

# TEACHING TOLERANCE



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MIDDLE GRADES ACTIVITY

K 1 2 3 4 5 **6 7 8** 9 10 11 12

## Someone Else's Shoes

Take one character card, pair up with a classmate, and read your card aloud while your partner practices being an empathetic listener. Then, switch roles: practice being empathetic as your partner, as his character, tells you what he is experiencing.

Marcus is a star quarterback on the school football team. During one of the final games of the season, he was injured badly, so badly that he couldn't play in the rest of the games, nor could he go to school for three months.

Chen always admired her friend Lucy's wardrobe. One day, when they were hanging out at Lucy's house, Chen asked to borrow Lucy's expensive blue sweater. Lucy said she could, but then made fun of Chen, telling everyone at school that Chen couldn't afford her own nice clothes.

During a school field trip, Juan had a seizure in front of his entire class. He came out of it to find all his classmates staring at him. His doctors told him he has a condition where he could have a seizure anytime.

Anita's best friend confided in her about a surprise birthday party she had planned to throw for her brother. Anita accidentally let the secret slip, and now her best friend won't talk to her.

After practicing for months, Kelsey tripped and fell during her routine for the school talent show. One of her classmates, who was using a cellphone to videotape the show, posted the clip of Kelsey's fall on the Internet the next day.

Bali found out that a nasty rumor being spread about her was started by a former friend.

All of Violet's friends are constantly talking about the prom—the dresses they're going to buy, how they're going to do their hair, where they're going to eat. Violet wants to go, but the tickets are expensive, and her mom just lost her job.

Rochelle was one of five students selected to represent her school in a national math competition. The final showdown was between Rochelle's team and another school. The score was tied with only one question remaining. The question went to Rochelle, who got it wrong, allowing the other team to win.

Lenny has worked at the same pizza place for over a year and has always done a great job. One day, he overcharged a customer by accident. The new boss thought Lenny did it on purpose to pocket the difference and fired him.

Shaun's brother's ex-girlfriend kissed Shaun at a school dance last weekend. Shaun didn't kiss her back, but he decided not to tell his brother about the incident just to be safe. Shaun's brother found out anyway and is angry with him.

Micah emailed Emily, admitting his crush on her. Emily forwarded the email to all of her friends, some of whom then teased Micah on a social networking site about his crush on Emily.

Alex discovered that his teammate cheated by copying from his paper during the Spanish final.