

Lesson Plan: "If you can't say something nice..."

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- Overview

Hannah E. Harrison's *My Friend Maggie* is a beautiful story of friendship with a powerful lesson about bullying and the negative impact of unkind words. In this lesson, students will learn to focus on the positive and practice speaking kindly to their classmates.

- Resources & Preparation

- Materials and Technology
 - The book *My Friend Maggie*
 - Red and pink construction paper
 - Markers
 - Safety scissors

- Instructional Plan

- Student Objectives:
 - Practice kindness
1. This lesson should take place after you read *My Friend Maggie*.
 2. Discuss the story with the class. What does Paula like about Maggie? What were the negative things that Veronica pointed out? Say, "Even if the negative things were true," (Maggie is clumsy, Maggie is bad at hide and seek), "do any of those things make Maggie a bad friend?"
 3. Say, "We all have good and bad traits. It's important to focus on the good traits first."
 4. Split the students into groups of five. Try to separate students who are friends so they are not in the same group.
 5. Have each student make 4 construction paper hearts, one for each student in their group. Students will write a compliment for each of their group members. They do not have to be elaborate. They can be as simple as, "You have a nice smile," or "You draw well."
 6. Go around the room and have each student share one of the compliments they gave or received.