CARING

WHO CARES?
LOTS OF PEOPLE!

ED U. GATOR'S CARE PACKAGE

TOM CRUISE: A REAL LIFE-SAVER
Who cares about other people? Who cares about animals and plants and other living things? Who cares about the Earth and its natural resources? Who cares about doing the right thing, acting responsibly and showing respect?

You do, of course! Because, if you didn't really care about what happens to other people and things, and if nobody else cared either, this would be a pretty sad and lonely world.

And who would care for you? Who would feed you when you were hungry, or help you when you were sick? Who would give you hugs and encouragement when you were feeling down in the dumps? Well, if nobody cared, then nobody would!

You probably have many people in your life who do care about you, like friends, brothers and sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, doctors, neighbors...Wow! That's quite a long list of caring individuals! You must be in good hands!

So now it's your turn to show you care. Take care of your friends and family. Care about others who may need your help. Show you care about the Earth by throwing out your trash, recycling and conserving water and electricity. And, while you're doing all this wonderful caring stuff, don't forget to care about yourself, too!

Vocabulary:
Natural resources: a supply of something that comes from the Earth.
Encourage: to make someone feel more confident.
Conserve: to protect from waste or harm.

Activity:
Think about a family pet, or a neighborhood dog or cat. Who is responsible for caring for this animal? What would happen if you, or that responsible person, stopped taking care of it?
Hi friends. Ed here. Earlier this week, Mr. Salam Ander was teaching our class about hurricanes and tornadoes. It’s amazing how powerful storms and winds can be! Then on Wednesday, there was a real live tornado in Marshland Quarters, less than 200 miles from here. It wiped out 10 houses and left 47 people without homes.

I have to admit, when Mr. Ander first told us about those people, I wasn’t paying much attention. I was too busy thinking about our upcoming baseball game against the Crossriver Crocs. Mr. Ander asked the class if anyone cared to help round up clothing and supplies for the people in Marshland. A couple of kids volunteered. I was thinking to myself, “I don’t know any of those people in Marshland. They live pretty far from here.” And besides, I was more concerned about practicing for the big game. When class was over, Mr. Ander said he was a little disappointed in the number of volunteers. He hoped more of us would consider helping the unfortunate people of Marshland.

Later that night when I went to bed, I lay there thinking for a long time. What would it be like if a tornado or a hurricane hit Gatorsville Park and we lost our house and everything in it? I looked around my room. Boy, it would be tough to do without my books, my computer, my CDs and all my clothes. It would be like starting over with nothing! The more I looked around my room, and the more I thought about it, the more I realized how lucky I was to have all this stuff and a roof over my head. So I got up out of bed and emptied out a big cardboard box full of games. I went through my drawers and closet and found some shirts and pants that I didn’t really wear very much anymore. I found some books that I had already read, and some games that I hadn’t played in a long time. There had to be some kids in those 10 Marshland homes!

So, it turns out I really did care about those 47 people in Marshland Quarters, even though I had never met any of them. You never know when you’re going to be in a similar situation, needing someone else to care about you!

**Questions**

1) What happened to the people of Marshland Quarters?

2) At first, why wasn’t Ed very concerned about them?

3) Why was Mr. Ander disappointed in the class?

4) What did Ed realize later in bed? Why did he think he was pretty lucky?

5) What did he do that showed he cared?

6) Can you think of some other ways you could have helped the people of Marshland Quarters?
I’M A CARING KID!

Directions: In what ways do you show you care about the following:

Your Friends

Your Family

Pets and Other Animals

The Earth

Yourself

WHAT IS THE COLOR OF CARING?

Directions: These flowers are being arranged so they can be delivered to someone special. Color in the drawing with crayons or markers.
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: Often there are stories in the paper about good-hearted, responsible people who show how much they care for others or for the Earth. Look through the paper with an adult, and find a story about one of these caring people. Read it together. Then, with help if you need it, write a few words in the space below, or draw a picture that illustrates what happened in the story.

SHOWING I CARE ABOUT YOU

Directions: Think about someone you know who isn’t feeling well, or someone you haven’t seen in a long time. Create your own “Get Well” card, or “Just Thinking About You” card. Decorate the front with a drawing, then write a few words that show how much you care about this person. Don’t forget to sign it before you send it!
there was once a very careless kid named Corey. He was careless with his toys, which he often left strewn on the floor of his room or abandoned on the stairs. He was careless with his clothes, which he piled up in the corner of his room or in the bottom of his closet, or bunched up in his drawers. He was careless with his pet fish, Casey, whom he neglected to feed for days at a time. Basically, the only thing that Corey really cared about was himself!

His parents were forever reminding Corey about his carelessness: "You need to pick up your toys before they get broken or lost." Or, "You need to take care of your clothes so they're not all wrinkled, stained or ripped." Or, "You need to take better care of Casey or he'll die!" But since Corey didn't really care, he never did what his parents said. Usually his mom and dad picked up and repaired all of Corey's toys. They washed, ironed and neatly put away his clothes, and fed poor old Casey. But one day, they decided enough was enough. So they stopped picking up after Corey, and stopped taking care of his fish.

Two weeks went by. Corey's room looked like a hurricane had been through it! There were broken toys and wrinkled, stained, and ripped clothes everywhere. And poor old Casey was floating upside down in his dirty, smelly fish bowl. One day Corey came bursting into the house after school. "Hey mom, I've been invited to a party over at Edward's house this afternoon. I'm supposed to put on some nice clothes and bring my favorite toy. May I go?" His mom said it was okay. But when Corey went up to his room, he couldn't find any nice clothes that weren't stained, ripped or wrinkled. He couldn't find any toys that weren't broken or missing pieces.

He ran downstairs and asked his mom to wash and iron a shirt for him. But she told him she was too busy repairing the dishwasher. He asked his dad to fix one of his favorite toys. But his Dad said he was too busy preparing dinner. So Corey went back upstairs and sat down sadly on the edge of his bed. He had nothing to wear and nothing to bring to Edward's party. Then he noticed, for the first time in several days, old Casey floating lifeless in his bowl. "Oh no!" he cried. "Look what I've done now!"

It's unfortunate, but sometimes it takes a disaster for people to realize how important it is to care about things. Corey spent that afternoon and evening carefully picking up his toys and straightening up the clothes in his drawers and closet. He buried old Casey in the garden behind the house. And from that day on, Corey became a very responsible and caring kid.
Tom Cruise is a very popular movie star. He has acted in many blockbuster films like *Top Gun*, *Rain Man* and *Mission: Impossible*.

Some people think big movie stars are so rich and famous that they only care about themselves. But that’s definitely not the case with Tom Cruise. Many times throughout his life, Cruise has gone out of his way, and even risked his own life, to help people in need. You could say he’s made a career of caring!

In 1996 alone, Tom Cruise helped save people’s lives three times! Once he rushed to take care of a woman who had been hit by a car, and then personally paid her $7,000 hospital bill. Another time he saved two small boys from being crushed in a crowd of people waiting to see *Mission: Impossible*. A third time, Cruise and the crew of his yacht rescued an entire family from a burning sailboat. Cruise is truly a man of action!

Cruise was born in 1962 and grew up in Syracuse, New York, and Ottawa, Canada. He started acting as a teenager in movies, commercials and television shows. His talent, and his multitude of fans, grew quickly. Today he is one of the most successful actors in the world. But Cruise has never stopped caring for other people. In a recent interview in *Newsweek* magazine, Cruise said, “I think we’ve all got to help each other out.” Cruise is a man who lives by his words!

VOCABULARY:
Blockbuster: a movie that makes a lot of money.
Yacht: a large boat or a small ship.
Interview: a meeting in which a person is asked questions.
TIPS

1) Children often learn caring behavior from observing the way adults around them interact with their world. Since caring is a trait you probably wish to instill in your child, look for opportunities to model compassion for other people and living things. Take your child along when you visit a sick friend or an elderly neighbor. Take your child to the veterinarian with you when your family pet needs attention. Let your child tag along with you on your next recycling run. If your child sees that caring is a significant aspect of your daily life, it will come more naturally to him, too.

2) It's important to convey that caring is a way of life, not just something you happen to do in a particular situation. When you're a caring individual, you show compassion for all living things, from the tiniest ladybug to members of the human race. You take care of your personal items and you take care of the Earth. Caring means you strive to do the right thing and act responsibly all the time.

3) We constantly tell our kids things like 'Be nice to your brother' or 'Give your grandpa a big hug.' Caring about members of our family and people we know well is very important, but it's also essential to teach your child to feel compassion for nameless people across town and around the world. When possible, educate your child about homelessness and world hunger. Your child may want to contribute in some small way to helping others. At the very least, he may be more appreciative of the things he has, including the roof over his head.

4) Like every other positive behavior, catching your child demonstrating compassion and letting her know how much you respect her for it, will only encourage more of the same. Caring is not second nature with most young kids. Acknowledging caring when you see it will help her learn appropriate ways to interact with her world. Let her know that her little caring contribution will make a big difference and go a very long way!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

There are several ways your child could personally experience caring and compassion for others. Perhaps your child could contribute a toy or an article of clothing of his choice to a charity or a mission. Maybe he could contribute a part of his allowance or savings to buy a couple of cans of food for a food drive or help buy a ticket for a benefit concert. If you decide to do one or more of the above, make sure your child understands where his contribution is going, and how much his effort will help.

RESOURCES


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