

Kids Style™

Getting to Know You Understanding Each Other for the Greater Good



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The third/fourth grade component of the

Kids Styletm

series of instructional stories.

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Greater Good

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Kids Style

This is a book about understanding each other, why kids act the way they do and how we can all be the best we can be together.

“Style” is the **you** or the **me** that is on display everyday – the **you** or the **me** that everyone sees.

Kids Style looks at ways of understanding each other’s style – why we sometimes act differently from one another.

Along the way you’ll meet some characters who will likely become your friends or maybe they are already your friends but with different names.

CHAPTER 1

Meet the Kids

Meet Alex who likes to be with other people. She works hard to maintain friendships and comes up with all kinds of exciting ways to play with groups of kids. Other kids like to hang around with Alex because she is forever suggesting new ideas and possibilities and makes school projects and playing games on the playground fun. She enjoys being the center of attention. She seems to use her relationships to create enthusiasm in others and finds it easier to get things done with people she likes and who like her.

Alex often shouts out answers in class so that the teacher pays attention to her. Sometimes her eagerness and thinking of new ideas makes it hard for her to focus. She gets into trouble when she talks without thinking or when she fools around too much with kids around her. She doesn't hold back on what she's feeling and sometimes gets so excited that she exaggerates.



Just the other day, Alex decided to start the “Cool Club” and invited everyone to join. She thought it would be fun to be part of a group that liked to have fun like she did. To become a member of the “Cool Club” you had to bring in new ideas for fun things to do together and decide right away if you wanted to join.

Amy really wanted to join the “Cool Club” but was a little shy about participating as much as Alex seemed to want her to. Amy wondered if the other kids would like her ideas. Alex told her it would be okay and she should just join in right away. Drew thought he and Andy could help write the Club rules because that would be fun for them. Alex told Drew that would be okay as long as the rules didn’t hold anyone back. Andy still wasn’t sure if he would have time to join in and if the group would really do things he liked to do. He wanted to wait to decide.



Meet Amy whose friends are important to her and who works hard to be a true friend to everyone. Kids like to confide in her and know that she'll be there for them and happy to help. In class she doesn't like to raise her hand to answer a question

and would rather see what her classmates think first. She often has good ideas but many times chooses not to bring them up if they might lead to disagreements with other kids.

Just the other day, Amy was playing with Drew, Andy and Alex. Everyone had their own idea about what to do. Drew wanted to play kickball and told everyone he would start the game. Andy thought it would be a smart idea to practice math before the test tomorrow, and Alex wanted to teach everyone a new cheer her older sister taught her. They asked Amy what she would like to do but Amy said she'd do what everyone else wanted to do. After everybody decided, she joined in.

Meet Andy who likes to look at things in greater detail. Some would say that he is “picky” when he takes a long time to decide what games to play. Andy would tell you that he wants to make a good decision and needs time to think through all the options.

Andy likes to play quietly alone or with just a few kids at a time, avoiding big groups. Often, Andy is seen walking around the playground by himself with his hands in his pockets deep in his own thoughts.



In class, Andy is not one to volunteer answers and avoids jumping in without having all the details. When he is asked to participate, his contributions tend to be organized and well thought-out. It's hard to tell by his expressions what Andy's feelings are about any particular situation in class.

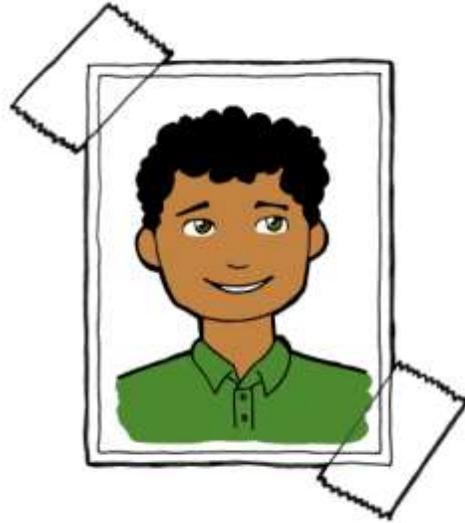
Just the other day, Andy was on the bus after school when Alex and a few classmates sat down around Andy, taking the remaining seats. They were talking

about a costume party coming up. After a few minutes and even though Andy was not joining in, Alex turned to Andy and asked if he would want to help with some of the preparations for the party.

Andy was taken off-guard and didn't know how to respond so he remained quiet. Alex quickly jumped in by adding that she thought it would be fun and that Andy's attention to detail is exactly what they needed to get the party ready. Andy conceded that he would have to think about whether he had enough spare time to work on the party plans with them. He asked if he could tell her tomorrow. To himself, he wondered how the preparations could be ready in time for a party in two weeks.

Meet Drew, who views himself as a natural born leader who likes to be in charge and, most of the time, he's good at it! With Drew in control you know things are going to get done and get done quickly. He's an "action man"—competitive and tough. In fact, sometimes he can appear to be pushy and even a bully.

Just the other day, all the kids were organizing a baseball game and Drew made himself captain and supervised the choices for both teams. Wasn't it great that Drew brought his new bat and ball to share? He even asked



Mr. Tanner, the gym teacher, if they could use the bases from the locker room storage cabinet.

As Drew picked the teams, Amy reminded him she wanted all of her friends on her team. Others tried to help out too—Alex wanted her team's shirts to be red and Andy thought it was important for each team to have an equal number of boys and girls. As far as Drew was concerned, all of their suggestions were unimportant. So, he just grabbed the ball, took the mound and shouted, "Batter up."

Chapter 1 Questions

Alex's Challenge Worksheet for _____



1. Which sentence best describes the story?

- A. *The reader is introduced to the characters in the story.*
- B. *The reader learns about a new school.*
- C. *The reader is introduced to the "Cool Club."*
- D. *The reader learns about a new game.*

2. When the students were organizing a baseball game, Andy thought it was important for each team to have an equal number of boys and girls. There were 6 girls and 8 boys. How many boys and girls would be on each team if Andy got his wish?

- A. *2 girls and 3 boys*
- B. *3 girls and 3 boys*
- C. *3 girls and 4 boys*
- D. *4 girls and 4 boys*

3. Why did Alex want to start the "Cool Club"?

- A. *Alex didn't have any friends.*
- B. *Alex was too shy.*
- C. *Alex thought it would be fun.*
- D. *Alex didn't want to play baseball.*

