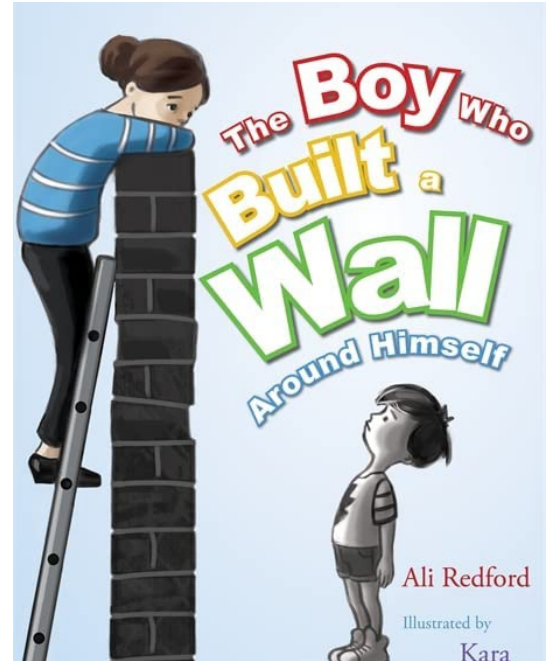




THE BOY WHO BUILT A WALL AROUND HIMSELF

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When he was young, everything was bad for the boy. Times were scary and hard, so he built a wall around himself to keep safe. Over time the wall got taller and taller, stronger and stronger. Pretty soon, however, he realizes that the wall doesn't just keep the bad things out, it keeps the good things out too. Can he take down the wall he built to see the beauty on the other side.



Questions:

1. Why would someone build a wall around themselves after bad things happened to them?
2. Does every child grow up with the same type of parents and family and friends? Does every child have only kind people in their lives?
3. How would people making fun of you at school help someone build a wall? How would having no friends help someone build a wall? Do you want to be part of the reason someone else builds a wall around their heart, or part of the reason they break it down?
4. On the outside, he acts big and scary and selfish. Is that how he feels on the inside? Do you think that people's insides don't always match their outsides?
5. When the woman comes, does the boy break his wall down right away? Does the woman give up or does she keep trying to get through to him and become his friend?
6. If a wall that keeps out the bad and the good a good wall?
7. How do you think the boy felt when he finally talked about the bad times before he built his wall? Is it important to listen to people when they tell you things that are important to them? Should you judge them, or just listen and support them?
8. How do you think the boy felt when he finally became friends with someone kind? How do you think the woman felt when she gained the boy's trust?
9. How did kindness help him to break down his wall? Would it have worked if the woman wasn't kind? Would it have worked if she gave up and went away?
10. Why is kindness important? How can it change your life? Others' lives?