Building Community

Read Aloud and Lesson
based on the book

Each Kindness by Jaqueline Woodson

In all our communities, there are people who have differences of practice, point of view, and appearance. It is, however, very important that we are kind and respectful to everyone. In the story **Each Kindness,** young Chloe, an elementary school student, learns that her bullying Maya, the new girl in class, has caused a lot of pain.

Maya is a new student at Chloe's school. Chloe and the other students judge her because her clothes look old and ragged. Being seated next to Chloe from her first day in the new school, Maya tries to get Chloe to talk to her and play with her. Chloe refuses and leaves Maya to be by herself throughout the school day. It is not until the classroom teacher does a lesson about "how even small acts of kindness can change the world," that Chloe realizes how much harm she has done. Maya moves away before Chloe can show her a little act of kindness and become her friend.

After you read*/listen to **Each Kindness** (Look on YOUTUBE for a read-aloud of this book), think about and discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think Chloe looked away and didn't smile when Maya first came into her classroom? Has Maya's experience ever happened to you? Be prepared to share.

2. If you were a student in that class and saw how the girls were treating Maya, what do you think you would do and why?

3. The classroom teacher said, "Each kindness makes the whole world a little bit better." What kind things do you do for other people in your home, school, and/or community?

4. It is never just new families in a community who are teased for one reason or another. To build a strong community, it is important that **everyone** in the community feels welcomed and valued. Think of a new and creative activity that you might plan that would bring all of the different families in your community together.