

# Questions and Family Activities



## Comprehension Questions:

- What was the Erodian looking for? (treasure)
- What was the great unkindness that caused the Drig and Wasser families to be enemies? (The black borderstone in middle field had been moved and each family blamed the other for their chiefs not returning home.)
- What happened to Amelia Wasser? (The family orchid was cut.) Who did she blame? (The Drig family) What happened to Gwendolyn Drig (Someone cut her long hair while she was sleeping) Who did she blame? (The Wasser family) Who was really to blame? (The Erodian)
- What did Alexander take from the Erodine while he was sleeping? (his backpack) What was in the backpack? (The family orchid, Gwendolyn's hair and the treasure map)
- Where was the treasure buried? (Under the borderstone in middle field) What was in the chest? (A letter) Who was the letter from? (The Chief Drig and Chief Wasser) What did they ask? (That each year their families celebrate their friendship in middle field)

## Discussion Questions:

- Does it take courage to be kind? Why?
- Does kindness make a difference? How?
- How do you feel when you are kind? How do you feel when you are unkind?
- Who should you be kind to? What if they aren't being kind to you?

## Scenarios:

Use the following as a test scenario. Then fill in with your own examples (and have children come up with some of their own).

Say, "I'm going to tell you about some children and you tell me whether what they do is kind or unkind and if you'd do anything differently."

- Timmy is invited to play at Rob's house, but after he's been there about a half hour, he says, "I'm tired of playing with you. I'm going to Zachary's house."
- Jenny's mom makes a nice dinner for her family. But Jenny doesn't like what's for dinner. She whines, "Mom, you know I HATE this!"
- At school one day, Sarah says to Jane, "You have really pretty red hair."



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- Joe's brother Max took out all Joe's legos and spread them all over his room. Joe finds the mess and starts yelling at Max.
- Daniel sees that his little brother is looking sad on the playground at school. He puts his arm around his brother and asks what's wrong.

## Family Activity Ideas:

**Good Deeds:** As a family, choose someone for whom you'd like to do a good deed. The person could range from a best friend to an elderly neighbor. The good deed could be taking them a plate of cookies, raking the leaves from their yard, making them a cute card, or something else very simple. Kindnesses performed together can be some of life's most memorable experiences. If you'd like to take on something bigger, this month is a great time to brainstorm ideas for kind things you can do for others for Christmas. Would you like to serve at a soup kitchen? Sing at a nursing home? Do a Sub-for-Santa for a needy family? Work to earn money for needy children or give away some of the money that would otherwise be used for your Christmas?

**Dinner Question:** Every day at the dinner table this month, ask children "what did you do for someone else today?" As you keep asking this question, they'll start to have more and better answers over time. Praise them up and down for the good things they report. As you drop them off for school and preschool or for playdates, remind them to watch out for something kind they can do for someone else. At home, remind them to look for opportunities to be kind to their siblings and parents.

**Create a New Friend Chart:** Talk about how fun and important it is to make new friends and help people around us feel like we like and appreciate them. Decide together on a specific number of new friends/acquaintances you'll work make in one week. Talk about ideas for making friends/acquaintances. Brainstorm simple questions we can ask or things we can say to people we're just meeting:

- Where do you live? How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- What's your favorite animal?
- What's your favorite thing to play at recess? Want to play that with me this recess?
- I really like your hair/smile/shoes/handwriting/etc.
- Great job on \_\_\_\_\_!

**Have a Manners and Conversation Dinner Party.** Use a tablecloth, nice plates and napkins. Make a favorite dish. Create simple invitations for each family member. Encourage everyone to practice their nicest table manners, ask each other polite questions, and really listen to each other without interrupting (if you want to make it extra fun, have everyone speak with a British accent if they wish!)

**Encourage Real Friendship At Home.** Discuss how we are each others' very best friends in our family but that sometimes we don't treat each other in a very kind and friendly way. Set up a special "code word" or "secret sign" that you'll say when you observe a child saying or doing something that isn't very kind and friendly to another family member. For example, a child gets angry with another child for not hurrying faster to get into the car to go somewhere and you get the attention of the angry child then say "remember best friends" or draw a heart in the air or something like that. Then the child remembers the discussion you've had and tries to be kinder.



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