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# Kindness Is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler



## **Synopsis**

When Mrs. Ruler asks five of her kindergarteners to miss recess, she's got a special plan up her sleeve. She's about to teach a new golden rule: KINDNESS IS COOL! Soon the entire class is doing so many good deeds that their kindness bulletin board barely fits their classroom! From clearing the table after dinner, to helping the elderly, one kindergarten class is proving that kids really can make a difference. Count along with Mrs. Ruler's class. Can all their good deeds really add up to 100 acts of kindness? Acclaimed picture book author Margery Cuyler will inspire children of all ages to have a heart and save the world!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 460 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,268 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #67 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills #80 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 5 - 10 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Kindergarten-Grade 2 •Mrs. Ruler is an unusual teacher: she often talks in rhymes, she wears a ruler in her tall hairdo, and she disciplines children by having them perform acts of kindness. When students ask to participate, she turns her assignment into a class project, and they eventually complete 100 acts of family, school, and community kindness (all listed at book's end). Unfortunately, this story does not measure up to Cuyler's usual high standards, and Mrs. Ruler's singsong speech is annoying. Furthermore, the text often seems preachy. For example, the teacher offers wisdom such as, "A slice of nice makes a mile of smile" and "Good deeds fill needs." The plot

is a bit contrived: just when David, a reluctant participant, is looking for good deeds to perform in order to catch up with everyone else, he is presented with an opportunity to rescue the class gerbils. Done in bright hues that reflect the tale's upbeat tone, the cartoon illustrations are playful and inviting. They feature an endearing group of students from different ethnic backgrounds. An additional purchase that may fill a need in some libraries. © Barbara Katz, Parish Episcopal School, Dallas, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Mrs. Ruler is frustrated with her kindergarten class. They have been acting out all week, so she reminds them "kindness is cooler" and charges each student to perform five acts of kindness. Most of the class catches on quickly; only David seems to have trouble internalizing Mrs. Ruler's maxim that "a slice of nice makes a mile of smile." Eventually, even David finds a way to be good, rescuing the class's gerbils during a harrowing escape. The author of *100th Day Worries* (2000) incorporates here the same enthusiasm, counting practice, and humor she used in the earlier title. Especially useful is an appended list of the 100 acts of kindness, which will get kids started and fuel their own ideas. Yoshikawa's vibrant illustrations capture the boundless energies of five-year-olds on their best (and worst) behavior. Although sophisticated listeners may find Mrs. Ruler a bit preachy, most children will enjoy the story, and teachers will find the lesson aptly told. Recommended wherever values education is taught. Weisman, Kay Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I bought this book for my 7 year old granddaughter. She immediately started to do different acts of kindness; at home, at school and for me. She even reads the book to all her dolls. This is an amazing book for kids of all ages. Mrs. Ruler has a great idea when it comes to teaching her students about being kind. In these times when many children are harassed by bullies, it is important to foster acts of kindness in children.

Bought this when I was an elementary librarian at a school with a high concentration of kids from troubled homes. Working on the basic traits of good character was a high priority, and this book did a good job of getting the kids excited about the right things. The class in the book tracks all their good deeds for a while, putting value on kindness. The kids at my school responded well to this book. A+

Good concept, but beware that it is a fairly long book. I also found some of the character names to be a very forced (and almost stereotypical) attempt at diversity. But overall a fairly good premise. It just rambles on and on quite a bit.

The illustrations are engaging, funny, and brightly colored. The story is an appropriate read aloud level for beginning of the year first graders, so it is helpful in teaching routines and expectations for beginning of the year.

Great for young kids learning to live together. The Rhyming format, lightheartedness, and cute illustrations keep kids interested. A lot of other "Character teaching" books are too preachy and too solemn, and especially, boring.

In these times when many children are harrassed by bullies, it is important to foster acts of kindness in children. The children I read this book to were compelled by the story. I think the cartoon character illustrations helped to attract their attention, but many children were also interested in the idea of counting acts of kindness. One classroom I read to, persuaded their teacher to conduct the acts of kindness project in their classroom.

This is a cute book but its a little too long for children who have a short attention span.

What a great book. I purchased this to use with elementary grade students for a unit on "Random Acts of Kindness" week. My students loved it and were able to relate to the characters.

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