The Prince, and The Elf Too

Written By Curt Vevang
Illustrated By
The Book Illustrators Club of Virginia Lake Elementary School
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Dedication

The concept of treating others the way you would like to be treated if you were in their shoes has been around for more than two thousand years. This idea is expressed in many different forms by different religions and cultures but its essence is always the same, having respect for your fellow man. Yet this seemingly simple concept has proven very elusive over the ages and continues to be just as elusive today.

This book is dedicated to all of those idealists in the world, like myself, who believe that someday if people hear this adage often enough it may begin to sink in and gain traction. Hopefully then, people may begin to realize that we earn respect, not by the sword but instead by respecting others.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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As our tale begins
we're about to find,
a prince and an elf
on the isle of Kind.
They're both very nice,
like you and like me,
especially the prince,
as soon we will see.
The elf is a boy
and his name is Bruce.
He makes silly sounds,
sometimes like a goose.
He honks so well and
his honk is so pure,
is he a real goose?
The geese are not sure.
The prince is his friend
and they like to play.
But where should they go
on this summer day?
The prince then exclaimed,
I know what we'll do.
I'll make a fun lunch,
we'll eat at the zoo.
The prince packed cookies
for his buddy Bruce,
a jelly sandwich
and blueberry juice.
And next he prepared
his own favorite lunch,
banana tacos
and strawberry punch.
Then off to the zoo,
Bruce was excited,
so happy and pleased
to be invited.
They talked as they walked
and then sang a song.
As they were singing
two knights came along.
They greeted the prince with majestic praise.
One gave him a jar of green mayonnaise.

Prince you’re the greatest,
you’re smart and adored,
but all of the while,
elf Bruce was ignored.
They begged the young prince  
  to join them and play,  
  to swim in the sea,  
  and have a fun day.  
But the prince declined  
  and made an excuse.  
He thought it not nice  
  to leave his friend Bruce.
The rejected knights
went on in dismay,
surprised the young prince
would answer that way.
Bruce too was surprised,
because he sure knew,
the prince liked swimming
much more than the zoo.
That green mayonnaise
Bruce thought in his head,
it sure would taste great
with jelly and bread.
The prince sensed his wish
and gave it to Bruce,
a large enough jar
to feed a big moose.
Shortly thereafter

they got to the zoo.

The first thing they saw,

you'll never guess who.

Nine baby goslings

swimming in a pond

while one goose trainer,

stood waving her wand.
Bruce got excited
and made his goose sound.
This caused the trainer
to look all around.
The trainer was sure
that one must be loose
because Bruce's honk
was just like a goose.
The sheep next door found
the honking quite rude.

A little lamb said,
Hey, listen here dude.

Don't come to the zoo
and bother us sheep
especially the ones
that are fast asleep.
But since I'm awake,
what's that you have there?
That jar of green stuff,
would you like to share?
Why of course, said Bruce,
to the cute young lamb,
here's green mayonnaise
for your bread and jam.
As Bruce walked away
he felt good he shared
and the lamb was glad
that somebody cared.

Perhaps the prince too,
when he's nice to me,
has a good feeling,
I'll ask him and see.
So later that day
Bruce asked the prince why,
Why are you my friend
when I’m small and shy?
You could play with knights,
and swim in the sea,
but instead you choose
to spend time with me?
The prince reflected
and thought for a while
then answered his friend
with a kindly smile.
He said, Yes I could,
ignore you all right,
you’re not very tough
compared to a knight.
But how would I feel,
    I know I’d feel bad,
if things were reversed,
    I’d be really sad.
I wouldn’t like it,
    left all by myself,
if you were the prince
    and I were the elf.
As I go through life,
I always recall,
that I find these words,
the best words of all.
Always treat others
in all things you do
the same way you’d want
others treating you.
The Illustrators of pages 3-15
Showing the page number of their illustration

Back Row (from the left)
Mariah Young, Ariana Kerr, Juan Alba, Megan Stoffel
Front Row (from the left)
Paige Millstone, Sydney Wright, Amelia Perez
The Illustrators of pages 17-29

Back Row (from the left)
Aidan Haffl, Alexandra Munoz, Sarah Holdeman,
Rutvi Shah
Front Row (from the left)
Maja Popovich, Ryan Tragesser, Kinsey Fletcher

The Illustrators of pages 31-37 and the front and back cover

Back Row (from the left)
Sam Millstone, Norah Joseph, Nathalie Bermudez,
Ravi Shah
Front Row (from the left)
Zoey Kleeburg, Bryan Wang, Elisabet Mena
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

From The Word of the Day - May 4, 2013
Droll

adjective: amusing in an odd way; whimsically humorous
noun: a droll person; jester; wag.
verb: Archaic. to jest; joke.
From the French - droll which means "pleasant rascal."

Most of us remember as children being introduced to the
word droll describing the "droll little mouth" on Santa
Claus. Whatever that meant. As children we never
thought or cared to ask. I'm quite sure I haven't used the
word droll until now. After all, how many people do we
describe as having a droll little mouth when we're not
even sure what it means. But I do like words like droll with
multiple parts of speech: adjective, noun and verb, since
it is very difficult to misuse them. I am now inclined to use
droll to describe myself. In fact I consider it an ideal to
aspire to.

I saw the word "droll", I read what it meant.
I'm sure that it was intended for me.
It describes my traits, to a large extent,
I must be a droll, I can plainly see.

What makes one a droll? Well I hate to brag.
A whimsical bloke, is what people say.
A pleasant rascal, a humorous wag.
and yet amusing in quite an odd way.