



# Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed

Written by Emily Pearson, Illustrated by Fumi Kosaka

*Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* is a story that celebrates and inspires us to perform ordinary deeds for others. One good deed can multiply and grow to affect others.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what the little girl is thinking about?

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words

- ordinary – nothing special or unusual
- amazed – feeling or showing great surprise
- woven – made from something (such as cloth) by crossing long pieces of materials over and under each other
- gratitude – a feeling of appreciation of thanks
- homeless – a person who has no place to live
- vowed – to make a serious promise to do something or to behave in a certain way
- extraordinary – very unusual

**After:** Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How would you describe Ordinary Mary?
- What did Mary leave on Mrs. Bishop's porch?
- What did Mrs. Bishop do with all those blueberries?
- How many people did Mrs. Bishop surprise?
- What did all those people do after they received their surprises?
- What are some of the ways people helped others in this story?
- How do you feel after someone does something nice for you?
- What are some ways you can lend a hand?
- Do you think your ordinary deeds can come full circle like Mary's did?



**DO**

## Stealth Secret Mission!

Challenge students to go on a secret mission and perform a random act of kindness daily. Talk about how much fun it is to see if their stealth missions can be completed without being discovered.

