

Acceptance and Tolerance

Acceptance and tolerance mean appreciating and respecting differences in people. When you are accepting and tolerant you understand that others may have different feelings, behaviors, or beliefs from you. You don't judge others because they are different from you. Being accepting and tolerant doesn't mean you have to agree with everyone. It means you respect them, even if they are different from you.

Corn Flakes and Apple Juice

Matt and Kyle stayed awake until after midnight Friday night. The two friends never seemed to run out of things to do. So Saturday morning they were glad to get to sleep in late. At 10:45 a.m., they got up and sleepily picked their favorite kind of cereal to eat for breakfast. Kyle's mouth was wide with a yawn and his eyes grew almost as wide as he watched Matt pour apple juice over his corn flakes.

"Matt, stop. Wake up! That's the apple juice," he exclaimed.

"I know," Matt said calmly. "I put juice on my cereal because I'm allergic to milk."

"Isn't juice on your cereal gross?" Kyle asked.

"No, it's not gross."

"What would happen if you drank some milk?" asked Kyle.

"I get a really bad stomachache and my sinuses hurt. And milk's in a lot of things, like cheese and chocolate, so I have to be careful."

Kyle let that sink in. Then something dawned on him about Matt's allergy. "If you're allergic to milk, you can't eat ice cream!" he said in horror.

"I have a substitute for that, too," Matt replied, smiling. "It's called sorbet. That was the frozen peach dessert we had last night."

"That was really good," Kyle said. After a few minutes he added, "I'm sorry you have to go through all that. It sounds like a real hassle not to be able to have milk."

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Talk About It

What did Kyle do when he learned of his friend's allergy to milk? How do you think Matt felt about answering Kyle's questions? How did each boy show acceptance toward the other?

Character Building

DAY BY DAY

180 Quick Read-Alouds for Elementary School and Home

In elementary schools across the country, teachers set aside a few minutes for character education each day. Whether to complement a school's existing program or simply to add a character jump start to the day, this book makes it easy to teach character education in a meaningful, manageable way.

- 180 short fictional stories spotlight the character traits featured most often in today's character education programs—caring, compassion, cooperation, honesty, integrity, responsibility, acceptance and tolerance, and more.
- The stories are grouped by trait: 36 traits for the 36 weeks of the school year. There are five stories about each trait, so you can use a new story each day throughout the year.
- Each story features kids in real-life situations, faced with decisions or circumstances that reflect, change, or shape their character. Each is short enough to be read aloud—by an adult leader or a student. Each ends with “Talk About It” questions for reflection and discussion.
- The book is meant to be flexible. You can skip around from trait to trait, match readings to your school's “Character Trait of the Week,” or respond to teachable moments with appropriate stories. You can use it to support an existing character education program, or as the basis for an independent program.

Designed for classrooms, youth groups, and character-conscious homes, this book helps teachers, parents, and other caring adults provide quick but substantive character education where it counts: face-to-face with kids themselves.

Anne D. Mather has taught middle school, high school, and church school and has written other books for children and teens. **Louise B. Weldon** has worked on behalf of kids as a workshop presenter, teacher trainer, and volunteer.

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