



# Giving the Gift of Words

*In the final days before the holiday break, fourth grade teacher Claudia Jackson read Virginia Fleming's Be Good To Eddie Lee to her Wilbur Wright fourth graders. She then facilitated a classroom discussion about how people treat others; she talked about how people's lights all shine differently. Using that as her springboard, Claudia announced that each student was going to give another student the gift of words. They were going to write a piece, describing how the peer is special and how his/her light shines. She then discussed what those special qualities might include (i.e. helpful, quiet, good at reading or kickball, funny, loyal, joyful, etc.)*

*She then modeled writing a "Gift of Words" for the principal. The students helped. During this process they talked about the traits of word choice*

*and voice. They really wanted to be intentional and sincere in what they were writing. This model also gave Claudia the opportunity to discuss the possibility of drawing a student's name whom they might not know particularly know well, or like very well. She utilized the previously read picture book to discuss how the boy and girl each treated Eddie Lee in the story, and what lessons they can learn from the characters.*

*Claudia then had each student secretly draw the name of another. They scattered around the room and began writing. They each wrote a single draft within the writer's workshop time. The kids glued their pieces onto a construction paper Christmas light bulb. And one-by-one students read their's to the class, surprising everyone including the person being written about. Then, all the light bulbs went on the hallway bulletin board.*

## Your Light Shines

Allye is a very enchanting girl. She always has something nice to say. She is very admirable. She is trustworthy and gentle. She has a lot talent. Allye is very tall. Her eyes are like the crystal on the snow. Her little light shines like the sun.

By Gabby O'Neil

Kiley's light shines in a quiet way. We sat at the same table one time, that's why I know she is nice. She is very smart and she follows the rules. Kiley is an awesome reader. She is kind to everyone. That is how Kiley's light shines.

By Wesley Haltom

Tony's smarts shines like a window in heaven. He is awesome. He's a nice kid. Tony's brightness in drawing an assortment of pictures is like a museum. He has an attitude that is positive and that of a nice, funny kid. Tony has the same qualification of a star in the sky. He is as sly as a fox. He also has a talent of a magician. Tony has speed like a lion at dinner time. He has a tone in his voice like Kenny Chesney. Tony's mind can think up a storm on a rainy day. Tony is the rock of the century. Tony's a decent child. He is a hilarious joker. He soars at spelling. Tony is guaranteed to rule the school. Tony is independent, loyal, and marvelous, too. Tony rocks!

By McKinely Duvall

Zacs light shines in many ways. He is very caring. He is an awesome writer. Zac is awesome at math and reading. He is very kind towards people. He is very generous person and shares his things. He is very athletic. He is good at kickball and basketball. He's like the lights that I put on my Christmas tree. He twinkles like a star at night. That's how he shines.

By: Brandy Fox

Vada 's light is brighter than the sun. Vada is an agreeable person and very nice. She is not intimidated to help someone when they are down or hurt. Vada is the smartest person in the universe. Her joyfulness can spread for miles. We are lucky to have her in our class.

By Zach Blevins

McKinely is bright in many ways. She is really sporty. She is on of my best friends. She likes to play kickball. McKinley is the best girl at kickball in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She's really good at catching, kicking and running. McKinley is the best at kickball. McKinley has many friends. Most of her friends are my friends. That's how McKinley shines.

By Mykah Bertram