



1st-2nd Grade Essay 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 strong effort and very creative ideas for the student's age. The story is original and flows smoothly, making it interesting and fun to read.	The essay shows good effort and some creative ideas. The story is engaging but could have more exciting or imaginative details.	The essay shows some effort but lacks creativity. The story is somewhat interesting but does not have many unique or fun ideas.	The essay shows little effort or creativity. The story is not engaging, and the ideas are common or copied.
Expression and Clarity				
Ideas are presented clearly, logically, and in a well-structured manner that enhances the story and message.	The student's thoughts are expressed clearly, and sentences are age-appropriate. The writing has a logical flow.	The student's thoughts are mostly clear, with minor difficulties in expression or flow.	The writing is somewhat clear, but it's hard to understand parts of it.	The writing is unclear or lacks understandable sentences.
Writing and Conventions				
The writing includes clear letters, spacing between words, and correct basic spelling for age-appropriate words. Punctuation is used correctly (e.g., period at the end of a sentence).	The writing demonstrates outstanding use of writing conventions for the student's age. Letters are clear, words are spaced appropriately, and basic spelling and punctuation are correct.	The writing shows good use of writing conventions for the student's age. Most letters are clear, spacing is mostly appropriate, and there are minor errors in spelling or punctuation.	The writing reflects partial use of writing conventions. Some letters are unclear, spacing is inconsistent, or there are multiple errors in spelling or punctuation that make the writing harder to understand.	The writing demonstrates poor use of writing conventions. It is difficult to read due to unclear letters, inconsistent spacing, or frequent errors in spelling and punctuation.
Drawing and Visual Presentation				
The drawings clearly connect to the writing and add meaning or creativity. They are original, creative, and give the submission a personal flair.	The drawings clearly connect to the writing and add meaning or creativity.	The drawings mostly connect to the writing and add some meaning.	The drawings are somewhat connected to the writing but lack detail or relevance.	The drawings do not connect to the writing or are absent.
Adherence to Guidelines				
The submission uses the provided template, includes both written and drawing portions, and is only one page. The submission does NOT reveal the student's contact information on the front of the page.	The essay fully adheres to requirements.	There are minor issues with requirements. The submission is missing ONE of the following: uses the provided template, includes a written portion, includes a drawing portion, is limited to one page, hides student's contact information	There are significant issues with requirements. The submission is missing TWO of the following: uses the provided template, includes a written portion, includes a drawing portion, is limited to one page, hides student's contact information	There are major issues or non-compliance.