

Letter to the Reader from Nancy Wilcox Richards



Dear Boys and Girls,

When I first came up with the idea for *How to Be a Friend* it was actually a nonfiction book. I wanted to write about real kids who had done kind things for others for the sheer joy of it — kids who took that extra minute to say a kind word or do a thoughtful gesture. But like most books, this evolved over time until eventually it became a work of fiction, complete with the main character, Lexie.

In the beginning of the book, Lexie is a shy worrywart.

Throughout the school year, she gains confidence, makes new friends and she learns a lesson about true friendship. I thought it was important for Lexie to have good friends. That's because my friends are very important to me. I hang out with them, share my worries with them, and celebrate the good times with them. I hope you have at least one very good friend who is absolutely trustworthy.

I enjoyed writing *How to Be a Friend*. One of the best things about that process was coming up with exciting ideas that Lexie and her classmates could do for their Random Acts of Kindness. When I read the book to my grade two class, they wanted to try doing acts of kindness, too. They had so much fun—especially trying to keep them a secret! Who knows, maybe you'll want to make someone's day a little better by doing a random act of kindness. I truly believe the kinder you are to others, the more kindness you get back. It's kind of contagious!

Here's hoping you spread a little kindness today!

Nancy Wilcox Richards



Art from *How to Be a Friend* © 2011 by Nancy Wilcox Richards.