



# KINDNESS

## Cornerstone Value of the Month

New Zealand  
Foundation for Values  
Education Inc.

Kindness is willingness  
to help, show concern  
for and be friendly  
to other people.

Kindness is doing little  
things, things that  
may seem scarcely  
worth doing.

Good manners, polite-  
ness and courtesy are  
forms of kindness.



There are conse-  
quences for being un-  
kind. Can you think of  
some?

Animals too, should be  
shown kindness.

## The Lion And The Mouse

This very old fable shows that no one is too small, or too great, to be kind.

One day, a large, powerful lion lay sleeping in the sun. Nearby, a small mouse was scurrying home to his nest with a stalk of grain in his mouth.

The mouse was in such a hurry that he didn't watch where he was going, he ran right over the lion's paw.

The lion woke up in a terrible rage. "How dare you disturb my sleep!" he roared, grabbing hold of the little mouse.

"I'm very sorry," squeaked the mouse trembling with fear. "It was an accident, I'll never do it again, I promise!"

"I'll make sure of that!" said the lion, opening his mouth wide.

"Oh, please don't eat me!" begged the mouse.

"Why shouldn't I?" asked the lion.

"Because one day," said the mouse, "I will be able to help you!"

"What!" roared the lion, bursting into laughter.

"How can a tiny, weak creature like you help a mighty lion like me?"

"Let me go, and you'll see," said the mouse.

"All right," said the lion, "You wouldn't make much of a meal, anyway." And let the mouse go.

The very next day, the lion was walking across the plain when he became caught in a hunter's trap. A net fell over him, and he could not escape. The harder he struggled, the more tangled up in the net he became. The lion roared with pain and anger.



"One day," said the mouse, "I will be able to help you."

Far away in his nest, the mouse heard the lion's roars. He ran to the lion at once.

When the mouse saw what had happened, he didn't say a word. He just climbed up on the lion's back and began chew at the net.

Before long the mouse had chewed a big hole in the net, and soon the lion was able to free himself.

As the lion climbed out of the trap, he looked down at the mouse. "Thank you for sparing my life," said the mouse. "I told you I would be able to help you, and I have kept my word."

"You have indeed!" agreed the lion.

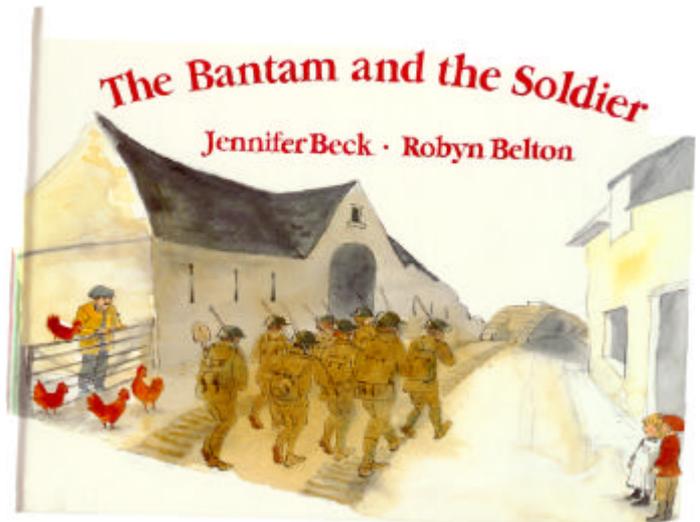
**Kindness is one thing that you can never give away. It always comes back.**

## A Book For Sharing With The Whole Family

The Bantam and the Soldier by best-selling author Jennifer Beck and prize-winning illustrator Robyn Belton is a story about kindness and friendship.

It is wartime. In the middle of fighting and devastation an unusual friendship is formed.

This lovely book is published by Scholastic New Zealand Limited



### To Talk About



Why is it important for family members to be kind to each other?

What excuses do people give for not being kind?

Share a kindness someone has shown you.

Why do people talk of, “little acts of kindness?”

How could you show kindness in these situations?

- ◆ A new child comes to your class and looks lonely.
- ◆ A class mate has forgotten her lunch.
- ◆ Some children start teasing a boy because he has big ears.
- ◆ Your mother is feeling very tired.
- ◆ An elderly neighbour has a broken leg.

### The Intruder – Rene M. Thomas

Bill Myna is a naughty bird  
Who thinks it quite a jest  
To push the starling's new-laid eggs  
Out of her cosy nest.  
So my Dad built a wooden house  
With round hole in the wall,  
Right size for Starling to squeeze  
through,



For Myna just too small.  
Now Myna scolds with raucous voice,  
Round the nest hole scratching,  
While Mrs. Starling sits at ease,  
Five eggs safely hatching.

Who showed the kindness in this poem?