



## Each Kindness

By Jacqueline Woodson, (2012)  
for use with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### Grade 2 Discussion Questions

*RL 2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.*

- How did the other students treat Maya? Why do you think acted this way?
- How did the other children's actions and words make Maya feel? How did Maya respond over time to the unkindness?
- Chloe said, "When I reached the pond, my throat filled with all the things I wished I would have said to Maya. Each kindness I had never shown." How is she feeling? Why?

*RL 2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.*

- What lesson does Chloe learn at the end of the story?
- What would you say to Chloe? Would you want to be her friend?
- What do you think Chloe would say to Maya if she ever saw her again?
- How would you show kindness to Maya?

### SUMMARY OF BOOK:

Maya moved into a new school where she was laughed at for her old clothes, lunch food, and the old toys she brought to school. Maya tried her hardest to make new friends but Chloe and the other children only looked away, laughed, and nicknamed her "Never New." Eventually, Maya stopped trying and played alone. When Maya didn't come to school one day her teacher talked about kindness. She dropped a small stone into a bowl of water and explained that each act of kindness goes out like the ripple in the water. All the students dropped a stone into the water and shared what kind things they had done. Chloe was unable to share even a small act of kindness and passed her stone. She realized her unkindness towards Maya and was determined to make things right, but Maya's family had moved away before Chloe had a chance.

### Grade 2 Activities

*SL2.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.*

*Small groups:* Brainstorm acts of kindness that can be shown at home, school, and in the community. Remind students to think of those who are less fortunate like Maya.

*Large group:* Post ideas on a 3-column chart: home, school, and community. Discuss ideas.

*W.2.3 Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events...*

Students will be given one week to choose and complete an act of kindness. Each student will write a narrative that explains why the recipient of kindness was chosen, and explain the act, and how doing the act of kindness made them feel. Students will share their writing.