This lesson uses paired text (fiction and nonfiction) to start great conversations about caring, compassion and empathy for others. Kids will learn that they share similar social emotional characteristics with elephants as they read about elephant memories, reactions & responses to unkind actions.

**THEMES**
Kindness  
Caring  
Compassion  
Empathy

**PART 1: Fiction**  
*The Saying*  
by Amy Kesler  
8.5" x 11"  
Black & white  
Ideal for individual student use

Printable included on page 7.

**PART 2: Non-Fiction**  
*MISSION: Elephant Rescue*  
by National Geographic Kids

Enhance your lesson with more downloadable resources from Kindness Adventure. Check our NED’s Elephant Fact Cards to learn more interesting facts about elephants! This set of three cards will provide you with everything you need to know for the non-fiction part of this lesson.

Available on www.ShopNED.com

**Caring is Cool Buttons**  
These cheerful buttons remind students that it is COOL to be kind, compassionate and CARING towards others.

Each button is 1-3/4" Diameter  
Classroom Pack of 30 • $19.00  
School Pack of 150 • $80.00
Elephants Empathize

PART 1: Fiction

Before Reading

1. There is a saying...an elephant never forgets. Do you think it is true? Why or why not? If true, what kind of things do you think an elephant never forgets? Answers will vary.

2. What are some things that you will never forget? Answers will vary. Most kids will share the positive – the trip to Disneyworld, a camping trip. Not all memories are good - Some might share a time they were really sick or hurt.

3. Look around the room. Do you think you will remember all the kids in this room 20 years from now? Why or why not? Answers will vary.

Read the poem: The Saying, by Amy Kesler

After Reading

NOTE TO TEACHER: Several of these questions will ask kids to share what they think or know about elephants. They might not know the correct response. Allows kids the opportunity to guess and share wild answers. NED’s paired nonfiction lesson Elephant Memories will provide the facts to confirm their responses as true or not!

1. From the poem, what things did the elephant remember? What feelings would you connect to each of those memories?
   - Visitor from the past: good or bad memories, missing someone
   - Its own baby: loving family
   - A harsh goodbye: danger, violence
   - Sickness or death: loss, sadness, mourning

2. Define compassion. How does an elephant show compassion? Answers may vary.
   Compassion is the feeling of sharing another’s suffering. It often prompts a desire to relieve that suffering. Elephants gather round in sickness, try to ease pain of elephants by touching with trunk, stroking head or body to comfort, stay with them rather than leave them alone, cry out in compassion.

3. Define the word empathetic. How does it differ from compassionate? Answers will vary.
   Try to get kids to see that empathetic means to feel WITH another, not feel FOR another. If you are empathetic, your heart is involved, not just your actions.

ACTIVITY: We are a Kind and Caring School.
Brainstorm a list of synonyms and antonyms for compassionate.
Synonyms: kindness, merciful, sympathetic, tender, understanding, etc.
Antonyms: cruel, careless, heartless, thoughtless, etc.
Do the same for Empathetic. Use the list to identify behaviors you see in your class.
Elephants Empathize

PART 1: Fiction, Continued

Writing Prompts

Personal Reflection: Am I caring, compassionate, or empathetic?
Which word best describes me and why?

Write about a time you were NOT caring, compassionate or empathetic. If you could
REDO, what would you do differently?
Read Non-Fiction Text:

MISSION: Elephant Rescue, Pg. 64, Pg. 88 (An Elephant Never Forgets)
Selected pages are recommended for targeted instruction. The remainder of the book is full of additional information for ongoing research and learning.

After Reading:

1. What are some things an elephant remembers? Answers will vary: Location of best water holes, how to avoid predators (animals and people), migration route year after year, familiar elephants (and people), caregivers, experiences (good and bad)

2. What are some things that YOU remember? Are they similar to an elephant’s memory? Answers will vary: best vacations, avoiding bee stings, way to grandma’s house, babysitters or caregivers, friends, good and bad experiences. VERY similar to an elephant.

3. Are memories helpful? Hurtful? Can a memory impact your behavior in good ways and bad ways? Answers will vary. Use elephant memories as examples if kids are having difficulty talking about this. Elephant memories help them survive by knowing where to find water and who to avoid. Memories can be hurtful if the elephant was harmed, injured, or lost someone.

   Next time you see someone acting inappropriately....try to be empathetic. Ask yourself – What has happened in their life that might make them act this way? Put yourself in their shows and see if that helps you treat them a little differently.

Read Non-Fiction Text:

MISSION: Elephant Rescue, Pg. 46-52. (Elephant Family)

After Reading:

1. Summarize how the elephant family is compassionate and caring for a baby elephant. Answers will vary, Mom loves, comforts, feeds, helps. Others in family, step in and help too. They all celebrate together when the baby is born.

2. How are those feelings and actions similar/different from your family?

3. How can you be more compassionate and caring at school?
Read Non-Fiction Text:

MISSION: Elephant Rescue, Pg. 46-52. *(Through an Elephant’s Eyes)*

After Reading:

1. What dangers does an elephant face? Answers will vary

2. Describe the different feelings the baby elephant feels before, during and after being rescued. How are these feelings the same/different from human feelings? Answers will vary.
   - **Brave** – charging into darkness with ears spread wide. She has seen her mom do this to look bigger and scare animals away. Tries to protect her mom from the rescuers. Charges at any human who comes near her – remembers the humans who hurt her mother
   - **Compassionate and caring for her mom** – rumbling and trying to nudge her wounded mother to get up. For 2 days, she has stayed by her mom’s side. Rest of herd – left in search of water and food.
   - **Frightened** – hungry, thirsty, helpless to her mom, alone
   - **Grieving** – doesn’t want to eat, rejects help
   - **Comforted** – finally sees humans are caring for other baby elephants – not hurting them, accepts care for herself, they feed her bottles of milk, give her leafy branches to eat, tuck blanket around calf, sleeps with her. Seeing others helps them to understand it is okay.
   - **Happy** – splashes and plays in water with other elephants, chases in play, imitates other elephants in play

3. Describe how you feel when you hear about orphaned elephants?

Activity:

Students fill in each column with things that are similar between people and elephants. Use what you have learned throughout this lesson and outside research to find similarities.

Reflection Question: What can I learn from the life of an elephant?

Writing, Activities & Prompts:

Write a letter to your family

- Explain why baby elephants are being orphaned-different reasons
- Tell them about what help is given to save the babies (milk, comfort, family, other elephants to help train like an elephant)
- Tell them how you FEEL about this and what you want to do about it.
- Maybe ask them to help you earn $50 to adopt a baby elephant or some other act of compassion

Someday, I want to ...

Write about what you would like to be or do when you grow up. What will your job responsibilities be? How will compassion and empathy help you do your job better?
Activities:

**We are a Caring School.**
Start a HEART chain. Look for examples of kids putting their heart first to care for someone else, write it on the heart and add it to the chain.

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**Home Connection:**
Talk to your kids about feeling empathy for others. Encourage them to share their hearts when they talk about being empathetic.

**Make a card ring** with questions to ask your kids while driving to sports, activities, etc. When you ask about their day – don’t just ask about what they learned or what they did. Include questions like: What kind thing did you do today? Did you care about someone today? Were you empathetic to another kids at school today? Help your kids to put themselves into the shoes of another. Make up your own cards to expand the deck.

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**Resources:**

**Learn more about Orphaned Elephants:**
Visit David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to read more stories of orphans. Consider adopting one and following their story as they survive and are returned to the wild. Help your students to feel empathy for the baby elephant’s experience.

**Connect with the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust:**
Website: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org
Facebook: The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
Twitter: @DSWT
YouTube: dswtkenya
The Saying  By Amy Kesler

An elephant never forgets  
Is that how the saying goes?  
I’ve come to test the saying out,  
To see what an elephant knows.  

They say an elephant remembers  
When it hasn’t seen you in years.  
Your scent is locked in memory  
Its trunk confirms and cheers.  

It never forgets its baby  
It knows a visitor from the past.  
You can try to trick an elephant,  
But they’re smart and you’d come in last.

They gather round in sickness  
Try to ease each other’s pain.  
They also show compassion  
Even when there’s little to gain.  

They say an elephant remembers  
The good, the bad, the true  
I am reminded to be more caring  
With friends both old and new.
We are a Kind and Caring School.

Brainstorm a list of synonyms (we are...) and antonyms (we are not...)

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<th>we are NOT:</th>
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Me and Elephants.

In each column, make a list of things that are similar between people and elephants. Use what you have learned throughout this lesson and outside research to find similarities.

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<th>social:</th>
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Name ____________________________
We are a Caring School.

Start a HEART chain. Look for examples of kids putting their heart first to care for someone else, write it on the heart and add it to the chain.
Make a card ring with questions to ask your kids while driving to sports, activities, etc. Make up your own cards to expand the deck. Print, cut along dotted lines, hole punch and place on ring or tie together.

Were you kind to someone at school today?

What was the **NICEST** thing someone said to **YOU** today?

Tell me what you did **to help** someone today!

Did someone do something **NICE** to you today? How did that make you **FEEL**?

Did you see any unhappy kids today? How did you **feel** when you saw them? could you have helped?

Let's think of some ways that we can give back & help others.

How do you feel right now?  
(Adult: Share how you feel too.)