TOTAL TIME:
20 minutes.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:
- Pebbles for each student
- A large bowl full of water

STORY:
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by E.B Lewis. This book was a winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.

STORY SYNOPSIS:
This beautifully illustrated story follows young Chloe at school as she encounters a new student, Maya. Maya wears secondhand clothing and is different from the other students. Maya smiles to other students, invites them to play jacks, and tries to make friends with Chloe. Chloe doesn’t smile back. She and her friends put down Maya’s secondhand and worn clothing. They give her a name: “Never New.” When Maya whispers to Chloe in the classroom another student taunts, “Chloe’s got a new friend. Chloe’s got a new friend.” “She’s not my friend.” Chloe fires back. One day Maya is no longer in the classroom. That day Chloe’s teacher, Ms. Albert, offers a metaphor for kindness: she places a big bowl of water in front of the class and drops a stone into the middle of the water.

    Tiny waves ripple out, away from the stone.
    This is what kindness does, Ms. Albert said.
    Each little thing we do goes out, like a ripple, into the world.

Chloe learns an important lesson about her actions and how her actions affect others. The story ends on a sad note as Chloe realizes she might not ever see Maya again and offer her kind words.

Literary Booster Activity:
Each Kindness

Teacher Tip!
This is a great activity to use for International Mix It Up Day in October! Learn more about Mix It Up Day at the Teaching Tolerance website, https://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up.
Pass out a pebble or a piece of gravel to each student. Instruct them to hold onto the pebble for the whole story. Read the story out loud to the students. Make sure they can see the wonderful illustrations. Follow with a short discussion.

**What are examples of unkind actions in the story?**

**What are examples of kind actions in the story?**

**What changed Maya’s thinking in the story?**

In the story, Ms. Albert offers a metaphor for kindness using a bowl of water and some stones.

Reproduce the activity in the story by demonstrating how each action we do at school is like dropping a stone in water. Each action has a ripple that spreads and extends and affects all of us. Instruct each student to share one act of kindness they can do at their school. When they share have them drop their stone into the water.

*Each kindness we offer to another person whether a smile, a kind word, or an invitation to play, ripples out in ways we can’t imagine. This is how we make a world where everyone can be themselves.*