

December 2017 | EARTHWORM

GENEROSITY

Making someone's day
by giving something away



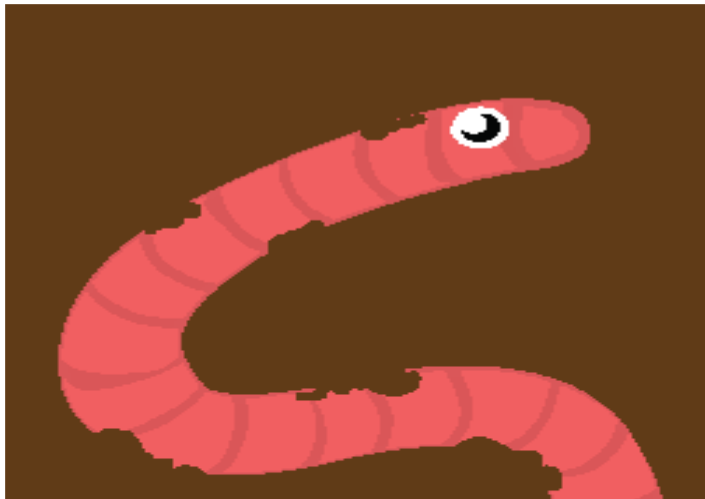
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december 2017

GENEROSITY // EARTHWORM // GREEN

The color of ecology, green symbolizes nature, growth, and renewal. It's easy to find in the natural world. The "green man" shows up in cultures across the globe, often bearing special powers and always close to the earth. Green is also the color of money; the US government started printing paper money with green on one side ("greenbacks") in the 1860s, during the Civil War.

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NEWSLETTE

SAY IT:

Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away.

KNOW IT:

Ask a kid:

- Has someone ever unexpectedly given something to you that you really wanted?
- What is one way you can be generous to a classmate?
- What is one way you can be generous to a stranger?

Ask a grown up:

- Who are some people who have helped you the most in your life? How have you shown them gratitude over the years?
- What are specific ways you have shown gratitude to people other than simply telling them thank you?

SEE IT:

Visit your local library and check out the book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein or search <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xODAQbu6bJ0> to listen to a reading of the story. Read this book with your family and brainstorm ideas of ways to be generous with one another. Extend the lesson by taking opportunities to serve in your community (soup kitchens, community thrift stores, etc.). Watch your children's joyful expression as they give their time and talents to those in need.

BE IT:

One night this month when you are driving through somewhere picking up dinner with your family, pay for the car behind you as well. This small act of generosity will spur on a movement and is sure to resonate with your family. Be sure to stress anonymous giving (receiving no recognition) to your children as this is an important piece of being generous.



DECEMBER 2017 Announcements

GENEROSITY // EARTHWORM // GREEN

Day 1:

Our value this month is generosity. Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away. This is a great month to think about being generous and taking actions that show generosity. Since this is the season of giving, think about ways you can make others' lives better by giving them something or doing something kind.

Day 2:

Have you wondered how green might be tied to our value of generosity? For some people, generosity makes them think of giving money and paper money in America is green. Green is also the color used to mean "go" in traffic signals and it means "on" for power buttons on machines. Green can also mean that something is safe on labels for medicines. This month, when you see the color green, let it remind you to be generous to someone with a compliment or a smile.

Day 3:

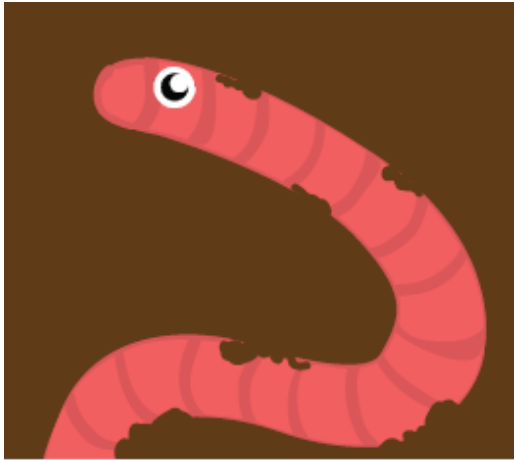
One of our **Big 3** is Treat Others Right. Being generous is certainly a way to treat others right. Can you think of a time when you treated someone right by being generous?

Day 4:

This time of year many people take time to be generous to others. How can you show generosity? Ask to help your parents with the dishes, cleaning the bathroom, or helping a friend with their homework. Our **Big Idea** is generosity, making someone's day by giving something away.

Day 5:

Frank A. Clark once said, "Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out." Have you ever done something nice secretly? This is a great month to think of ways you can do something nice for a friend or neighbor without them ever finding out. You can be the "elf on the shelf" and leave someone a treat or a gift without them knowing it was you! Good luck and don't get caught!



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Day 6:

President John F. Kennedy once said, "In a time of domestic crisis, men of goodwill and generosity should be able to unite regardless of party or politics." What he meant was that when we, as a country, have a problem, we should show generosity and help each other no matter how different we might be from each other. Think of ways you and your friends are part of a bigger community that sticks together. Talk with them about how generosity unites us.

Day 7:

One of our **Big 3** is Make Smart Decisions. When have you made a smart decision and given something away? How did you know it was the smart decision? Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away.

Day 8:

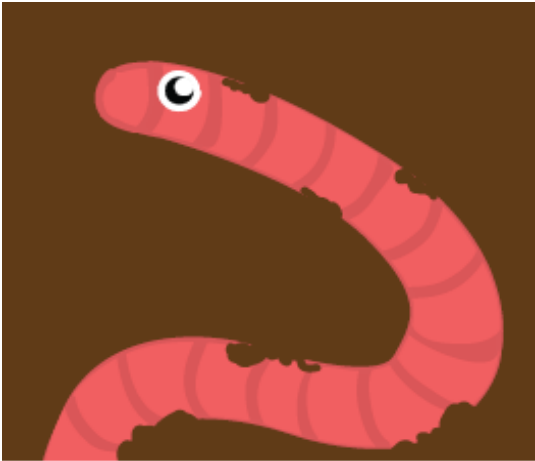
Many charities depend on the gifts of others to stay in the business of helping those in need. December is an especially important month for giving for many charities like the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, charities that help animals, churches and many other organizations. Do your parents give to any groups like this? Do you? You may have seen the red kettles in front of stores where money is collected for the Salvation Army. People drop money in the bucket and the money is used to help people who are homeless. If you can't personally volunteer at a shelter or other charity location, think about making a donation so that you can help in a smaller way. That is showing generosity!

Day 9:

One of our **Big 3** is Maximize Your Potential. What does generosity have to do with doing your best? How does making someone's day by giving something away maximize your potential, or help you do your best?

Day 10:

With the holidays coming, you may have more spare time than usual. You can make a big difference in the lives of others during this spare time. Plan at least one hour a week to do something kind for someone else, with or without their knowledge. Maybe you can watch a younger child for a little while so the parents can do some chores. Think about doing the chores of one of your siblings or friends. You could even take a neighbor's trash can to the street or shovel snow or rake leaves for someone who physically can't. Be creative and be generous with your time!



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Day 11:

Earthworms are extremely important to the Earth! They provide nutrients for the soil by eating decayed plant material and giving off waste products called castings. These castings are used for fertilizer to help plants grow. Many farmers add earthworms to their gardens to improve the soil and help their crops grow better. What a useful and generous animal the earthworm is!

Day 12:

Have you ever heard the saying, "Greatness is not what you have, it's what you give?" What do you think this means? How can being generous make you "great"?

Day 13:

Earthworms can move smoothly through the tunnels they make in soil. The tunnels they make allow air and nutrients to make the soil better for plants. Without air and water moving through the soil, the roots of plants would die and many animals, including humans, wouldn't have food. So next time you enjoy a great meal, thank the generous earthworm!

Day 14:

Is your birthday coming up? Even if your birthday is far away, think about being generous to others for your birthday. Instead of having family and friends give YOU presents, have them bring a gift for a child who doesn't have as much as you do. Donating toys to a shelter or other charity can make a birthday much more fun. Talk to your parents or your teacher about ways you can turn your special day into a special day for someone else.

Day 15:

Want to know how you can be more generous? Make a list of the things that you have for which you are grateful. The list can be written down or in your head. After you've listed what you are thankful for, think of how you can spend more time thinking about what you do have than what you don't have. That will help you think about ways to be generous to others.



“ *Twice he gives, who quickly gives.*

— *Publius Syrus*

“ *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.*

— *Robert Louis Stevenson*

“ *Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.*

— *Sir James Matthew Barrie*

“ *The generous and the bold have the best lives.*

— *Norwegian proverb*

“ *To generous souls, every task is noble.*

— *Euripides*



Big Idea in Books



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Shoebox Sam by Mary Brigid Barrett (K-5)

The Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau (3-5)

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier (K-5)

An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Polacco (3-5)

It Came in the Mail by Ben Clanton (K-2)

Willie and the All-Stars by Floyd Cooper (1-5)

Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming (2-5)

14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy (2-5)

The Spiffiest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson (PK-2)

Almost Zero by Nikki Grimes (2-4)

The Lemonade Ripple: A Sweet Story of Kindness and Charity
by Paul Reichert (K-5)

Should I Share My Ice Cream? by Mo Willems (PK-1)

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_____ is making someone's _____ by
_____ something _____.

