

Dear Educator,

Books open the door to learning, take us on adventures, and teach us kindness and empathy.

This free, standards-based program from Simon & Shuster Children’s Publishing and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired features familiar characters to help students build ELA and social skills.

We hope that you will share this program with other teachers. Let us know your opinion of these learning materials by visiting ymiclassroom.com/feedback-readandgrow. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

 SIMON & SCHUSTER
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Questions? Contact YMI
toll-free at 1-800-859-8005
or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

READ AND GROW

with Your Favorite Characters!

TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 1-3

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Available at ymiclassroom.com/readandgrow:

- This teacher’s guide
- Four reproducible student activity sheets
- A reproducible family letter
- A standards alignment chart

CONCEPTS & SKILLS

Kindness	Writing
Creativity	Reading
Growth Mindset	Communication
Self-Awareness	Goal Setting

ABOUT READ AND GROW

Read and Grow with Your Favorite Characters is inspired by several popular book series from Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing whose characters and stories grow with young readers as their skills and interests develop over the years: Sabrina Sue, Elvis & Romeo, The Worst!, Jasper Rabbit’s Creepy Tales, Faeries Welcome, the Click Clack Books, and the Chicka Chicka Books. Find all these books in a variety of formats — picture books and early reader books — at simonandschuster.com/p/read-and-grow.

HOW TO USE THE PROGRAM

Copy the activity sheets and have the students complete them independently, in small groups, or as a class. The activities can be used on their own or paired with reading the books that inspired them. Each activity can be aged up or down depending on the reading level of the students. Download and send home the family

letter to provide parents and caregivers with activities to enhance your students’ in-school learning experience. For additional information and resources, visit the program site at ymiclassroom.com/readandgrow.

Activity 1

DREAM BIG!

Inspired by Sabrina Sue

With younger students, you might read *Sabrina Sue the Epic Adventure* picture book. With older students, dive into one of her Ready-to-Read books such as *Sabrina Sue Loves the Sea*.

Explain to students that Sabrina Sue is a little chicken with big dreams. Sabrina dreams of visiting new and exciting places, and no one is going to stop her! Sabrina knows how to plan and prepare. Her passion for travel takes her on many adventures from the sea to the moon.

Pass out the activity sheet and review the instructions. For Part 1, ask students about their dreams. Where will those dreams take them? Who is part of their dream? Then have them draw a picture of their dream on the sheet. Students in grades 2 and 3 can also write about their dreams, explaining why they chose them.

For Part 2, ask students to consider what they will have to do to achieve their dreams — for example, practicing a sport or learning more about a particular subject. Younger students can draw their answers, while older students can write about their plan.

Create a bulletin board out of the completed work to show that your students dream big!



Activity 2

BE A GOOD FRIEND!

Inspired by the Click Clack Books

With younger students, you might read *Click Clack, Moo Cows That Type* or the new picture book *Click, Clack ... Tooth Fairy!* With older students, consider one of the Ready-to-Read books such as *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*.

Remind students that many of our favorite stories feature characters who are good friends, such as Duck who helps the cows in the Click Clack Books. Have students share examples of what it means to be a good friend from books they've read or their real-life experiences. Encourage students to consider that good friends are kind, helpful, and patient.

Pass out the activity sheet and go over the instructions. For Part 1, ask students to find the words that connote kindness. Brainstorm additional kindness vocabulary words together.

For Part 2, have students write examples of being kind and helpful to a friend on a paper strip, then loop their strips together to make a paper friendship chain. With younger students, brainstorm examples of kindness and write their ideas on the board for them to copy. Hang the friendship chain in a prominent place in the classroom and refer to it as you read stories about friendship, or when the students need a gentle reminder about being good friends.

Activity 3

KINDNESS AROUND ME

Inspired by *Elvis & Romeo*

For younger students, you might read *Elvis & Romeo*. For older students, consider one of the Ready-to-Read books about these highly unlikely friends such as *Elvis & Romeo Go to Dog School*.

In this activity, students will think about how a show of kindness makes them feel. Ask: *How do you feel when someone is kind, helpful, or patient with you?* Point out

that when we feel good about ourselves and each other, it makes the classroom a safe and friendly, fun place to be!

Pass out the activity sheet and go over the directions. For younger students, complete Part 1 together as a class and have them add a few words to their drawings in Part 2 rather than writing sentences. When done, invite students to share their descriptions and drawings.

Activity 4

THEY'RE NOT THE WORST!

Inspired by *The Worst!* Series

For younger students, consider reading *Unicorns Are the Worst!* For older students, try the new hilarious Ready-to-Read book, *Pigeons Are the Worst!*

Start this activity with a game: Name some items (kittens, mosquitoes, onions) and have the students give you a thumbs up to show that they like it, a thumb sideways if it's OK, or a thumbs down if it's the worst!

Explain that sometimes people think something is "the worst" until they get to know it, try it, or learn more about it. In the story *Unicorns Are the Worst!*, Gilbert the Goblin finds out that unicorns are not "the worst" once he gets to know them. In fact, he ends up being very thankful for them.

Pass out the activity sheet. For Part 1, younger students can do this activity as a class. For Part 2, invite younger students to share their answers in class and ask older students to write their answers on the sheet. Have students share their answers and see if they can persuade Gilbert!

RESOURCES

simonandschuster.com/p/read-and-grow

simonandschuster.net/grades-k-12

simonandschusterpublishing.com/readandlearn

ymiclassroom.com/readandgrow

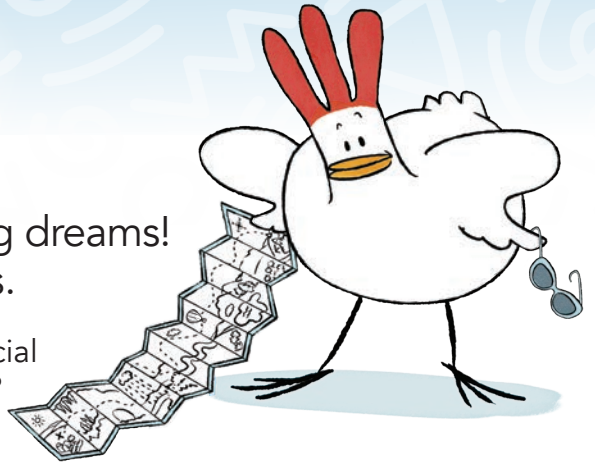


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Dream Big!

Meet Sabrina Sue. She is a little chicken with big dreams! She likes adventures and going to new places.



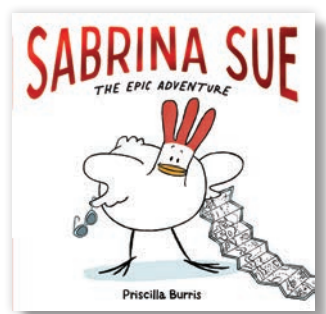
PART 1

What is your big dream? Are you visiting a special place or having an adventure, like Sabrina Sue?

Draw a picture and write about YOUR big dream.

PART 2

What can you do to help make your dream come true? For example, if your dream is to be a singer, you can take music lessons. If your dream is to play basketball, you can join a team. On the back of this sheet, draw a picture to show what you can do to make your dream come true. Add a description, too.



Families,
check out
these books
together.

Be a Good Friend!

Meet Farmer Brown and his barnyard animals — cows, ducks, chickens, pigs, and more. These animal friends work together to help each other.



PART 1

What makes a good friend? Circle the words about how good friends act.

kind

letter

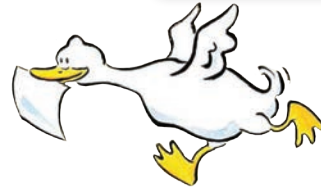
fun

patient

helpful

dog

duck



PART 2

How are you kind and helpful to friends? Write your answers in the boxes below. Then color and cut them out to make links for your class friendship chain.

How I am kind

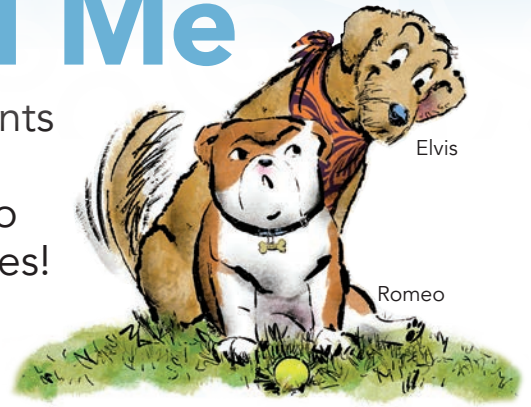


How I am helpful



Kindness Around Me

Meet Romeo and Elvis. Elvis is a bulldog who wants a little peace and quiet. Romeo is a doodle who wants to make new friends and play. They are two very different dogs, but they become best buddies!



PART 1

Kind actions are the key to friendship. Add a mouth to each emoji face to show how these kind actions would make you feel.



A friend shares their new markers with you.



A friend helps you with your math.



A friend asks you to play your favorite game with them.

PART 2

It feels good when someone is kind to you. How do you feel when you are kind to others? Write about a time when you were kind. Then draw a picture about it.

Families,
check out
these books
together.



Gilbert

Gilbert

Match the scrambled words below to see who Gilbert thinks is "the worst".

unicorns

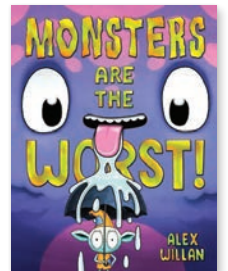
Choose one of the characters from the list in Part 1. Write a paragraph to persuade Gilbert they are not the worst. Include three reasons. Be creative!



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UNICORNS
ARE THE
WORST!

ALEX WILLIAMSON



READ AND GROW

with Your Favorite Characters!

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In class, your child is learning about friendship, kindness, and dreaming big with some of their favorite storybook characters, all while building their reading, writing, and communication skills. It's a great opportunity to talk with your child about what they have learned and what they enjoyed about the characters they met.

All the characters introduced in this reading program appear in more than one book format — from picture books to early readers — and are designed by Simon & Schuster to grow with your young readers as their skills and interests develop over the years. We hope that you and your child will browse the books in these featured series at your library, local bookstore, or online at simonandschuster.com/p/read-and-grow:

- **Chicka Chicka:** Check out these brightly illustrated picture books for a rollicking, rhyming introduction to the alphabet, counting, holidays, and more.
- **Click Clack:** Join the clever farm animals in Farmer Brown's barn for fun and surprises. A new picture book is available in November.
- **Elvis & Romeo:** Share the charming misadventures of two very different dogs who become unlikely friends.
- **Fairies Welcome:** Follow Fiona, a young Black fairy whose days are filled with whimsical adventures.
- **Jasper Rabbit's Creepy Tales:** Jasper's chance encounters with creepy objects set the stage for hare-raising, side-splitting tales in this beloved series.
- **Sabrina Sue:** She's a barnyard chicken with big dreams! Follow her adventures in this smart, sassy, silly series perfect for beginning readers.
- **The Worst!:** Meet a curmudgeonly goblin who can tell you exactly what makes various creatures the worst in this wildly funny and imaginative series for young readers.

To help your child build a love of reading, try these ideas:

- Create a dedicated space to display books in your home.
- Schedule weekly trips to the public library.
- Establish a "family reading time" once a week, when screens are turned off and books are opened.
- Integrate reading with other activities, such as reading a book about a waterfall and then hiking to see one.
- Share your favorite childhood books with your child and ask them to share theirs with you.



For more books featuring your child's favorite characters, visit simonandschusterpublishing.com/readandlearn.



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