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TOPICS: Manners and Courtesy

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NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

In this issue of *Motivated for Kids*, we'll focus on manners and courtesy. No matter our age, place of birth, or mother tongue, in every culture we find that manners and courtesy are highly valued attributes.

People who show courtesy and have good manners and proper etiquette have a distinct advantage over those who do not; they are respected and welcomed into others' lives with ease. Practicing good manners goes past social "dos and don'ts." At the heart of it is the belief that everyone is important and should be treated with love, courtesy, and kindness.

Parents and teachers have the responsibility to not only teach the children to have good manners and show courtesy, but to also set an example that will motivate the children to manifest these attributes in their lives. Through the stories and fun activities in this *Motivated for Kids* magazine, we aim to portray the positive effects of having good manners and being courteous.

While *Motivated for Kids* is primarily directed toward children between the ages of 4 and 8, older or younger children can benefit from the content as well.

We hope that this and other magazines in this series will prove helpful to you and the children.

Your *Motivated* family

P.S. We welcome any comments or suggestions on our *Motivated for Kids* series. Please feel free to write us at motivated@motivatedmagazine.com

The Little Gentleman

By Barbara Meinel, adapted

Farid ran into the living room and plopped down on the couch. He stretched out his legs and laid back to watch TV. After a few minutes his mother came in carrying his baby sister.

“Farid, do you think you could make room for baby Amira and I to sit too?” she asked.

Farid moaned, “Aw, Mom, I’m so comfortable here! Why can’t you and Amira sit on a kitchen chair?”

“Now Farid, if you want to be a gentleman, you would make space for Amira and me,” she said.

“A gentleman?” Farid asked. “Mom, what exactly is a gentleman?”

“A gentleman is someone who is kind



and courteous, has good manners, and prefers others before himself. Let me tell you a story, and afterwards, you can tell me who you think the gentleman in the story is.”



Once upon a time there was a great castle and in it lived a very kind Sultan. In his realm there were many brave courtiers. Two of them were Noman and Tariq. One day the Sultan decided he wanted to see which of these two courtiers was a true gentleman. He told them that he wanted them to both go to a nearby town to buy a horse for him.



The Sultan also told them that there was something special about this mission, so they were to do it as well as they could.

Noman was kind and well-mannered, but Tariq only thought of himself and what would make him happy.

Aha! thought Tariq. *I am sure our Sultan wants to know which one of us is the best, and I will show him that I can find the best horse.*

“You are to leave right away as I want the horse before sundown,” the Sultan said.

“Yes, Sir, we will do as you wish,” replied the two courtiers.

With that, Tariq and Noman got on their horses and galloped away to find a horse for the Sultan.



On their way, they came upon an old woman on the road who was carrying a heavy load.

“Out of the way!” shouted Tariq. “I’m on a mission for the Sultan!”

The old lady quickly stumbled to the side of the road as Tariq galloped by, leaving a cloud of dust behind him and the poor old woman coughing.

“Whoa!” called Noman to his horse as he pulled to a halt.

“Good day!” Noman called out. “Where are you going with that heavy



there! I am on a mission for our Sultan. Tell me where I can find the man who sells horses in this town.”

“Over there, by the blacksmith,” came the quick answer from the startled baker.

“Thank you, kind man!” said Noman. “That bread smells mighty good!”

“Here, have some,” said the baker with a smile as he handed a warm bun to each of the courtiers.

“Thank you very much!” replied Noman. Tariq took the bread and walked away without even turning to say thank you.



load?” he asked kindly.

“I am going to the town up ahead,” said the old woman.

“Here, let me help you. I will take you to the town on my horse.”

“Thank you very much, kind sir!” said the old woman with a smile.

Noman arrived at the town awhile after Tariq had. “Where were you?” Tariq demanded to know. “What took you so long?”

“I was helping an old woman with a heavy load,” said Noman.

“We’re wasting time! Let’s ask someone where we can buy a horse,” said Tariq.

A baker was setting out some fresh bread when Tariq shouted at him, “You

After looking at all the horses, they found one they were sure their Sultan would like.

“I want that big white one over there,” said Tariq. “I am sure our Sultan will like that one.”

“Oh, but we like that one too,” said a little voice from behind the courtier.

Noman and Tariq turned around to see a young girl and her little brother who said they were there to buy a horse for their family’s farm.

“Well, too bad,” Tariq said gruffly. “We saw it first so it’s ours!”

The little boy let out a sob. “But sir,” said the young girl, “we’ve been saving up for a long time to buy this horse, and we really need it at the farm.”

“Well, the Sultan also needs it,” said Tariq.

“Tariq,” Noman said, “I think our Sultan would prefer for these people to have it, and I am sure we can find another one that he will like just as much.”

“What?” Tariq asked in surprise.

“But this is the one I wanted—why should I have to let them have it?”

At that moment the Sultan himself arrived on the scene. “Because that is what I would like you to do.”

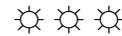
“Sir!” exclaimed Tariq and Noman, as they bowed. “We didn’t know you were here.”



“I followed you, as I wanted to see who was a true gentleman.

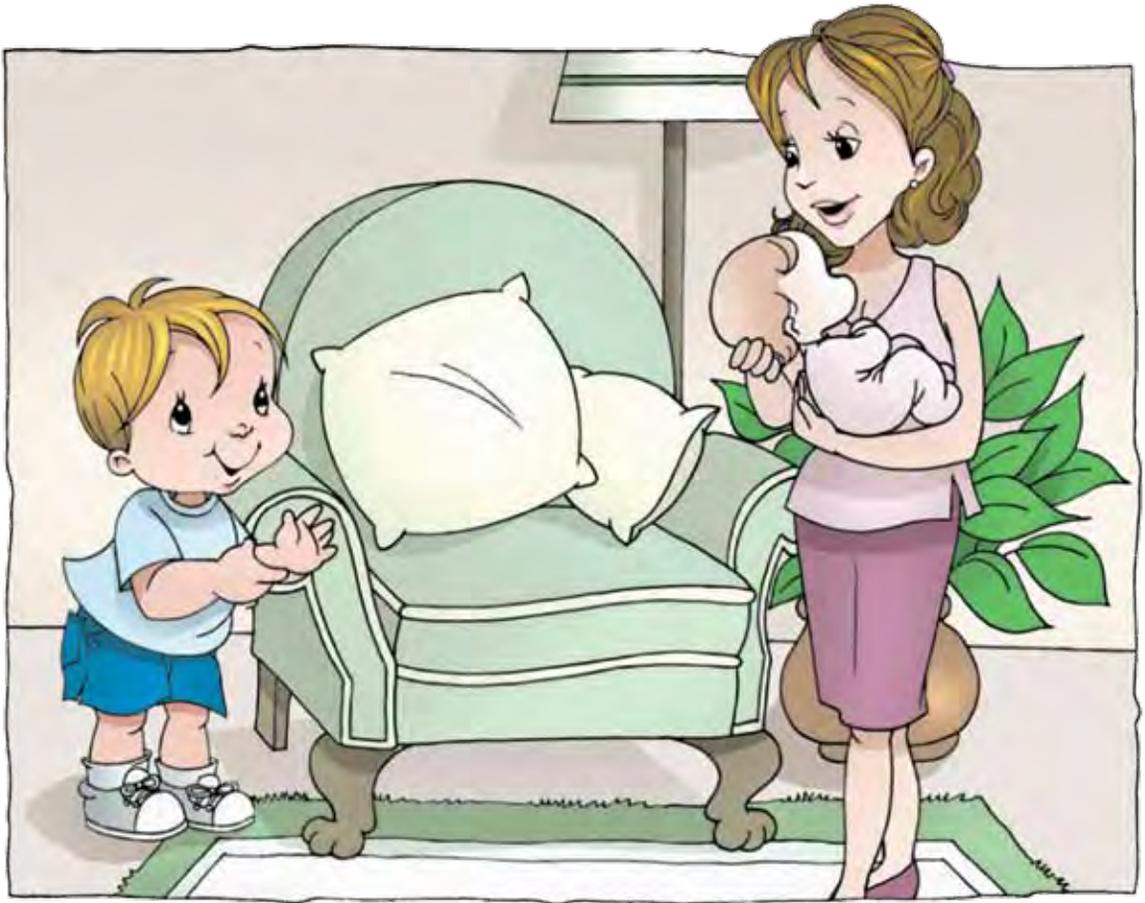
“You are both very brave courtiers, but it’s not just bravery that makes you great. It is your kindness and gentle manners toward others that make you great.”

“I am very thankful for your loyalty to me and my realm, but it’s very important that you are also gentlemen and care about my people and have good manners. As brave noblemen in my realm you represent me, and if you are unkind, the people will think that that is how I am too.”



“I’m sorry, Mom! Noman was a good gentleman and I want to be like that too. What do I have to do to be a gentleman?” asked Farid.

“To be a gentleman, you would be kind and think about others instead of only thinking about yourself. For example, if someone is carrying something big or heavy and you can see they need help, you could hold the door open for them. You could offer to help carry in the shopping. When a girl enters the room, if there is no place for her to sit you could stand up and offer her your seat. You could offer someone else the biggest piece of cake. You could say ‘excuse me’ if you bump into someone.



Those are just a few examples.

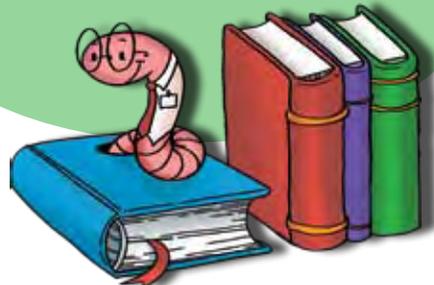
A gentleman is always courteous to everyone,” explained Mom.

“I think I’d like to try that!” said Farid. “Do you think we could start over?”

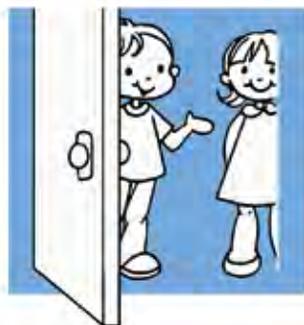
Mom walked out of the room with baby Amira. She waited a few minutes in the kitchen before entering the living room. As she walked into the room, Farid stood up with a sweeping bow and said, “Good afternoon, Mother. Would you like a seat?”

“Now that’s what I call a real gentleman!”

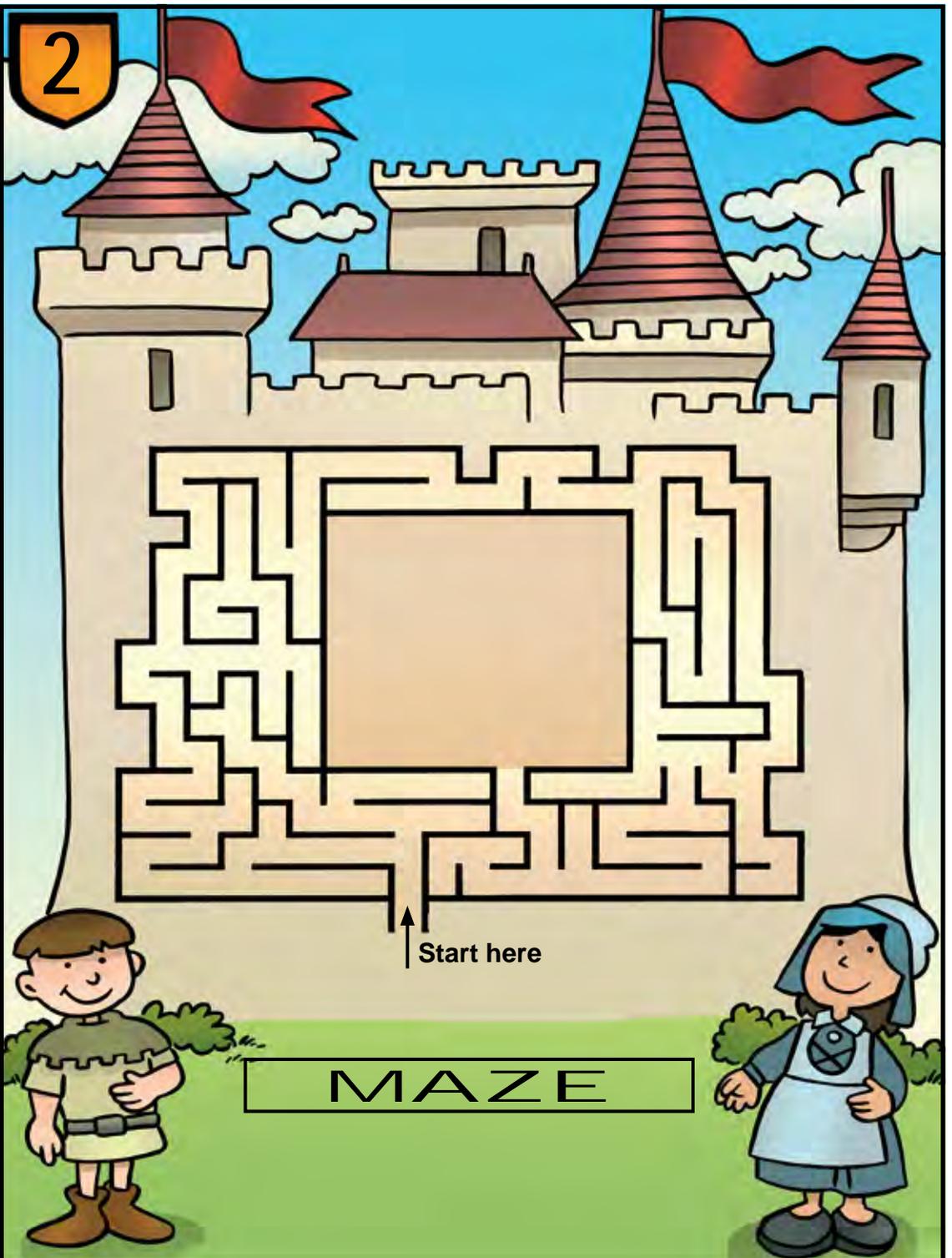
Moral: Let’s be kind and courteous to everyone!



Draw a line to match the blue cards to the red cards, to show what would be the courteous thing to do in each case.



2



Start here

MAZE

Draw a picture of something you can do to show courtesy and good manners.
Help the children find their way to your picture.

King Freddy

By Robert Fernandez

Once upon a time there lived a king called Freddy. King Freddy was a polite, kind, and considerate king. He had good table manners and before eating he always thanked the cooks for preparing such a delicious meal.

However, some of the people at his castle had very poor table manners. They never washed their hands before eating and always grabbed the biggest slices of pie for themselves. They never said, "Excuse me", but they just reached over others to get what they wanted. They

didn't thank the cooks or anyone else for the meal, and almost everyone grumbled about the food.

"Chicken again! Why can't we have steak?" some would say.

"Pie for dessert? But I want pudding!" someone else would grumble.

This made King Freddy sad.

What can I do to show everybody how important it is to be thankful, considerate, and well mannered? King Freddy wondered.

Suddenly he had an idea. He arranged for a grand feast. And in





his invitation he asked everyone to dress nicely, wash their hands and faces, and comb their hair nicely before coming, as he wanted it to be a very special feast.

On that great day the banquet room was filled with very hungry people. But King Freddy was nowhere to be seen.

“Where is King Freddy?” the people grumbled.

“We want to start eating!” someone else said.

Suddenly a dirty, ragged man ran into the room, sat down in the king’s chair and began grabbing

food with his hands. He chewed with his mouth open and knocked things over, and he slurped the soup and licked his fingers. A palace guard began to remove the messy man, but he pulled out a smudged and dirty invitation. Everyone was shocked.

Just then, the royal trumpets announced the arrival of the king. The messy man grabbed more food and scurried off.

When everyone was seated, King Freddy said, “I am sorry I kept you waiting. Did anyone notice someone with bad manners sitting in my

chair?”

“Oh yes!” the people exclaimed. “It was disgusting! He had no manners at all.”

“And he was so discourteous,” others commented. “He never said please or thank you.”

“I have seen many people with poor manners, but he was the worst,” King Freddy agreed, “and that’s why I invited him.”

“What ever for?” someone asked.

“To show everyone how awful bad manners are and why good manners are so important.

“We’ve all made some of the same mistakes that this man has made. But I hope no one will ever

behave like that again. Let’s try to have better manners!” King Freddy said with a smile.

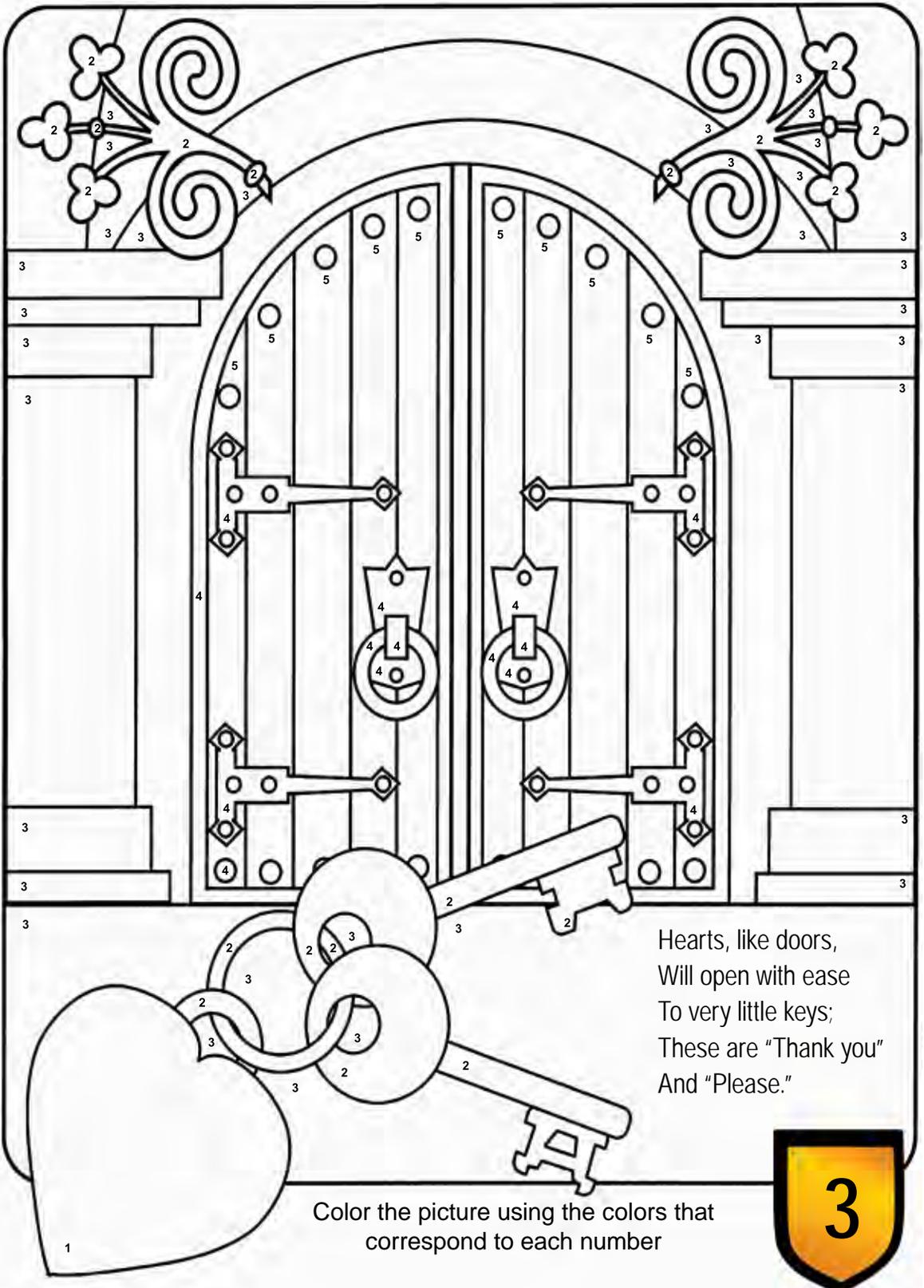
“Yes!” everyone answered cheerfully. “We’ll try to have good manners.”

This time when the cooks brought the food, the guests all thanked them kindly. They were careful to mind their manners and be courteous throughout the feast by saying please and thank you.

The banquet was a success. And from that day forward, mealtimes throughout King Freddy’s kingdom were happy times for everyone.

The End





Hearts, like doors,
 Will open with ease
 To very little keys;
 These are "Thank you"
 And "Please."

Color the picture using the colors that correspond to each number



1.red 2.yellow 3.light gray 4.dark gray 5.brown

MAKE AND DO: GOOD MANNERS FLOWER

You will need:

paper

color pencils
or crayons

paper
fasteners

and scissors

4

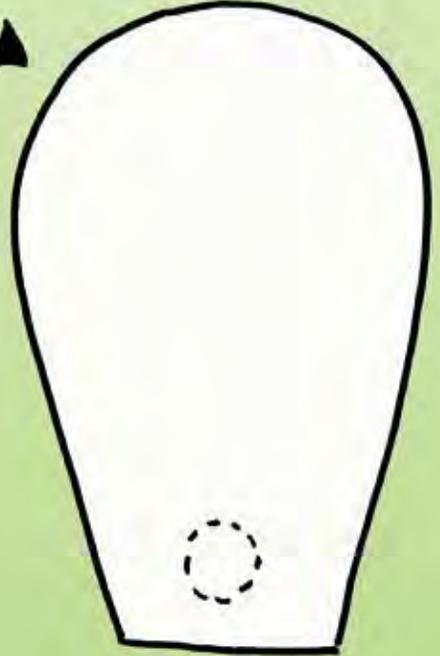


How to:

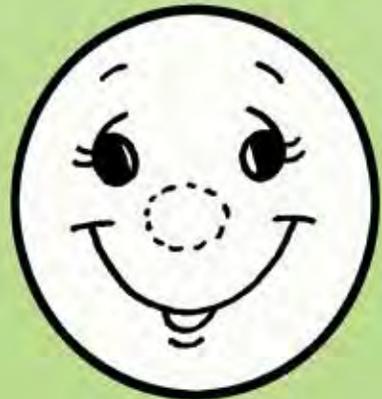
Trace the petal on this page to make five petals; in each petal write one of the little manners and courtesy reminders below and color the petals. Cut out the petals and fasten them as shown in the picture. Use this flower to remind you of the little things you can do to be courteous and have good manners. See how many you can do today.

Reminders:

1. Say please and thank you.
2. Prefer others before yourself.
3. Listen carefully and answer kindly.
4. Have good table manners.
5. Greet people cheerfully.

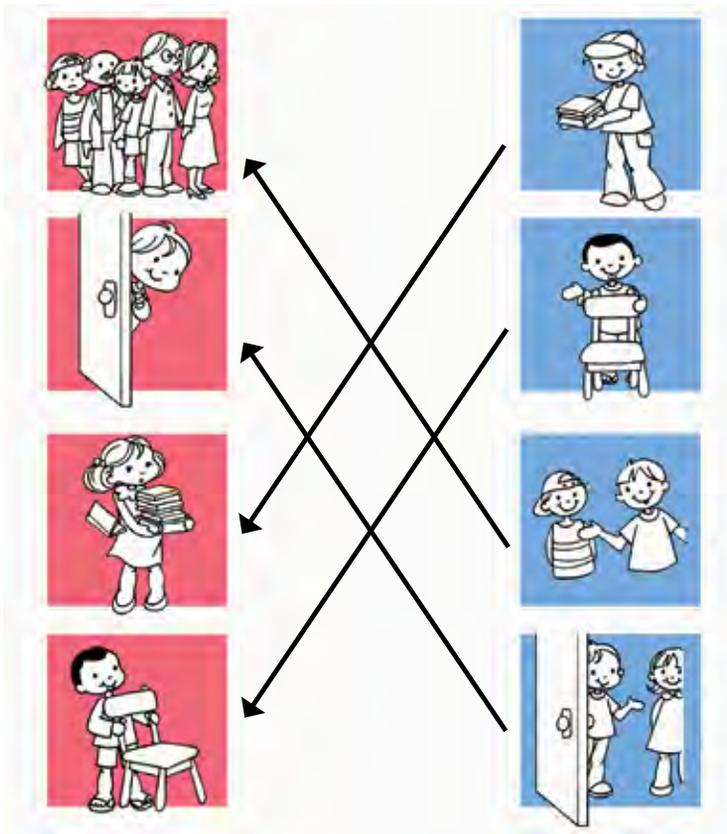


Put the paper fastener here

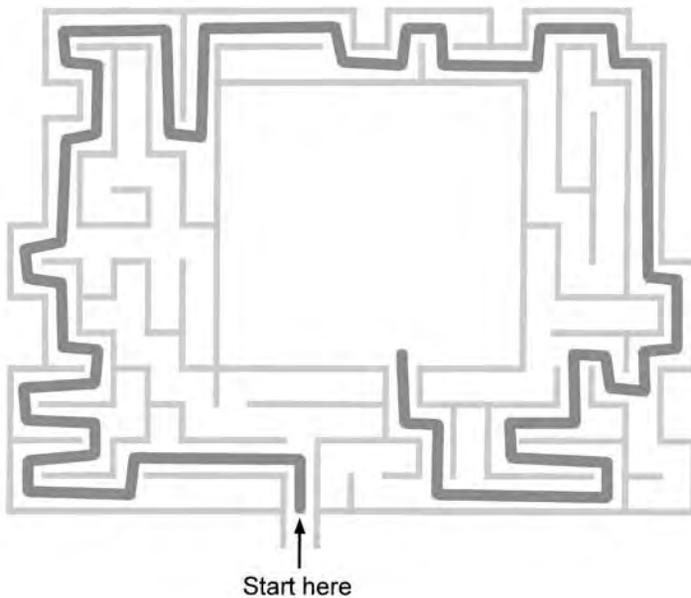


ANSWERS TO THE ACTIVITY PAGES

1. FIND THE MATCHING CARDS



2. MAZE



Little Words for the Wise

Good manners are COOL!

Showing good manners is treating others the way we want to be treated. It's doing and saying things that help people to feel special, showing that we appreciate them and care about their needs. When we have good manners, people want to be around us, they want to be friends with us, help us, and do things that make us happy.

There are lots of times each day that we can show good manners. Here are a few:

☀ Use these polite words as often as we can:

- ☺ Say "Please," when we ask for something, and people will enjoy answering our requests.
- ☺ Say "Thank you," when someone has done something for us or given us something.
- ☺ Say "You're welcome," when someone says "Thank you," to us.
- ☺ Say "Excuse me," instead of interrupting someone when he or she is speaking. Then wait until the other person stops to let us talk.

- ☀ When we are introduced to someone, look at them, smile, and say hello.
- ☀ Be polite and show respect to our parents and teachers.
- ☀ Listen when other people are talking to us.
- ☀ Have good table manners.
- ☀ Speak softly, especially when we are playing inside the house, so we don't disturb others.
- ☀ At school and at play, be courteous to other children.