By Samuel T., age 10, Idaho, USA

One day I was in the bus line with my friend Mike.* We try to get in line first so we can sit in the very back of the bus. There is this girl named Savannah that is kind of rude to other kids. I've known her since second grade. Something I found out was that if you are nice to her, she's nice back. Mike, on the other hand, thinks that if someone is rude to him, he should be rude back. I admit I've done that sometimes.

That day we were at the front of the line. When our line was heading to the bus, Savannah tried to sneak in front of everyone so she could sit in the back. When she was right behind us, we tried to tell her that she couldn't cut, but she made an excuse that most people make. "We're all going to the same place," she said.

* Names have been changed.

When we got to the bus, there was some shoving. Savannah got in first. She quickly ran to the back and put her backpack where she was sitting. "I got here first," said Savannah. Mike and Savannah started arguing a bit. I told Mike that we could sit somewhere else, but he didn't listen. I started arguing with Mike. Then I remembered a line from a movie that said when we have a choice between being right or being kind, we should choose to be kind.

So I asked Savannah nicely if we could sit in the seat next to her. Mike doesn't like sharing seats, but he thought about it. "Only if you guys don't bother me," said Savannah. "Fine," Mike said. On the way home, I had a good feeling inside. You should always be kind, even if it's hard. ●

Choose to Be Kind