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The Kindness Quilt

Written and Illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

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Random acts of kindness pictured on a paper quilt

Minna and her classmates have been asked by their teacher, Mrs. Bloom, to work on a Kindness Project. Mrs. Bloom wants them to do and draw and share an act of kindness. Minna and her family do lots of kind things, but Minna can’t decide which one is right for her project. Then she starts writing and drawing and cutting and an idea for a paper quilt picturing many acts of kindness begins to take shape! Important lessons about being kind to each other are depicted in NANCY ELIZABETH WALLACE’s charming artwork using origami, recycled paper, markers, crayons, and colored pencils.

**Synopsis**

Our daily lives consist of interactions with others plus conversations within ourselves about who we are, what we value and how that governs the actions we choose. Emotions influence us and shape what we think and how we act. The way we engage with others affects how they respond and listen to us. Kindness is the WD40® of human relationships. Nancy Elizabeth Wallace wrote and illustrated The Kindness Quilt it uses our love for quilts to help readers see how individual acts of kindness can blanket a classroom, school and community to yield increased acceptance, tolerance and happiness. When kindness becomes a group endeavor, the benefits multiply. In the story, the
teacher proposes that students commit to performing acts of kindness. When they complete the project they share their experiences in a "do-and-draw-and-share Kindness Project." The children do a variety of deeds and when they gather their reports one child exclaims that it looks like a quilt block. As the kindnesses increase their "quilt" grows larger. It outgrows the classroom bulletin board and expands to the hall. Soon other classes join and "the kindness kept growing and growing and growing." Readers will certainly get the point that kindness begets kindness. Adoption-attuned (AQ) Lens: Most of us learned that the best way to have a friend is to be a friend. The Kindness Quilt shows readers how "being" a friend can look as well as how it can multiply. Adopted children benefit from the guidance of family, teachers, etc on how to resist any adoption-connected negativity which they experience. Kindness is certainly an important habit for them to include in their "tool box" of social skills.

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