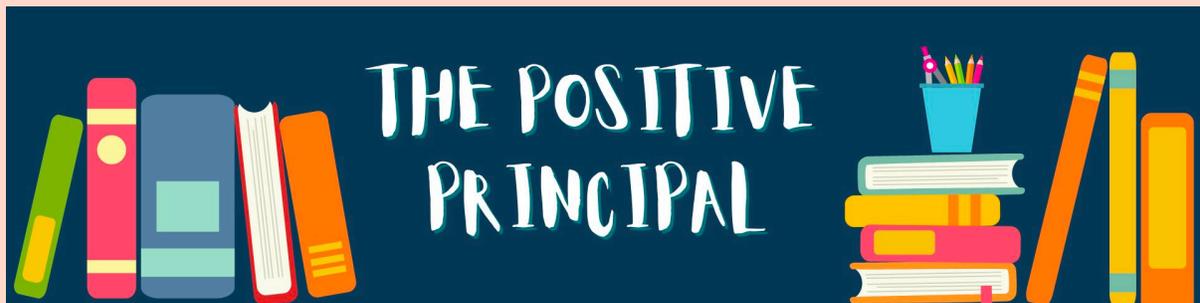


Tokens of Appreciation for Teachers & Staff



Find us on Facebook @ The Positive Principal
www.the-positive-principal.com

Introduction & Inspiration



There is so much power in showing gratitude! Every idea curated here has been shared openly through multiple Facebook Groups that I am fortunate to be a member of, as well as multiple searches in the land of Google. Enclosed you will find the stories or poems that are written by amazing authors, and ideas for tokens that might go alongside. I have included links where possible for purchase if you are interested. I am not affiliated with any of the items or authors, the credit is all theirs. Whether you use these as part of a year long theme, or as a token of appreciation, my goal is simply to create one place to collect all these amazing ideas!

Thank you for putting goodness out into the world.

The Sunflower

The sunflower is a symbol
of strength, stability and loyalty.

They remind us that when we
take time to strengthen and support ourselves,
we gain the stability to better
serve those around us.

On a cloudy, rainy day
sunflowers turn towards
each other to share their energy.

Let's become the sunflowers in each other's lives.

Be outstanding in your field.

Hold your head high.

Spread seeds of happiness.

Keep on growing!

~Author Unknown



Gift Ideas for The Sunflower



A package of sunflower seeds to plant



Amazon Willbond Sunflower Keychains



Amazon Phaeton Sunflower Key Rings



Amazon Sunflower Bracelets & Keychains



Amazon 100pcs Sunflower Stickers



The Starfish Story

Once there was an old man walked down the beach, he noticed a child ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the child, he asked, "Why are you doing this?" The child looked up and replied, "The sun is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the man commented, "But child, do you not realize that the beach goes on for miles and miles and there are thousands of starfish along each mile. Your efforts can't possibly make any difference!" At this, the child bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it into the water. He said, "It made a difference for that one."

~Author Unknown

Gift Ideas for The Starfish



[Smiling Wisdom - Starfish Story](#)



[Amazon Starfish Story Turquoise Keychains](#)



[Amazon - You Make a Difference Keychain](#)



[Amazon - Artificial Starfish Seashell](#)



[Amazon - Starfish Sea Soap](#)



The page is decorated with several large, vibrant yellow marigold flowers. Some are fully in bloom, showing their characteristic ruffled petals, while others are partially visible at the edges. Green stems and leaves are also visible, adding to the natural feel of the design.

Find Your Marigold

Adapted From <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/marigolds/>

Many experienced gardeners follow a concept called companion planting: placing certain vegetables and plants near each other to improve growth for one or both plants.

Among companion plants, the marigold is one of the best: It protects a wide variety of plants from pests and harmful weeds. If you plant a marigold beside most any garden vegetable, that vegetable will grow big and strong and healthy, protected and encouraged by its marigold.

Marigolds exist in our schools as well – encouraging, supporting and nurturing growing teachers on their way to maturity.

If you can find at least one marigold in your school and stay close to them, you will grow.

Find more than one and you will positively thrive.

Few teachers will be lucky enough to be planted close to a marigold – you will have to seek them out.

You can identify them by the way they congratulate you on arrival, rather than asking why anyone would want this godforsaken job.

Or by the way their offers to help sound sincere.

Or just by how you feel when you're with them:

Are you calmer, more hopeful? Excited to get started on a teaching task?

Comfortable asking questions, even the stupid ones?

If you feel good around this person, chances are they have some marigold qualities.

Find your marigolds, and stay close to them.

Make the effort. Grow big and strong.

Marigolds protect a wide variety of plants from pests and weeds. If you plant a marigold beside most any garden vegetable, that plant will grow big and strong and healthy; protected and encouraged by it's marigold. A garden isn't the only place you will find marigolds- encouraging, supporting and nurturing others.

Thank you, for being
a **marigold**.



Adapted from <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/marigolds/>



Gift Ideas for Find Your Marigold



A package of marigold seeds to plant



A small marigold plant



Make a marigold pen - tutorial linked

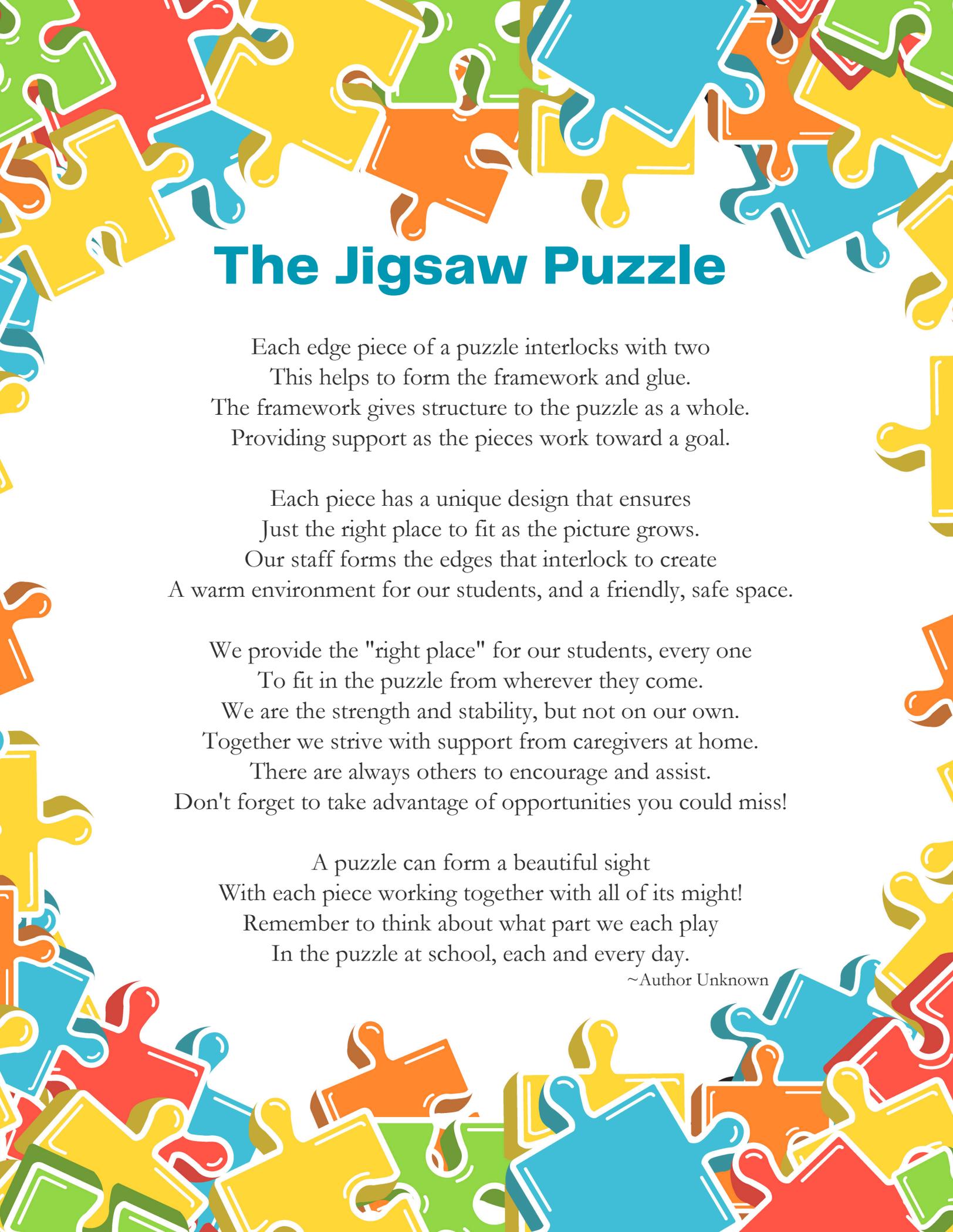


Amazon Marigold garlands



Amazon - Marigold Composition Notebook





The Jigsaw Puzzle

Each edge piece of a puzzle interlocks with two
This helps to form the framework and glue.
The framework gives structure to the puzzle as a whole.
Providing support as the pieces work toward a goal.

Each piece has a unique design that ensures
Just the right place to fit as the picture grows.
Our staff forms the edges that interlock to create
A warm environment for our students, and a friendly, safe space.

We provide the "right place" for our students, every one
To fit in the puzzle from wherever they come.
We are the strength and stability, but not on our own.
Together we strive with support from caregivers at home.
There are always others to encourage and assist.
Don't forget to take advantage of opportunities you could miss!

A puzzle can form a beautiful sight
With each piece working together with all of its might!
Remember to think about what part we each play
In the puzzle at school, each and every day.

~Author Unknown

Gift Ideas for The Jigsaw Puzzle



[Amazon - Mini Brain Teaser Puzzle Cubes](#)



[Amazon - Blank Puzzles](#)



[Amazon - Large Blank Puzzle Pieces](#)



[Amazon - Puzzle Piece Charms with a Heart](#)



[Amazon - Puzzle Pens with Ball Maze](#)



Little Red Wagon

Some days we skip along, pulling our wagons with great confidence - so full of energy that the load seems light.

Some days the load seems heavy and we need someone to help us pull our wagons over the bumps in the road.

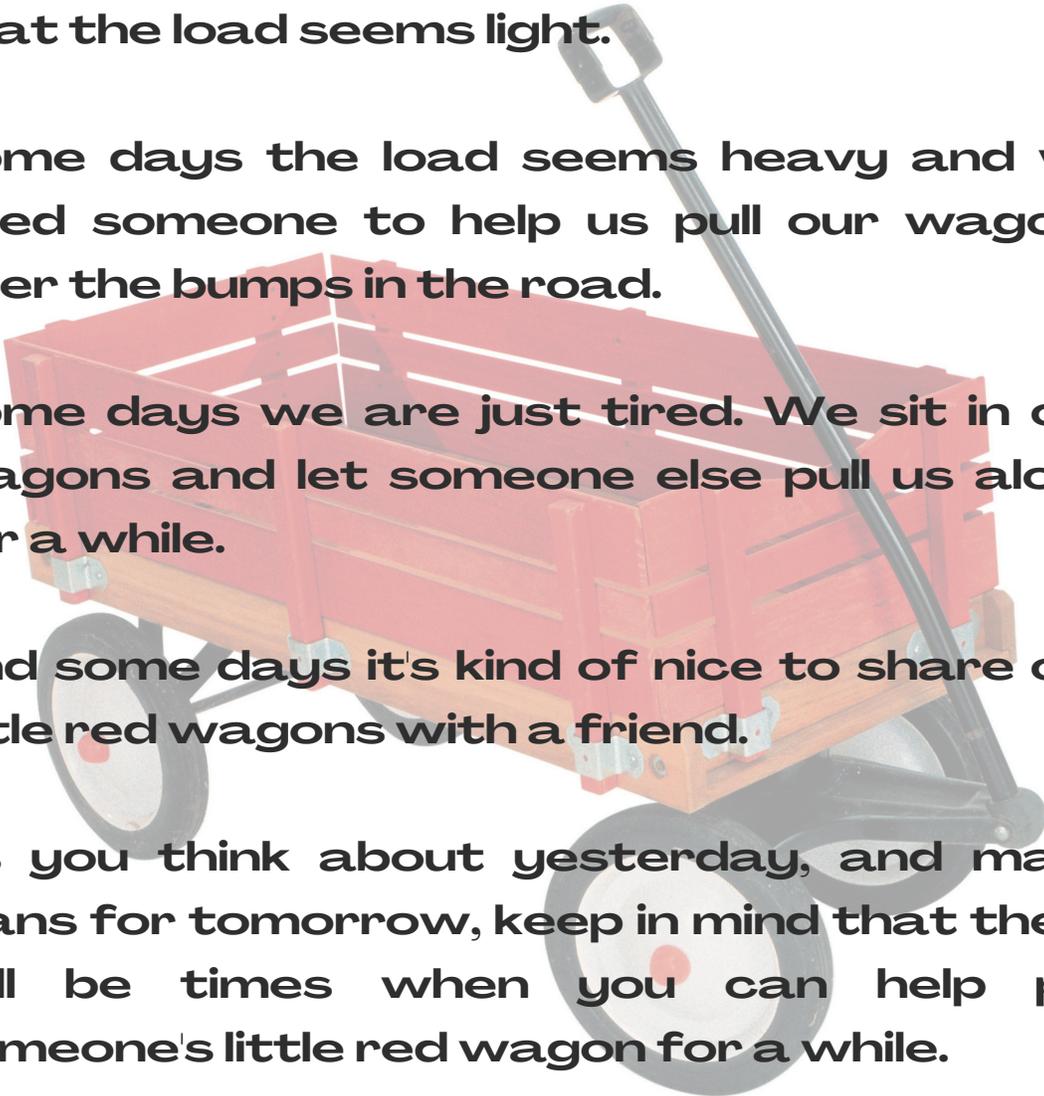
Some days we are just tired. We sit in our wagons and let someone else pull us along for a while.

And some days it's kind of nice to share our little red wagons with a friend.

As you think about yesterday, and make plans for tomorrow, keep in mind that there will be times when you can help pull someone's little red wagon for a while.

After all, helping to pull each other's little red wagon is what makes it possible to face the challenges the day brings.

~Margaret Katter



Gift Ideas for The Little Red Wagon



The Master Teacher - Little Red Wagon Bookmark



The Master Teacher - Little Red Wagon Lapel Pin



Zazzle - Red Wagon Keychain



Red Wagon Keychain



Zazzle - Red Wagon Coffee Mug



Zazzle - Red Wagon Sticker



The Sense of a Goose

When you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in a V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following it. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds as least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are traveling on the thrusts of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it. If we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. An encouraging word goes a long way.

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

~Author Unknown

Gift Ideas for The Sense of a Goose



[Amazon - Goose Magnetic Key Holder](#)



[Amazon - Mini Goose Figurines](#)



[Amazon - Goose Plush Stuffed Animals](#)



[Amazon - Silver Wild Goose Pendants \(30\)](#)



[Amazon - Set of 12 Goose Bookmarks](#)



The Rising of the Phoenix

In a distant land, shrouded in myths and legends, there lived a magnificent creature known as the Phoenix. Its feathers were a stunning blend of gold, crimson, and amber, radiating a warm glow that captured the hearts of all who beheld it. The Phoenix possessed a unique ability—the power to be reborn from its ashes every time it faced destruction.

The Phoenix's ability to regenerate from its own ashes teaches us the importance of self-compassion. We may make mistakes or experience moments of weakness, but instead of dwelling on them, we must learn to forgive ourselves and rise again. Self-care involves showing kindness and understanding to ourselves, acknowledging that we are not perfect but always worthy of love and care.

The legend of the Phoenix reminds us of the cyclical nature of self-care. Like the mythical bird, we must embrace the idea that self-care is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. Regularly checking in with ourselves, reassessing our needs, and making time for self-care rituals will keep our inner flames burning bright and ensure we can rise again, stronger and wiser, whenever life challenges us.

This year, when you start to feel pressure and stress, and find yourself needing to re-calibrate, take the time to care for yourself so that you can care for others.

Be a Phoenix, and rise again - strong and beautiful.



-Unknown

Gift Ideas for The Rising of the Phoenix



[Amazon - Phoenix Stickers](#)



[Amazon - Smiling Wisdom Rising Phoenix Keychains](#)



[Print and frame Phoenix Rising Quotes](#)



The Law of the Garbage Truck

ONE DAY A MAN HOPPED IN A TAXI AND TOLD THE DRIVER HE IS IN A HURRY TO THE AIRPORT. THE MAN EXPLAINED TO THE TAXI DRIVER THAT HE OVERSLEPT AND NOW NEEDS HIM TO SPEED IT UP AND THAT MONEY IS NOT AN ISSUE. THE TAXI DRIVER PROCEEDED AS USUAL. AS THEY WERE DRIVING IN THE RIGHT LANE SUDDENLY A BLACK CAR JUMPED OUT OF A PARKING SPACE RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM. THE TAXI DRIVER SLAMMED ON HIS BRAKES, SKIDDED, AND MISSED THE OTHER CAR BY JUST INCHES!

THE DRIVER OF THE OTHER CAR WHIPPED HIS HEAD AROUND AND STARTED YELLING AT THE TWO OF THEM. THE TAXI DRIVER JUST SMILED AND WAVED AT THE GUY. AND WHEN THE MAN ASKED THE TAXI DRIVER, "WHY DID YOU JUST DO THAT? THIS GUY ALMOST RUINED YOUR CAR AND SENT US TO THE HOSPITAL!" THIS IS WHEN THE TAXI DRIVER PULLED OVER AND GAVE THE MAN A QUICK LESSON ABOUT "THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK."

HE EXPLAINED THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE LIKE GARBAGE TRUCKS. THEY RUN AROUND FULL OF GARBAGE, FULL OF FRUSTRATION, FULL OF ANGER, AND FULL OF DISAPPOINTMENT. AS THEIR GARBAGE PILES UP, THEY NEED A PLACE TO DUMP IT AND SOMETIMES THEY'LL DUMP IT ON YOU. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, JUST SMILE, WAVE, WISH THEM WELL, AND MOVE ON. DON'T TAKE THEIR GARBAGE AND SPREAD IT TO OTHER PEOPLE AT WORK, AT HOME, OR ON THE STREETS.

THE NEXT TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF BEING DUMPED ON BY SOMEONE, REMEMBER "THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK", SMILE, WISH THEM WELL, AND MOVE ON.

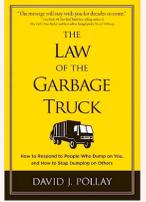


~ADAPTED FROM DAVID J. POLLAY

Gift Ideas for The Law of the Garbage Truck



Book - The Law of the Garbage Truck
by David J. Pollay.

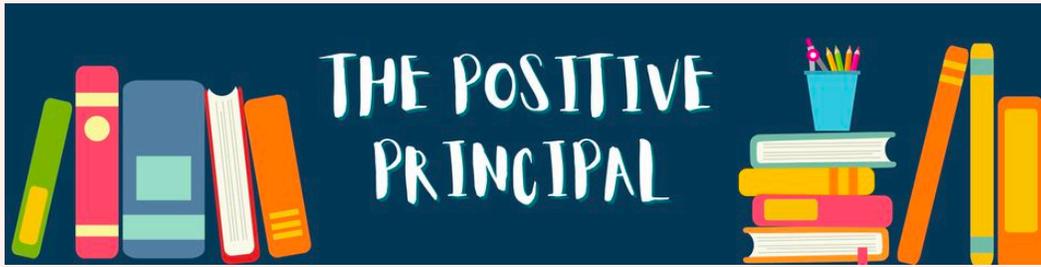


Amazon - Mini Garbage Cans for Desks



Amazon - Toxic Waste Sour Candy





Wishing you a great school year!

If you are a fan of sharing resources and collective wisdom, please consider joining other like minded educational leaders at:

The Positive Principal Facebook Group

or

www.the-positive-principal.com