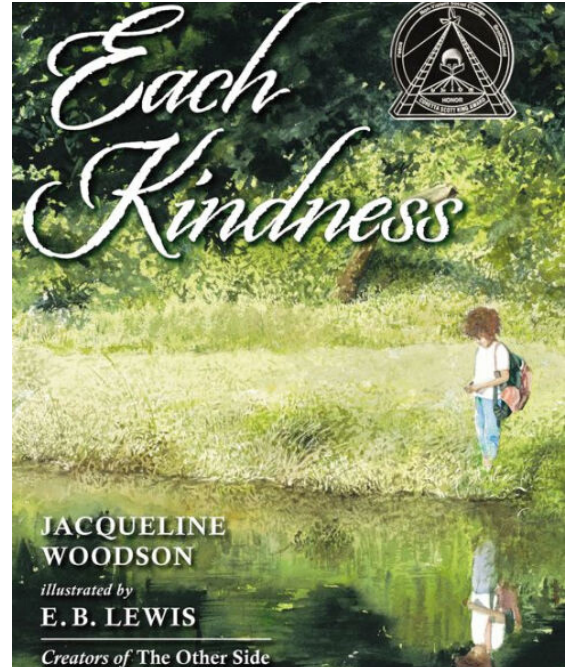




EACH KINDNESS

JACQUELINE WOODSON

Maya, the new girl, is a little bit different than the other kids in the class. Her clothes are old and she is shy. Chloe and her friends don't play with her. What would happen if they were kind?



Questions:

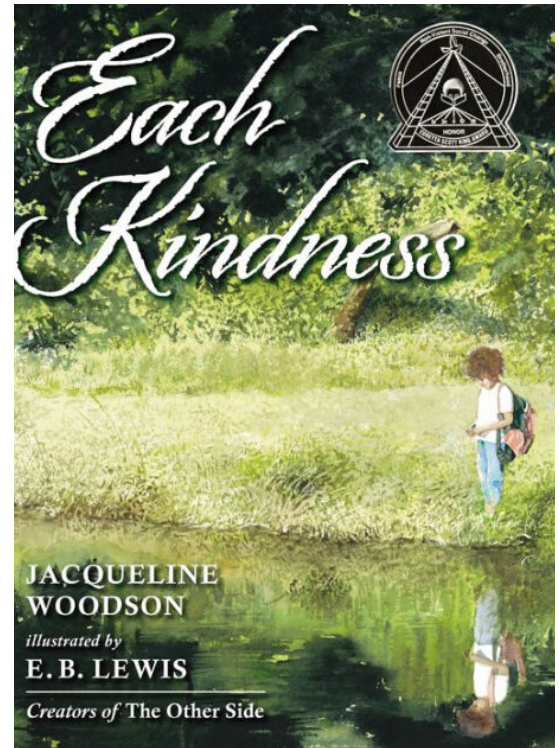
1. How would you feel if you were a new student at school? Would it be more exciting or would you be more nervous? Why do you think Maya was looking at the floor and speaking softly?
2. Does wearing old clothes and not having much money mean that Maya's different on the inside from you?
3. How do you think Maya felt when Chloe, the girl in the story, didn't smile back at her? How do you think she felt when Chloe moved farther away?
4. Why didn't Chloe and her friends play with Maya? Do you think they really didn't want to play, or do you think they didn't want to play with her? How do you think she felt playing all by herself?
5. How do you think Maya felt, hearing people making fun of others just for being her friend? How do you think she felt when she heard Chloe say she wasn't friends with Maya?
6. Do you think Maya could hear the other kids whispering about her? How do you think that felt? How do you think it felt having no friends? Would it have been a lot better with even one friend?
7. Is it easy to ask someone to play with you when you don't know them well? Would you perhaps feel shy? How would it feel if they told you no? Should the kids refuse to play with her?



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Questions:

8. How would it feel if people were laughing at you?
9. If every little kindness that someone does goes out into the world like a ripple, spreading and getting bigger, why should we do our best to do every kind thing we can? When someone is kind to you, does that make you want to be kind to them too? Does it make you want to be kind to others? What about when people are mean?
10. How do you think Chloe felt when she never got to see Maya again, right when she had decided to be kind to her? Do you think she'll be more likely to be kind to others in the future?
Regret is when you wish you could go back in time and do something better. Do you think Chloe regrets not being kind to Maya? If she had been kind to Maya, would she have regretted that?

ACTIVITY: Get a big bowl of water, like the teacher in the story. Have the students take turns describing kind things they have done and dropping stones into the water, watching the ripples. When they get caught doing kind things in the future, let them drop in a new rock.