



THE DOUGLASTON SCHOOL
2016 National Blue Ribbon School
PS 98Q
40-20 235th Street
Douglaston, NY 11363
Phone 718.423.8535 Fax 718.423.8550



Lena Kim, Principal

Diana Gautier, A.P.

December 2017

Dear PS 98 Families,

As we continue to focus on growing our students in both the academic and emotional sense, we are excited to present this month's text- *The Gift of Nothing*, by Patrick McDonnell. During this time of year, this book presents a wonderful message about the gift of giving. Mooch is trying to think of the perfect to give his friend Earl, a friend who has everything! Throughout the book, Mooch tries to think of unique gifts, but Earl has everything he comes up with. During this process, Mooch learns that sometimes the best gift is simply nothing at all but friendship.

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The Gift of Nothing



• PATRICK McDONNELL •

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Sincerely,

Book of the Month Team



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Questions organized by Revised Bloom's Taxonomy of Higher Order Thinking

Although there are grade band denotations, we found that some questions would be appropriate for all students:

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Possible Questions/ Thinking Maps	
	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5
Remember: Recognize, recall, locate, identify	Create a bubble map to describe Mooch. How is he being a good friend in the book?	Use a bubble map to describe Mooch. Respond to the following: What type of friend is Mooch?
Understand: Clarify, summarize, paraphrase, represent, predict, compare	Why does Mooch decide to give nothing as a gift to Earl?	How did Mooch misunderstand the idea of "nothing" in this story? What did he think was meant by others when they said "they had nothing to wear" etc.
Apply: Use procedure in a given situation, carry-out or use with unfamiliar task	Was Mooch being a good friend when he gave Earl nothing? Why or why not?	How does Mooch decide which gift to give his friend Earl? Can you think of a better suggestion than what he has decided? Support your response.
Analyze: Break into parts, distinguish, organize, outline, deconstruct	Why do you think Mooch kept getting a bigger and bigger box? If he is giving nothing, why would the box need to be bigger?	What is Mooch's idea of nothing? Use a bridge map to compare Mooch's gift of nothing, using the relating factor "looks like."
Evaluate: Make judgments based on criteria, critique	When Earl opened Mooch's gift there was nothing in the box. If you cannot see something, does that mean that nothing is there? What was inside the box?	Do you agree with Mooch that the gift of nothing is sort of like the gift of everything? Why? Use reasons and evidence to support your opinion.
Create: Reorganize elements into new patterns, design, construct, produce	Think about complementary words to describe your best friend. Create a bubble map about your best friend using those words. Why are they such a good friend?	Make a tree map to identify three people whom you would like to give the gift of nothing, and describe/explain the type of nothing each one would receive.

Social-Emotional Learning Activity:

Mooch decides to celebrate his friendship with Earl for no reason. He decides that the best gift to give Earl is nothing because their friendship means more than any gift. Create a multi-flow map to explain how this might make someone feel after they receive a gift of friendship. How can this create a pattern of kindness?



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