, scissors, paper, glue or tape, pen, shallow pan of water, pebble

- Observe the ripple effect.
  - Drop a pebble or drop of water into the shallow pan of water, OR
  - Find a puddle, creek, or pond outside. Drop a pebble or splash some water to see a ripple.
- Guide child to cut at least three coffee filters into gradually smaller sizes (see example).
- Glue or tape filters together to create a paper ripple. Encourage child to write a way to show kindness on each section. Discuss how kindness can spread like a ripple in water.

