

Classroom Activities

Based on *The Spaniel Family's Special Year*

For grades K-2nd

To Librarians and/or Teachers:

The Spaniel Family's Special Year is a story about a special year for the Spaniel family. This rhyming tale tells the story of the Spaniel Family spreading a year of cheer by doing random acts of kindness every month. This story reinforces learning the twelve months of the year and developing character traits. Those traits include, kindness, sharing, good citizenship, and responsibility. These worksheets are for you to utilize in the library/classroom along with *The Spaniel Family's Special Year* book.

There are three sections to the worksheets. Section one contains a simple definition of each character trait along with an example from book.

Section two is a match test for second grade. Students will match quotes from the book to its corresponding trait.

Section three contains exercises. The exercises will get your K-2nd grade students to think beyond the book. The second grade will be able to utilize their writing skills to answer the questions.

Section 1- Character Trait Definitions

Sharing:

Definition: A person who shares includes others in their activities.

Example from the story: When the two lonely dogs appeared and the Spaniel family gave them food, water, and a bed.

Good Citizenship:

Definition: A person who is a good citizen finds ways to serve others and make the community better. A good citizen is also loyal and respectful of our nation and honors and celebrates national events and holidays.

Example from the story: When the Spaniel family made red hearts and sent them to those who serve our communities.

Kindness:

Definition: A person who is kind is friendly, generous, and thinks of other's feelings.

Example from the story: When the Spaniel family gave free lemonade at the Fourth of July parade.

Responsibility:

Definition: A responsible person is someone whom others can count on to take care of important duties and tasks.

Example from the story: When the Spaniel family collected trash on the highways and made them good as new.

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Section 2 – Character Traits Match Game for Second Grade

Each of the four character traits listed on the left side of the page is assigned a letter.

A=Kindness, B=Responsibility, C=Good Citizenship, and D=Sharing. Actions from the book *The Spaniel Family's Special Year*, are on the right side of the page. Read the action and choose the trait or traits that best describe the quote (in many cases there is more than one trait being utilized). Circle the corresponding letter or letters. Good Luck!

A. Kindness

B. Responsibility

C. Good Citizenship

D. Sharing

A B C D When Maggie says, “A New Year is here! Let’s go spread some cheer!”

A B C D When the Spaniel family went to the hospital with daisies for all.

A B C D When the Spaniel family organized a canned food drive so all in their community can thrive.

A B C D When the Spaniel family decided to take a bath against bullying.

A B C D When the Spaniel family went to the old folk’s home and put on a good show.

A B C D When they go to the library and listen to their buddies read to them.

A B C D When they hear about a family who couldn’t afford Christmas and they baked treats and made gifts to take to them.

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Section 3- Exercises by Grade Level

Kindergarten

Ask students...What is your favorite time of the year?

Ask students after they have told their favorite time of the year... in what month does that favorite time happen?

Discuss all the months of the year and highlight something positive that happens in each month.

Discuss random acts of kindness. Use examples from your community, or from this story, or other books.

Ask students to think about someone or some group they could do something kind for.

Once they know who they want to do something kind for, ask them what they would do for them.

Have them draw a picture of their random act of kindness.

Classroom activities for *The Spaniel Family's Special Year*

For First Grade

Go over definition of sharing. Page two provides a definition of sharing.

Have students fill in the blanks.

I can share a _____ with _____.

Ask...Why is sharing good?

Go over the definition of good citizenship. Page two provides a definition of good citizenship.

Have the students fill in this blank.

I can be a good citizen of this school by _____

_____.

Go over definition of kindness. Page two provides a definition of kindness.

Discuss random acts of kindness. Use examples from your community, or from this story, or other books.

Have the students fill in this blank.

If I could do a random act of kindness I would _____

_____.

Go over the definition of responsibility. Page two provides a definition of responsibility.

Have the students fill in these blanks.

I am going to take responsibility for _____

because _____.

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First Grade continued

Discuss with the students their favorite times of the year and why.

Ask students after they have told their favorite time of the year... in what month does that favorite time happen?

Discuss all the months of the year and highlight something positive that happens in each month.

Have the students draw a picture of their random act of kindness during their favorite month.

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For Second Grade

Character Trait Questions

What could you share, and whom would you share it with?

What can you do in your community to be a good citizen?

Describe a random act of kindness you would like to do.

How can you take more responsibility at your school?

Why do you think the author wrote this story?
