

Letters to Calista –Kindness Writing Prompt

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1, 2, 4 & 6

! **ELA Writing** – Standards 3 & 8

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-taking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel empathy and compassion for animals and all living creatures through a simple follow up writing activity. Children will develop vocabulary and writing skills while they critically think of ways they can treat themselves and others with kindness.

PREPARATION: Meet **PAWFESSOR CALISTA** read the story Buddy Unchained by Daisy Bix and lead an interactive session on being kind, helping others, and speaking out when we see bullying or cruelty. This gives students basic knowledge of being kind, being a good friend and a responsible citizen and doing their part in stopping cruelty and neglect.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After meeting PAWFessor Calista and learning about how she has not only survived cruelty but has thrived due to love and kindness, the children will be given the following writing prompt:

Write a letter to Calista and tell her:

- **Why you promise to be kind and never be cruel**
- **How did meeting her empowered you to do your part to stop bullying and spread kindness?**
- **Ways you will be kind to a new student at your school or a classmate that you don't know well.**
- **Ways you will apologize to a peer you have acted in unkind ways to.**

Materials: Pencil, paper, crayons or markers for illustrations

Concepts: Building Character, helping children think about ways to be kind and ways to make a difference, ways to apologize, grow and change past behaviors.

CONCLUSION: Give children an opportunity to share their letters before sending them. Lucky Dog Humane Educators will collect letters to mail to Calista.

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