

# What If Everybody Did That? – Reading Guide

Author: Ellen Javernick   Illustrator: Colleen M. Madden

Themes: natural consequences, empathy, community responsibility

Lesson/Notes: *Before making a decision, we can think to ourselves, “What will happen if I do that?” Thinking through the impact of our choices can help us be better community members. We can have more fun together when we all make respectful and thoughtful choices.*

This is a lighthearted way to teach responsibility and explore natural, positive, and negative consequences; however, consider your child and preview the book as always. Some of the illustrations may cause poor choices to seem fun and enticing rather than disrespectful (e.g. what it would be like if everyone shot paper wads/straws at dinner).

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## Discussion Questions

- *How do you think they [bears, shoppers, Uncle William, Mr. Thompson, etc.] feel in these scenarios? What clues tell you how they feel?*
- *Why is it important to consider the effects of our actions? (Our choices can have an impact on others. We should treat people with respect like we want to be treated.)*
- *Is it okay if just one person makes the choices described in the story? (No. A community is like a team. We work together by following rules and making thoughtful choices.)*
- *What else should everybody do?*

## Activity: What-If Drawings


Supplies Needed: page 2

- Discuss natural consequences.
  - Natural consequences are like cause-and-effect. They come about “naturally” as the result of our actions. With older children, you can discuss how this is different from a reward or punishment.
  - Consequences can be positive or negative. The story shows many negative examples and ends with a positive natural consequence (happiness and connection from showing love by giving a hug).
- Encourage the child to draw a picture of a negative natural consequence and a positive natural consequence. For younger children, ask “What would happen if-?” to guide cause-and-effect thinking. Encourage children to come up with their own ideas related to their own lives. If needed, here are some example scenarios:
  - Negative: (What if everybody- ) took a colored pencil from the art room, spit their gum out on the sidewalk, pushed/yelled when feeling disappointed, cut in line
  - Positive: (What if everybody- ) helped with chores at home, used encouraging words, said thank you, looked for ways to help others
- Bonus: We all benefit when community members can rely on each other to make thoughtful decisions. Encourage your child to read aloud the following affirmations, or choose one to write and create related art.
  - *I am part of a community. I can be a team player. I can do my part to make my community (classroom, family, etc.) better.*

## Natural Consequences

Fill in the blank, and draw an example of a **negative** natural consequence.

What if everybody \_\_\_\_\_?



Fill in the blank, and draw an example of a **positive** natural consequence.

What if everybody \_\_\_\_\_?

