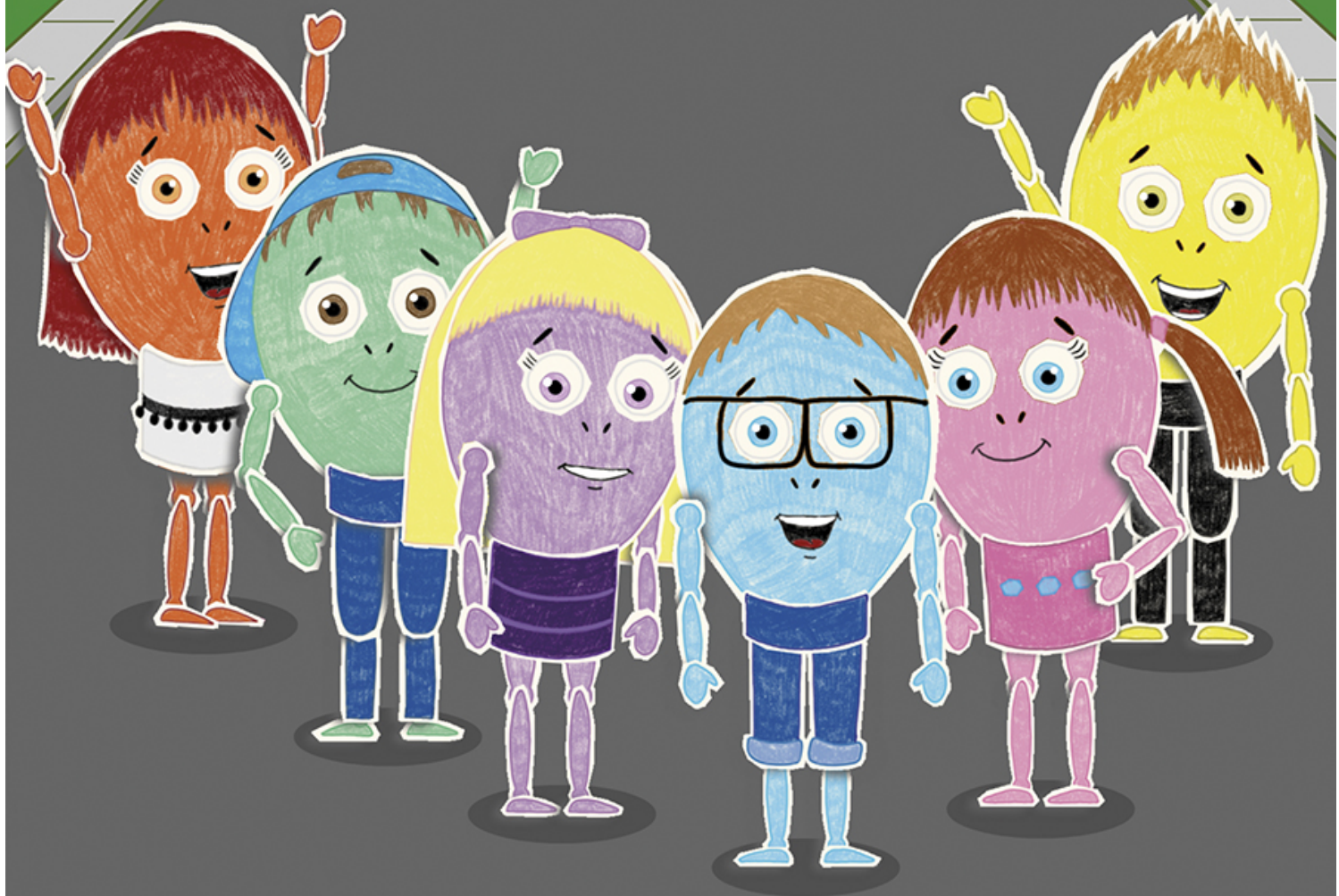


The

BOOK 1 - Virtues

BY: S. Ciaramitaro

Good Eggs



A SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SERIES

ILLUSTRATED BY: BRAD TROFIN

The Good Eggs

The Good Eggs

Essential Concepts for Children
about Virtues, Diversity, and Service

BOOK 1 - Virtues

By: S. Ciaramitaro
Illustrated by: Brad Trofin

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To Mark

“Oh, my love, my darling”

Our journey continues . . .

IAY

To Stephanie, Stacey and John

You are my greatest joy

MMLY

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Chapter 1 - September

Understanding

Albumen is a small town, clean and quiet. The tree-lined streets are beautiful and have a different look with each change of the season. Neighbors say hello to each other and lend a helping hand when needed. It could be said that Albumen is a town filled with Good Eggs.

The long, hot summer had come to an end. It was time to begin a new school year. Eager to begin his school routine, Reggie began to wonder about his new teacher and what new things he would be learning. His curiosity distracted him while he was trying to tie his shoelaces. Finally, his fumbling fingers managed to get the job done, but his excitement continued to grow.

On the first day of school, Reggie adjusted his glasses, kissed his mom goodbye, and walked down the block to his friend Gregory's house. Reggie and Gregory had been friends for a very long time. They did everything together.

Gregory was ready to go and met Reggie at the door. The two pals smiled at each other, gave a high five, and left for school.

When they got to the playground, Reggie and Gregory joined the other Eggs and shared their summer stories.

“We went to the water park,” said Reggie, as he imitated jumping in a pool. “I learned to do a belly flop. It was so much fun!”

Greggory chimed in, “We went to a horse farm and I learned to gallop for the first time!”

The other Eggs all had great stories about their summer adventures. All in all, it had been a grand summer for the Eggs.

Riiiiinnngg went the bell! It was time to take a seat in the classroom. Ms. Poach, the new teacher, looked like she was nice. She welcomed the class with a warm smile and greeted each student by name. “This is going to be an awesome year,” thought Reggie.

Reggie and Greggory looked around the room and spotted their two best friends, Megg and Seggourney. The four Eggs were very close friends. But Reggie and Greggory didn’t see Megg and Seggourney much over the summer because they were away at camp. They couldn’t wait to ask them at recess about their summer fun.

Megg and Seggourney waved and smiled. In fact, all of the other Eggs waved and smiled at each other, except for one. He was a new Egg – the four friends did not recognize him. He did not look happy.

The morning passed quickly, and soon it was time for recess. Megg, Seggourney, Reggie, and Greggory ran toward each other and did a group hug. “It’s so great to see you guys!” shouted Seggourney. “I’ve missed you!”

Megg added, “Wow, Greggory, you’ve grown at least a whole inch!”

It felt good to be back together for a new school year. They were all laughing and having a good time as they talked about the summer.

The new Egg walked past the four friends and sneered at them. "Stop laughing so loud. You're bothering me!"

Reggie and Megg stared back at the new Egg. They didn't know what to say. Seggourney tried to talk with him. "I see you are new here. What's your name?"

"Benedict." The new Egg snapped back.

Seggourney continued politely, "Ok, Benedict. We're sorry if we bothered you."

Benedict shouted back, "Just leave me alone!" as he ran off. The four friends wondered why Benedict acted so strangely. Just then the bell rang, and it was time to get back to class.

After school, the four friends were walking home when they spotted Benedict ahead of them. "Benedict," shouted Gregory, "Wait up!" Benedict started to run away and was soon lost from sight. Exhausted from chasing Benedict, the Eggs stopped to catch their breath. "What do you think is wrong with him?" puffed Megg, as she flipped her ponytail.

"I don't know, but I think we should try to find out," replied Seggourney.

Gregory scratched his head. "Let's try to talk to him tomorrow." They all agreed.

* * *

The next morning Benedict did not come to school. Seggourney told Megg she was worried about him. "His behavior was very strange yesterday when he ran away."

The Good Eggs



Megg agreed. They decided to ask Gregory and Reggie to go with them to Benedict's house after school to check on him.

"I know which house is his," said Megg. "It's the pretty blue one around the corner from the library. I saw the moving van there when I got home from camp."

Upon arriving at Benedict's house, the girls rang the doorbell. Benedict opened the door but started to close it when he saw the four Eggs.

Wait!" shouted Megg. "Don't shut the door. We want to talk to you."

"What is it?" said Benedict. He came outside and sat on the porch, holding his face in his hands. The four Eggs sat down around Benedict.

"Benedict, why are you so sad and angry? We know you're new here. We want to be your friends. Please help us to **understand** what's wrong." Seggourney continued, "When you ran off yesterday, we were worried about you."

Benedict's eyes filled with tears that began to run down his cheeks. "My dad got a new job. We had to move over the summer to Albumen. I had to leave my home and all of my friends. I miss them very much."

Upon hearing this, the Eggs began to **understand** Benedict's strange behavior. Reggie adjusted his glasses and thought back to the time he had to move.

Benedict continued, "I was mean to you yesterday because I thought that if I made friends with you, I might have to leave you someday, and it would hurt again. I don't want that to happen."

Reggie offered some advice. “Benedict, a few years ago my mom got a new job, and we moved to Albumen. I remember missing my home and my friends, too. But then something great happened – I met Gregory. Then I met Seggourney and Megg. We have been inseparable ever since!” He added, “I **understood** my mom had to take a new job, and I’m sure you **understand** your dad did, too. It will all work out. New experiences can be really fun!”

Benedict squinted his eyes and began to shuffle his foot back and forth on the porch step. “But, what if this happens again? What if I have to move again?”

Megg flipped her ponytail and said, “Benedict, you don’t need to worry about that now. You just got here, and I bet you will be here for a long time!”

Seggourney added with a wink, “Even if you had to move again, you will never be able to forget *us*! We will always keep in touch, like you can with your old friends. We’ll help you write to them, ok? But for now, let’s play tag. You’re it!” She tapped Benedict’s shoulder and ran onto the lawn with the rest of the Eggs.

Benedict felt quite relieved to share his story with his new friends, who were so **understanding**. “I think this will be a good place to live if I give it some time,” he thought quietly to himself with a smile.