

Building Respect, Empathy, and Tolerance

Name: _____ Date: October 8th, 2025

Class: 8th Grade Health Teacher: Mrs. Soto

Part I: Reading Activity

Instructions: Read thoroughly the short story.

The New Student

When Maya moved to a new school, she felt nervous. On her first day, a group of students whispered and laughed when she walked into the cafeteria wearing clothes that looked a little different. She sat alone at lunch, pretending not to notice.

Later that week, Jordan, one of the students from that group, saw Maya struggling to carry her books in the hallway. For a moment, he thought about walking away to avoid being teased by his friends. But then he remembered how he had felt last year when people laughed at his accent after moving from another town.

Jordan decided to help Maya. He picked up one of her books and walked with her to class. His friends looked surprised, but he didn't care. From that day on, Maya began to smile more, and others started treating her with kindness.

Part 2: Annotation

As you read, write in your notebook the following from the story. Use the colors to organize the annotations.

- Values demonstrated: (examples of respect, empathy, or tolerance)
- Challenges faced: (problems the characters had to deal with)
- Decisions made: (choices that showed character and values)

Part 3: Discussion

Question: 

How do respect, empathy, and tolerance build healthier communities?

Part 4: Exit Ticket

 In three sentences, explain how the character showed respect.