



3-5 Grading Rubric

Final Grade: _____/24

Area of Assessment	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Content				
The essay directly addresses the prompt, tells a story from the first-person point of view, and showcases a deep understanding of The Be Kind Pledge™.	The essay demonstrates an outstanding alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story is authentic, engaging, and deeply connected to The Be Kind Pledge.	The essay demonstrates a strong alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story is clear and meaningful but could be more engaging or detailed.	The essay demonstrates partial alignment with the prompt and The Be Kind Pledge. The story lacks depth or a strong connection.	The essay demonstrates poor alignment or missing connection to The Be Kind Pledge. The story is unclear or absent.
Effort and Creativity				
The submission demonstrates originality, creativity, and a unique perspective.	The essay shows clear effort, and the ideas are original and creative for the student's age. The perspective is fresh and innovative, showing deep thought and creativity. The narrative flows seamlessly and evokes strong emotions or imagination.	The essay shows good effort and some creative ideas. The essay tells a story that is engaging and mostly captivating, though it may lack some emotional or imaginative depth and could be more innovative.	The essay shows moderate effort but lacks creativity or originality. The perspective lacks depth or uniqueness. It is somewhat engaging but has limited emotional or imaginative appeal.	The essay shows minimal effort and creativity. The essay lacks engaging storytelling and the ideas are common, predictable, or copied.
Expression and Sentence Structure				
Ideas are presented clearly, logically, and in a well-structured manner that enhances the story and message.	The student's thoughts are expressed clearly, with strong sentence structure and logical flow. Submission is full of simple, compound, and complex sentence structures.	The student's thoughts are mostly clear, with minor issues in expression or flow. Submission uses some simple, compound, and complex sentence structures.	The writing is somewhat clear but contains noticeable issues in expression or organization. Sentences/phrases are not varied and/or have structural problems.	The writing is unclear or lacks understandable sentences and structure. Sentences/phrases are poorly constructed, leading to difficulty in comprehension.
Descriptive Word Choice				
The writing uses vivid, descriptive language to create a clear picture and enhance the story.	The submission uses descriptive action words and imagery to respond to the prompt. Age-appropriate vocabulary is used effectively.	The submission uses some descriptive adjectives, nouns, and verbs.	The submission uses few descriptive adjectives, nouns, and verbs.	The words used are not descriptive.
Writing and Conventions				
The writing includes correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar appropriate for the grade level.	The essay demonstrates outstanding use of writing conventions for their age. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are consistently correct.	The essay demonstrates good use of writing conventions for their age. Most spelling, grammar, and punctuation are correct, with minor errors.	The essay demonstrates a partial use of writing conventions. There are several errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation that distract from understanding.	The essay demonstrates minimal use of writing conventions. Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation make the writing difficult to understand.
Adherence to Guidelines				
The submission uses the provided template, is typed/printed legibly, does not reveal student contact information, and is limited to one-page.	The submission fully adheres to requirements.	There are minor issues with requirements. The submission is missing ONE of the following: uses the provided template, is typed/printed legibly, does not reveal student contact information, and is limited to one-page	There are significant issues with requirements. The submission is missing TWO of the following: uses the provided template, is typed/printed legibly, does not reveal student contact information, and is limited to one-page	There are major issues or non-compliance.