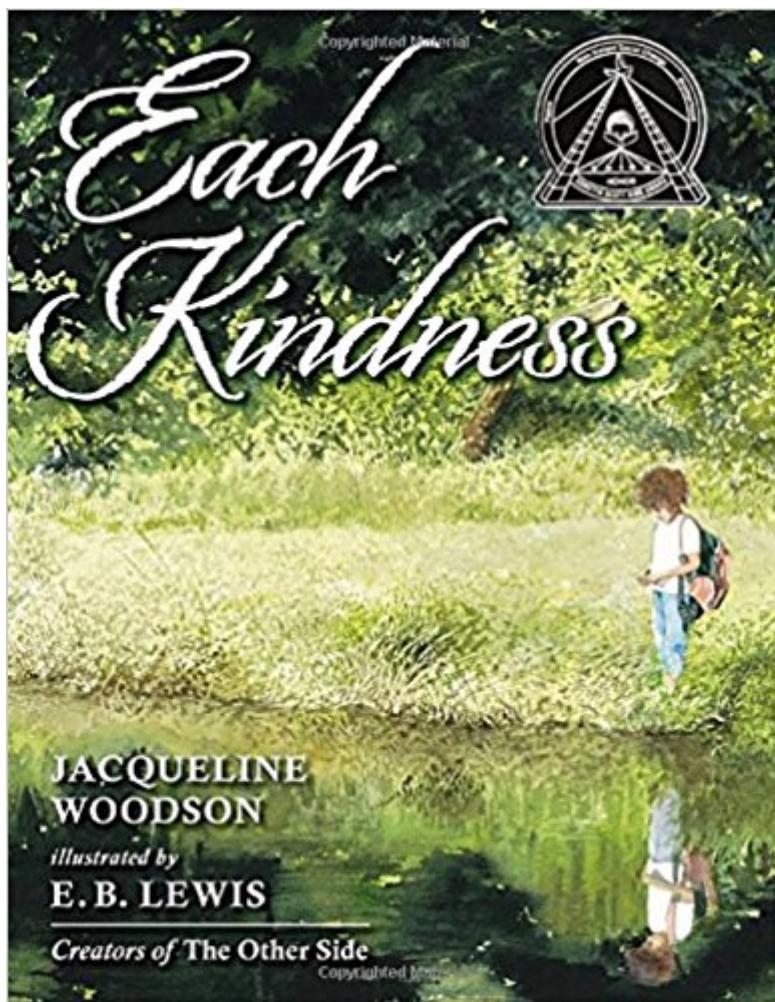


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# Each Kindness (Jane Addams Award Book (Awards))



## **Synopsis**

WINNER OF A CORETTA SCOTT KING HONOR AND THE JANE ADDAMS PEACE AWARD!

Each kindness makes the world a little better This unforgettable book is written and illustrated by the award-winning team that created The Other Side and the Caldecott Honor winner Coming On Home Soon. With its powerful anti-bullying message and striking art, it will resonate with readers long after they've put it down. Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD640L (What's this?)

Series: Jane Addams Award Book (Awards)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books; 1st edition (October 2, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399246525

ISBN-13: 978-0399246524

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 165 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #711 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #18 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #27 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 2-5-Always on-target navigating difficulties in human relationships, Woodson teams up with Lewis to deal a blow to the pervasive practice-among students of all economic backgrounds-of excluding those less fortunate. When a new student arrives midterm, head down, with broken sandals, she sits right next to Chloe, an African American girl. The teacher introduces the pigtailed

new student as Maya, but hardly anyone says hello, nor does Chloe give a welcoming smile. Lyrical and stylistically tight writing act in perfect counterpoint to the gentle but detailed watercolor paintings of a diverse rural classroom. Chloe's best friends "this year" call Maya "Never New" because her clothes are always secondhand. Each time the cheerful, independent Maya invites the clique members to play, they refuse. Woodson's writing, full of revelation and short on reckoning, gives opportunity for countless inferences and deep discussion and dovetails with the illustrations of children's facial expressions from surprising angles, expansive countryside views, and pools of water and windows, which invite readers to pause, reflect, and empathize. When their teacher invites them to throw a pebble in water and watch the ripples radiate to symbolize an act of kindness they share with the class, Chloe stops. Maya no longer is there. Her family has had to move. Had Chloe been kind even once? With growing income disparity, and bullying on the rise, this story of remorse and lost opportunity arrives none too soon.-Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City† (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

\* "This quiet, intense picture book is about the small actions that can haunt. . . . Woodson's spare, eloquent free verse and Lewis' beautiful, spacious watercolor paintings tell a story for young kids that will touch all ages." † Booklist, starred review"Unfolds with harsh beauty and the ominousness of opportunities lost. . . . The matter-of-fact tone of Chloe's narration paired against the illustrations' visual isolation of Maya creates its own tension. . . . Lewis dazzles with frame-worthy illustrations, masterful use of light guiding readers' emotional responses." † Kirkus Reviews\* œAlways on-target navigating difficulties in human relationships, Woodson teams up with Lewis to deal a blow to the pervasive practice"among students of all economic backgrounds" of excluding those less fortunate. . . . Lyrical and stylistically tight writing act in perfect counterpoint to the gentle but detailed watercolor paintings. . . . Gives opportunity for countless inferences and deep discussion . . . invite[s] readers to pause, reflect, and empathize. . . . With growing income disparity, and bullying on the rise, this story of remorse and lost opportunity arrives none too soon.‡ • † School Library Journal, starred review\* œCombining realism with shimmering impressionistic washes of color, Lewis turns readers into witnesses as kindness hangs in the balance. . . . Woodson . . . again brings an unsparing lyricism to a difficult topic.‡ • † Publishers Weekly, starred reviewœWoodson's fluid writing and deft particularity makes the girls' bullying rebuffs of Maya absolutely heartbreak. . . . In his watercolors, Lewis embraces the effects of light like an Impressionist, while his creative, often cinematic uses of point of view add resonance to the story. . . . Offers an

alternative view to rosier stories of forgiveness and bully-victim friendships. "The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books" *Beautifully heartbreaking . . . sure to touch a tender spot. . . . The situation should resonate with young people who are sure to recognize themselves in either Chloe or Maya. Lovely watercolors perfectly complement this simple yet strong story.* " Library Media Connection" *Woodson's affecting story, with its open ending, focuses on the withholding of friendship rather than outright bullying, and Lewis reflects the pensive mood in sober watercolors . . . in subtly detailed portraits. . . . A good conversation starter.* "The Horn Book

Each Kindness a Jane Addams Award Book by Jacqueline Woodson, also was named a 2013 Coretta Scott King Honor Book. This is truly an exceptional book. As I read it goose bumps shivered my arms. E.B. Lewis captured the deep emotion of the story in dreamy water color. The illustrations juxtapose both beauty and heartache because they reveal the children's lack of kindness, their unwelcoming cold shoulder and judgmental rejection of the new girl. One might think this replays the classic story line of the challenge that every "new" kid faces. But it is exceeds that think-how-the-shunned-kid-feels meme as the children rebuff her repeated efforts to break into their circle. Instead, it asks the reader to imagine being the child who chose unkindness, who joined the taunting, who derided and jeered. After the teacher uses a pebble-dropped-in-water to demonstrate how one act ripples in an ever-widening circle, Chloe undergoes a change of heart. She wants to include the outcast girl. She anticipates making amends, only to discover, it is too late. The book ends with the words, Chloe "watched the water ripple as the sun set through the maples and the chance of a kindness with Maya became more and more forever gone." The final illustration shows Chloe in a lush, lovely pond side spot. The beauty contrasts with Chloe's uncomfortable realization that it is too late to make amends for her ugly treatment of Maya. The reader feels the weight of that understanding. There is no and-she became-Mayas-best-friend easy answer. The message is clear. Sometimes, do overs are not possible. Some mistakes and lost opportunities cannot be corrected. Our choices matter. Powerful. True. Important. This book merits every award it won. (Memories of the classic story *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes illustrated by Louis Slobodkin popped to mind, because it deals with a similar story line. Each Kindness makes its point with eloquent brevity and contemporary, visually appealing illustrations.) Adoption-attuned (AQ) Lens: Our kids certainly understand, in a very personal way that choices have permanent consequences. This book can easily open conversations about the decisions made by their birth parents. (Not in terms of a cruelty done to them but with an intent to help kids understand that adoption was in no way their fault but rather is a decision made by adults for very adult reasons.)

Very depressing. Perfect opportunity to end it on a positive note, but took a very depressing turn which defeats the purpose of a childrens book. It identified a bullying problem, showed the impact, gave the lesson from the teacher (which was confusing), then the plan was in place to correct the action, but not taken, then the chance to correct the action was gone forever. This would be a GREAT book IF it had ended with a new student sitting in the chair of the girl who moved away and the protagonist could have smiled at the new student. Boom perfect ending showing a corrected behavior from a lesson learned, instead it had a depressing - chance forever lost - ending. Not a great childrens book, nor a great one for me to read either. Such potential, but fell very flat.

This books is so amazing...and sad, but such a great lesson for classrooms and families. My students from both first and second grade loved it and wanted to do our own jar of water and put stones in. So we made it a classroom activity. I read aloud the story. They journaled about things that they could do to be kind. Then before lunch, I filled up an empty fish bowl and they all put a stone in, saying what they did lately to be kind to someone else. Great story that helped our classroom community become a little kinder.

This book touched my heart in so many ways. I first read the book myself and could identify with all the characters....the new girl, the others, and the teacher....since I have been a teacher for over 40 years. I then read the book to two pre-school classes of 5-6 yr. olds. You could have heard a pin drop because all eyes and ears were so focused. At the end, I asked "why do you think the new girl left school?" I received immediate feedback. As the classes were leaving, a little boy named Evan came up to me and said " I love you." What a beautiful ending to this particular story time. ☺ ☺ ☺

I love Jacqueline Woodson. Everything she writes is relevant. She relates to children and adults alike. This book is one of my favorites. During this time, when much of our society is focused on the negative, there is a need to concentrate on how our actions can harm others. As a retired teacher, I can see how this book could be a great teaching tool. It's just great!

This book was an unusual narrative because the problem was unsolved. I think this book can be certainly used as a lesson on being kind. I read it to my grand daughters kinder class and each dropped a rock into a large bowl of water observing the ripples. Kindness matters.

This book is the best for teaching kindness and making children consider their actions. I have read this to all elementary aged children and they "get" it!

Wonderful story - very heartfelt. "Teaches" kindness in such a gentle manner that kids won't even notice they are learning how to be caring towards others.

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