

# Celebrating Kindness in the Classroom

An Educator's Guide to *The You Kind of Kind*

## *The You Kind of Kind*

by Nina West

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Reading Age: 4-8 years

Grade Level: Preschool-3



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### About the Author:

Nina West is the stage name of Andrew Levitt, an American drag queen, activist, singer-songwriter, and founder of the Nina West Foundation, supporting charities across the country. For two decades, she's brought her one-of-a-kind mix of fabulousness and playfulness to audiences around the world. She hosts "Storytime with Nina" online and lives in Columbus, Ohio.

### About the Illustrator:

Hayden Evans is an illustrator and designer with a flair for depicting "movie scenes, Halloweens, drag queens, and everything in-betweens!" *The You Kind of Kind* marks his debut as a picture book illustrator. Originally from Rexburg, Idaho, he now resides in Southern California.

### About the Book:

Nina West takes young readers on a fun-filled journey through acts of kindness in the wild, wild world. Brightly colored illustrations, fanciful language, and heartfelt directives prompt students to explore how simple acts of kindness make others feel accepted and celebrated.

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## KINDNESS MANTRA

*Nina tells readers, "It's a tremendous gift to be YOU!"*

Ask students to identify a skill or trait unique to them. Write these strengths as "I am" statements on a notecard creating a personal mantra (e.g. I am a fast runner!). Explain how reading and seeing these mantras everyday leads to positive thinking. Personal mantras could be displayed or kept close by for daily reminders.

## KINDNESS CIRCLE

*Nina encourages readers to see the world from another person's point of view.*

Have students sit in a circle. Start by giving the first compliment to a student (e.g. "I like that you always say 'good morning' with a big smile."). This student selects another student and says something kind they've noticed about them. After giving a compliment, their turn is complete and they should leave the circle. This continues until all the students have received words of kindness and returned to their seats. If you're lucky enough to have a wand like Nina, let students pass it along with their compliments!



## KINDNESS SUPERSTARS

*Nina reminds us to look for and share kindness everywhere we go.*

**CLASSROOM:** Have students look for kindness in their classroom. This could be seeing classroom helpers in action or hearing friends share kind words. Ask students how they can help in the classroom and discuss how they can share their kindness. Make a list of each kindness for everyone to see!

**SCHOOL:** Ask students to identify people around school who have either helped them or shown kindness to others. In small groups write three to four sentences about what makes this person's actions kind. Encourage each student to submit one sentence to the group effort.

**COMMUNITY:** Individual students should choose someone in the community or a heroic public figure and write three to four sentences about the way in which this individual shares kindness. Alternately, students can write about how they might like to share kindness with others around them, either now or in the future.

## KINDNESS GOES BIG

*Nina loves using BIG made up words to describe how she's feeling (Superbulous! Wuzzfastic!)*

Encourage students to "Go Big!" and "Be Kind!" to themselves by making up their own BIG fun word to describe how they're feeling.



# Kindness Adds Up

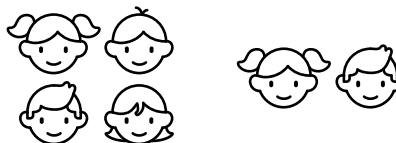
One of the best things about kindness is that you always have it with you! When you are at home, in school, or in your neighborhood, you can spread kindness in different ways to everyone you meet.

**Solve the following word problems.  
Color a STAR for every problem you solve and see how quickly kindness adds up!**

## Nina says "HELLO!" when she meets new friends.



You meet 4 new friends in the classroom. At recess, you meet 2 more new friends on the playground.



*How many times did you say HELLO to someone new today?*

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

## Nina likes to brighten the day by making people smile or laugh.



You made a birthday cake for your friend topped with cookies and candy. Your friend wants one more topping—strawberries!



*How many different kinds of toppings will be on the cake in all?*

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

## Nina likes to spread kindness by helping in the community.



You and Nina each plant 3 flowers in the neighborhood garden. After you finish, there are 6 new flowers.



*Is the total amount of flowers planted ODD or EVEN? Check the box:*

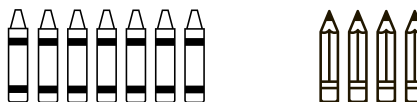
ODD

EVEN

## Nina keeps a backpack with lots of supplies.



You have 7 crayons and 4 pencils in your backpack.



*How many more crayons than pencils do you have?*

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

## Get ready! You never know when you'll be called to share kindness!



Your teacher gives you 5 dinosaur stickers to hand out. You give 3 to your classmates.



*How many do you have left?*

$$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

**I earned      kindness stars today!**  
Way to go! Your acts of kindness really added up!