



Ed's Word for February is...

COURTESY

Definition: To be polite and considerate, to act with manners, and to be generous and helpful with others.

"In life you can never be too kind or too fair; everyone you meet is carrying a heavy load. When you go through your day expressing kindness and courtesy to all you meet, you leave behind a feeling of warmth and good cheer, and you help alleviate the burdens everyone is struggling with."

Brian Tracy, motivational author

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of being."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German author (1749-1832)

"Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer (1803-82)

Do You Know Me?

I am a little thing with big meaning.
I help unlock doors, open hearts, dispel prejudices.
I create friendship and good will
I inspire respect and admiration.
Everybody loves me. I bore nobody.
I violate no laws. I cost nothing.
Many have praised me, none has condemned me.
I am pleasing to those of high and low degree.
I am useful every moment of the day, in many ways.
I am called courtesy.

The Ridge Forest

Many years ago in India, there was a man known to be a perfect shot. When he went hunting, he never missed, but he only shot an animal when he was hungry. One morning, as he was hunting in the jungle, he saw a bear up on the mountainside. As he prepared to shoot it, he noticed that the bear was walking on a thin ledge on the side of the mountain. If he shot the bear now, it would fall into the deep gorge and would be of no use to him. Then, he noticed that from the other side of the ledge a small bear had also started walking across. The hunter thought to himself, "Oh! That is such a narrow ledge, both the bears cannot cross it at the same time. When they meet, they will fight and both will fall into the gorge." He considered shooting one of them, in order to save the other, but realized that the noise would probably scare the other and both would fall. He had no choice but to wait and watch. As the bears reached each other, they stopped and started talking. The hunter waited for them to start fighting. To his surprise, the big bear sat down and allowed the small bear to climb his back and cross over. Then, the big bear got up and walked across the ledge. The hunter was overwhelmed. He thought, "These animals know more about collaboration and courtesy than people do. We foolishly keep fighting with each other over the smallest of things. These animals are actually more intelligent than we are."

From that day on, he stopped hunting and spent all of his time in the jungle to learn from the animals. It is said that he lived in the jungle for many years and did his best to protect the animals. The jungle, now called Ridge Forest, is a reserved area with no hunting allowed.

Indian Folktale

**Courtesy is...Using good etiquette. Returning what you have borrowed.
Helping someone in need. Giving a compliment.**

Character Ed is a community-wide character education initiative working to create a "culture of character" in the Springfield area through the united efforts of business, schools, civic organizations, the faith community, and media.

The Character Ed initiative is managed by the Ozarks Regional YMCA and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

