Extra Yarn

Character Trait:  Respect or Positive Influence
Small group:  Friendship
Grades:  2-4
Time:  30 minutes
Materials:
  Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett
  Skein of multi-colored crochet yarn
  Scissors

Lesson:
1. Introduce the character word for the lesson. Respect means that “I treat others the way I want to be treated.” Being a positive influence means “I help others to make good choices by being a good example. I make my world a better place.”
2. Introduce the book: Annabelle finds a treasure. Pay attention to how Annabelle uses this treasure to make her world a better place.
3. When Nate makes fun of Annabelle, have students guess what might happen next? Will Annabelle stop wearing the sweater?
4. When Mr. Norman says she can’t make sweaters for everyone, does she believe him? Why do you think Annabelle knew she would have enough yarn? Did she know she’d have enough?
5. When Mr. Crabtree says that he doesn’t need a sweater, how does Annabelle show him extra kindness/respect? Have you ever received a thoughtful gift like Annabelle gave Mr. Crabtree? How does that make you feel? How do you know Mr. Crabtree feels that way?
6. When the archduke offers ten million dollars for the box of yarn, ask, would you take ten million dollars for the box? Why do you think Annabelle doesn’t?
7. After the story ends, have students think together:
   a. Look at the village at the beginning of the story and about the middle of the story. Did Annabelle make her world a better place?
   b. Why was the box empty when the archduke opened it?
   c. Why did the box never run out of yarn for Annabelle?
   d. The archduke curses Annabelle and says he hopes she is never happy again. Is the archduke happy? Is Annabelle? Why?
   e. How is the yarn in this story like kindness? If needed, you can prompt students’ thinking with, “Do you run out of kindness when you give it away?”
8. Cut 6-inch pieces of yarn. Allow students to come up one at a time and choose a piece of yarn. Instead of keeping it, they will give it away to another student in their class while also giving them a
compliment/saying something nice about them. Allow students to come up one at a time. Tie the yarn on the child’s arm.

9. Ask students to wear the yarn on their wrist all day/all week. Have it help them remember to show respect to those around them and to look for ways to make their world a better place like Annabelle did.