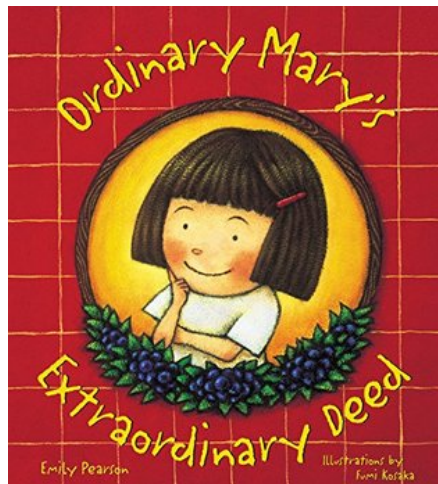




Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed

Emily Pearson , Fumi Kosaka (Illustrator)

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Now available in paperback!

Celebrate the fifteenth anniversary edition of this feel-good story that continues to inspire and celebrate a world full of ordinary deeds!

Can one child's good deed change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary--an ordinary girl from an ordinary school, on her way to her ordinary house--who stumbles upon ordinary blueberries. When she decides to pick them for her neighbor, Mrs. Bishop, she starts a chain reaction that multiplies around the world.

Updated illustrations and endpapers are now paired with this beloved storyline as it stirs a whole new generation on to more random acts of kindness--proving one child's compassion and empathy really can change the world.

Emily Pearson is the co-author of *Fuzzy Red Bathrobe: Questions from the Heart for Mothers and Daughters*. She lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed Details

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From Reader Review Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed for online ebook

Kylie Matusiewicz says

After all the news about Texas and Louisiana with the flood, this is the perfect book to pull out. This book practices a skill which is finding a current event and reading a book that focuses on the subject for younger students to understand this more. The book follows how kindness can really go a long way and remember how to treat everyone. Doing one good deed could set off a chain reaction of things. I believe that this book could be read to any age it is always important to learn these messages!

Chance Lee says

Nice artwork accompanies a long, rambling story about how a good deed can spread. The story is a little heavy handed, but nice in spirit.

Amanda says

This is a delightful book that shows how the power of simple kindness can spread and multiply. My children really enjoyed when the book numerically detailed how Mary's kindness multiplied, and they could see what an enormous impact it had. A perfect book for young grade school aged children.

Note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Mindy says

I'm not sure I could love this book more than I already do. It's the children's version of the "paying it forward" concept with a math component as well. I will say that this is a text-heavy picture book, so it will be more difficult for littles to sit still until the end and comprehend the message. Perfect for lower elementary audiences.

Donna Thomas says

I read this beautiful children's story to my spiritual formation ladies that meet at my home once a month for brunch. It's a sweet reminder that the random acts of kindness that we extend to each other bring joy to not only the recipient, but to others beyond our little corners of the world. For an unexpected blessing is the impetus to pass along another thoughtful treasure to brighten one more person's day. And the giving keeps on giving.

Shelley says

Simple little book about how one girl doing something nice can affect a lot of people and even come back to her.

Building up others builds up the entire community/world.

*Could be fun to have blueberries while you read this or make blueberry muffins to give away for a service project afterwards.

Steve Holden says

This is another book found in my search for positive behavior promoting picture books. The concept of this one is awesome - be kind and do good deeds to others because no matter how ordinary you may be/seem, it can have a great affect on others and cause a positive chain reaction. It's a story intended for young audiences, so it can be overly optimistic. The idea of being kind to others is simple to teach, promote, and be positive about. The idea of one good deed going on to have an impact on so many other people might be a bit of a stretch, but there's no harm in teaching and modeling kindness. This one does lose a bit of steam as a read aloud with a stretch focused mostly on math and how many people can be positively affected by a single kind act. So in this one, there are a lot of positive takeaways, but it might be best as a book available for students to check out on their own in teaching and promoting kindness.

Elaine says

I am grateful to have won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway and intend to donate my copy to the library where I work so that it may be shared with many children and families!

Wow! This book shares an amazing message: one small act of kindness multiplies quickly into BILLIONS without even realizing! Very young children all the way to the very old adults can be inspired by this book to do good for others!

This story is fun and the poetic flow of the text makes it a quick and intriguing read. It's an excellent bedtime story or story time book! Easily 5/5 stars!!!

Danielle H says

I just felt like this story went on tremendously too long and was unrealistic for it's length and the deeds, but did like the intention. It also bothered me a little bit that the message seemed to kind of be it was good that Mary did something kind because she got something out of it, indirectly, in the end, when the point should really just be that she wanted to do the kind thing. I think it would still function as a good discussion starter for my students and lead to some good writing pieces though, so, we'll see.

Tatiana says

I thought this book just lovely, with a beautiful message of spreading kindness in a sort of "pass it on" type of gesture. Ordinary Mary's simple act of kindness sets off a chain reaction wherein five people do a similar kindness, and then each of those people do something nice for five others, and so on and so forth, until good deeds have been done for every person on the planet.

I read it to first graders, who were mesmerized. It helped that we could make a text-to-self connection with a similar kindness challenge going on at school this month. Highly recommended.

Wendy says

Added this one to my Christmas book collection this year although it is not a Christmas book (it just gave me a good excuse to buy it, and I ended up giving several as gifts). Delightful little tale and explanation of the "pay it forward" idea. A great tool for an object lesson on service or the great impact little acts of service can have. A good message for kids and adults alike.

Hazel says

The premise is slightly cliché; Ordinary Mary does a good deed, and the reader watches the ripple effect of good deeds as each person who benefits from one person's good deed in turn does five good deeds. Quickly, the benefits of kindness reach everyone in the world (this is shown by a two page display of mathematical figures that reach 6,103,515,625 within 14 days of each person accomplishing five deeds.) The premise could be successful, but this book doesn't manage it.

Here's my list of complaints:

The book is too optimistic (and simplistic) to be sincere.

The mathematics of good deeds turns me off.

Many of the good deeds involve giving people things, which seems to me to promote the idea that material wealth = health & happiness.

There's a lack of racial diversity, even on the page that shows the world, populated by people standing on continents, where the VAST majority of the people are white. There are maybe 6 or 7 of the 39 people whose faces are visible that could be of Asian, Latin or American Indian descent, maybe. There are no people of African descent pictured in the book. Amazing that this book was published in 2002.

The stilted and inconsistent presence of rhyme is annoying and makes this unpleasant to read aloud.

All in all, this book, for me at least, was a stinker.

Loreanna McKinney says

Even though this book is a children's picture book, it has a message for everyone: be kind. Emily Pearson's book, Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, tells of how one act of kindness can change the entire world. It encourages the reader to take something so ordinary, like blueberries, and see how they can become something so extraordinary. The illustrations were the perfect companion to the story. Vivid colors and cartoon-like figures made the lovely book even more enjoyable.

In the classroom, this book would be PERFECT to begin the year with. It would allow teachers to set the tone for the rest of the year in her classroom. It would foster a feeling of community within the classroom, encouraging students to perform random acts of kindness for others. Emily Pearson's book also allows students to see the impact one thing can have on a person and the opportunity that one simple act has to make in the world. While the character lessons this book provides are amazing, it can also be used for sequencing a story. The systematic story-telling strategy that is used would allow students to sequence the events in a way that students can better understand the story. This is a picture book that I would definitely implement in my classroom, no matter the purpose behind it.

Pam Vickers says

Great story about being kind!

Cute book! Love the idea and will definitely use it in my pre-k classroom! The illustrations were beautiful and I recommend reading this to your child.

Macy says

I read the book Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by one of my favorite authors Emily Pearson. This book is about a girl named Mary who decided one day that she was going to take her neighbor, Mrs. Bishop some berries. Her neighbor then decided to use those berries and make some blueberry muffins and give them to five people. Those five people went and did nice things for five more people and on it went. It continued and acts of kindness were spread to many people all over the world. Then it came back to Mary. This book talks about how one ordinary act of kindness can really go a long way and many people can be influenced by your decision to do something good and be kind to others. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes good uplifting stories and also to people that like to help others. This story made me want to help more people and spread more kindness. I really enjoyed reading this book and thought it was a very great story.
