

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

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Making a Difference

A message for life

"FunnyBaldMan" from Michigan, posted this five-star review of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* on amazon.com last February. We loved it.

A friend of mine mentioned seeing Carol McCloud speak recently at her church. She told me the basic idea of the book's bucketfilling philosophy and I was hooked.

Corporations hire me to entertain and motivate their employees.

I'm thrilled when I see a book like this that gets the message out to young children. If they take Carol's message throughout their life, I don't think the world will need to hire people like me to motivate them. They'll already have their buckets full and be motivating themselves and others along the way.

After ordering this book, I sat my children down and read it to them.

The wonderful illustrations by David Messing drew them right in, along with Carol's wonderful story/lesson. It's a story but so much more — it teaches children to care for others and to do the right thing.

It quickly registered with my kids. You could almost see their brains working as the bucket theory kicked in.

This is a feel good, do good, be good kinda book. We've had this book in our home for about a week and my kids keep asking me to read it to them. They "get it" and are being great little bucket fillers.

Review has been edited for space. Ed.

BUCKET FILLERS, INC.

PO BOX 255

BRIGHTON, MI 48116

PHONE: 810.229.5468

FAX: 810.588.6782

WWW.BUCKETFILLERS101.COM

Designed & edited by Glenny Merillat

Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud, *The Bucket Lady*

Bucket filling builds character

This week's Nugget arrived in an inspiring email from Barbara Gruener, Counselor and Character Coach for Westwood Elementary School in Westwood, Texas.

As a counselor, I'm often called in to help when unplanned things disrupt the schedule. I stepped in recently to help out Mrs. Boyer, a first-grade teacher, whose class had come in early from recess due to an unforeseen rain shower.

I read aloud the Bucket Filler book and the students really responded to it. I asked the students to tell me who was a good example of a Bucket Filler at Westwood and why.

It was so energizing to hear their answers and the reasons behind them:

Mrs. Rachita, the music teacher, because she's so bubbly. Mr. Whitlock, the assistant principal, because he keeps us safe. Mrs. Gruener, the counselor, because she always smiles at us. Nurse Jolibois because she helps us when we don't feel well. Mrs. Stephens, the p.e. teacher, because she teaches us how to be healthy. My mom because she volunteers here.

The list of Bucket Fillers at Westwood went on and on and my heart soared to know that they're feeling so loved and cared for at school.

After I left the room, I heard the teacher ask the class about the book. I could tell it had piqued her interest, but wasn't sure where she'd go with the discussion.

The next morning there was a huge yellow poster hanging outside my office. The students had written book reports for me in the form of a flower inside a bucket. (The teacher told me that she'd googled "bucket" and found a great bucket pattern online.) The flower petals served as parts of the book review: One petal asks for the title and author of the book. Another asks what the book was about. A third asks Fact or Fiction. A fourth petal asks would you recommend this book to a friend - yes, no, or not sure - and why. And so on. You can imagine my delight that this teacher and her class would fill my bucket in this way!

As time has passed since the poster was hung, many other teachers have asked to borrow the book and are jumping on the Bucket Filler idea. Mrs. Millsaps, a kindergarten teacher, plans to use it next year as a visual as they write their social contract about how the students should (and shouldn't) treat one another. Mrs. Kitchel wrote an email to say that her third-grade daughter told her at tuck-in time that she was a Bucket Filler. She's now planning to have her fourth graders write affirmations for one another and put them in a bucket in her room. And Mrs. Moffitt and Mrs. Hoskins have already bought little silver buckets for their classrooms for next year to incorporate the bucketfilling idea to help their second graders manage their behavior.

This week's winners

Congratulations!



Carlene Modin, a bus driver with South Sioux City Community School District, Merville, Iowa is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Carlene! You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled every week by signing on for our newsletter at

www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful." — *Albert Schweitzer*

