

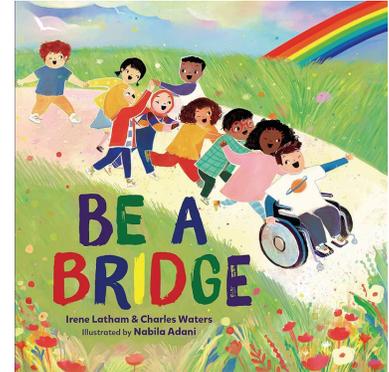


Be a Bridge

by Irene Latham and Charles Waters

This uplifting story encourages children to “be a bridge” in order to connect, include, and lift each other up. Through simple rhymes and diverse illustrations, readers see many ways they can build bridges of kindness and understanding every day by including others, listening, helping, and celebrating differences.

This story helps children think about empathy, collaboration, and accountability in their classrooms and communities.



Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to “be a bridge” in our classroom or on the playground?
 - Follow-up Prompt: Can you think of a time when you helped connect people or included someone new?
 - Leadership Connection: Leaders collaborate by bringing people together and helping everyone feel part of the team.
- The book says, “When someone’s left out, we reach out.” Why is that important?
 - Follow-up Prompt: What could you do if you see someone who looks lonely or left out?
 - Leadership Connection: Leaders show empathy by noticing how others feel and taking action to include them.
- Sometimes our “bridges” break, like when we hurt someone’s feelings or make a mistake.
 - Follow-up Prompt: What could you do or say to rebuild a friendship and make things right?
 - Leadership Connection: Leaders are accountable, they take responsibility for their actions and work to fix problems with kindness.



Classroom Activities

“Bridge Builders” Craft

- Students create paper bridges using construction paper, popsicle sticks, or cardboard.
- On each bridge, they write or draw one way they can build connections with others (e.g., “help a classmate,” “invite someone new to play,” “share my toys”).
- Display the bridges around the classroom to form a “Bridge of Kindness.”

“Bridge Buddies” Challenge

- Pair students up as “Bridge Buddies” for the week.
- Their goal is to look for ways to build bridges by helping each other, including others, or showing teamwork.
- At the end of the week, partners share examples of how they built bridges together.

Whole School Engagement Project

“Building Bridges of Kindness” Mural

- Each class creates one paper “bridge plank” labeled with something kind or inclusive they’ve done that week (“We invited someone new to play,” “We helped clean up,” “We worked as a team”).
- Combine all planks in a main hallway to form one giant bridge mural titled: “Together We Build Bridges of Kindness.”

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