



Eva Grayzel

Motivational Storyteller

The Weight of Words

Adapted by Eva Grayzel

Once again, this third grader hurt the feelings of a classmate. With every hurtful statement, there was a consequence: no recess, time-out, a meeting with the principal. No matter what the teacher did, this child repeated the hurtful behavior.

One snowy afternoon, after he blurted more hurtful words, the teacher assigned him an extra homework assignment: to answer the question, 'Can the weight of one snowflake make a difference?'

Alone, because he had few friends, the boy began to count the snowflakes settling on the thin branch just outside his bedroom window. When he reached 624 the small branch suddenly broke off. The weight of one snowflake changed the life of this tree forever. He was excited to report this to his teacher.

"You have special skills I wasn't aware of until now. Only a very patient, motivated and focussed young man could count so many snowflakes."

The teacher paused and continued. "Now imagine each snowflake is a word. When words are directed to another and they are complimentary, the words alone can motivate someone to surpass everyone's expectations. But, just one hurtful word can be like the 624th snowflake and cause the person to feel broken. Hurtful words repeated over time can cause a person to feel broken for the rest of their lives.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY

There is something magical in a great story; imaginations are exercised, hearts are stirred, and new thinking emerges. This story is designed to be a quick, easy read with a valuable message, providing readers a motivational lift.

- Positively influence your day by treating yourself to an uplifting message.
- Share this story with co-workers. Discuss and bond with your team over core values.
- Read this story to children at bedtime or in a car to promote healthy communication.

GENERATE NEW THINKING AND INITIATE DIALOGUE BY ASKING THESE QUESTIONS:

What's the lesson to be learned?

How do you see yourself in the story?

If you could change anything in the story, what would it be?

How will this narrative change what you do or think?

Who would you share the story with and why?

AFTER READING THE STORY WITH CHILDREN, TRY THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

Role-play/act out the story. Include simple props (hats, scarves).

Reword the core message of the story in rhyme.

Pick a holiday or a birthday and make a tradition of sharing a story.

Ask an older relative for personal story related to the message. Start a collection of family stories.

Record any personal stories that arise from these family activities.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL: WHAT'S YOURS? SHARE AND CREATE CONNECTIONS

Who influenced your life and how?

What is your love story?

What is your greatest fear?

Who would you like to forgive or receive forgiveness from?

What would you do differently with a second chance?

ABOUT EVA GRAYZEL: SPEAKER, SURVIVOR, STORYTELLER

I call myself a Motivational Storyteller because every story I share, whether on a big stage or in a small group, is thoughtfully crafted to educate, entertain and inspire audiences.

This is just one of many stories available to you on EvaGrayzel.com. I would love to hear how you used the story and if it facilitated communication. If you are looking for a story on a particular subject, don't hesitate to ask.

Happy Storytelling!

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