

Kindness Detectives: Reading for Caring Hearts

Preparation: Choose a picture book appropriate for a first-grader that clearly depicts characters showing kindness or consideration. Prepare your reading space.

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Ask the student: "What does it mean to be kind? Can you think of a time someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?"
- Explain: "Today, we're going to be Kindness Detectives! We'll read a story and look for clues about characters being kind and considerate."

Reading & Discussion (15-20 minutes):

- Read the chosen picture book aloud together. Pause at key moments where kindness (or unkindness) is shown.
- Ask engaging questions during and after reading:
 - "What kind thing did [Character Name] just do?"
 - "How do you think [Other Character Name] felt when that happened?"
 - "Was that a considerate thing to do? Why or why not?"
 - "What clues in the pictures show us someone is being kind? (e.g., smiles, helping hands)"
 - "Could the character have done something different?"
- Optional: Each time you spot an act of kindness, place a 'kindness drop' (pom-pom/bead) into a clear jar to visualize the kindness accumulating.

Activity: Kindness Creations (10-15 minutes):

- Give the student paper and crayons/markers.
- Ask them to draw a picture of their favorite kind act from the story. Alternatively, they can draw or write (with help if needed) about a time they were kind to someone or someone was kind to them.
- Encourage them to talk about their drawing, explaining the kind act depicted.

Assessment & Wrap-up (5 minutes):

- Review the student's drawing and listen to their explanation. Ask one or two final questions to check comprehension, such as "Tell me one way the character in the story showed kindness."
- Briefly recap the story and the importance of being kind. "Being kind makes others feel good, and it makes us feel good too! Let's try to be Kindness Detectives every day."
- Count the 'kindness drops' if you used them, celebrating the kindness found in the story.

Differentiation/Extension:

- **Support:** Focus on one simple act of kindness from the story. Use picture cues heavily. Help the student dictate a sentence about their drawing if writing is challenging.
- **Challenge:** Ask the student to act out a scene of kindness from the book or think of a different kind ending for a character who was unkind. Have them write a short sentence independently about their drawing.