

CRUEL TO BE KIND!



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To understand that some actions may at first appear unkind but are of benefit later on.

Suggested Resources:

Locate the song *Cruel to be Kind* by Nick Lowe
<https://youtu.be/ANPXsMiK-Dc> [available 03/15].

Script:

“Does anyone know what the phrase *cruel to be kind* means? It’s a phrase that was used over 400 years ago by Shakespeare whose character Hamlet tells his mother “I must be cruel only to be kind.” It must be an important idea because it is still used today;”

Play the song *Cruel to be Kind* by Nick Lowe.

“The phrase *cruel to be kind* means to act towards someone in a way which may seem harsh now, but will ultimately be of benefit to them. Here are some examples:

A parent who takes away a child’s gaming console because they are playing late at night and not getting enough sleep.

Preventing a dog from eating dark chocolate,

which is harmful to canines.

An athlete whose trainer makes them exercise for hours a day and only eat certain foods.

Ask the children to share some examples from their own lives.

The lyrics of the song talk about being *cruel to be kind... in the right measure*. Measure in this sense means a balance or in the correct proportion.

Often a parent has to balance kindness with discipline. Have you ever wanted to stay at home and your parent has insisted that you go to school? Can you explain why parents usually don’t want you to stay at home even when you want to be there?”

Is it possible to show too much kindness to someone? Ask the children to use drama, story writing or another form of creativity to explore scenarios where too much kindness has a detrimental effect.

