



Nico & Lola

Kindness shared between a boy and a dog

By Meggan Hill
Photography by Susan M. Graunke

TEACHER'S GUIDE: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Good literature is used often to enhance children's understanding and their love for reading. We read for the purpose of instruction as well as enjoyment. Having the students actively engage with the text will enhance their comprehension. The following are activities that can be used for children ages 2 - 11 years old.

1. After reading the story to your class, have them turn to a partner and sit eye to eye and knee to knee. Share their favorite picture and their favorite act of kindness. Have them explain why.
2. Describe Nico. How old is he? What does Nico like to do? Do you like to do the same things as Nico? Describe Lola. How old is she? What kind of dog is she? Tell your partner if you have a dog or pet. How are you kind to your pet?
3. Share your favorite act of kindness to an animal, a friend or family member. Illustrate your picture, or better yet bring in a photograph. Create your own text and include your own hidden message in the woven text similar to the story, Nico & Lola.
4. The book says, "Kindness is sharing, even your favorite blanket." What was the hardest thing you ever had to share?
5. Make a kindness garden. Brainstorm ways the students have been kind or helpful to a friend or family member or a way that a friend or family member has been kind to them. Write down the act of kindness on a flower and put it in the garden. Watch it grow!
6. Create a kindness pledge card. Have the children state their name and how they pledge to be kind to someone around them at school or at home.
7. Create a sharing circle. Have your students sit in a circle and "pass" a stuffed animal of any kind. When they have the animal, it is their turn to share an act of kindness. They can say a kind compliment to someone in the class or share something kind they did recently.