



Habit: Remaining Open to Continual Learning

My Granny

My Granny is going to college!
She says she wants to know more.
My Granny is going to college!
But why? She's seventy four!

My Granny is going to have homework!
She'll have to take music and art.
My Granny is going to have homework!
But why? She's already smart.

My Granny is going to have teachers!
They'll give her reports to do.
My Granny is going to have teachers.
But, can a granny learn something new?

My Granny is going to work hard!
She'll graduate in a cap and gown.
My Granny is going to work hard!
But she'll be the smartest one in our town!

SCHEDULE

Monday

Swim Team
Calculus
French
Science

Tuesday

Tennis
Psychology
Asian Art
World History



Wednesday

Swim Team
Jazz Band
Calculus
French

Thursday

Tennis
Science
World History
Asian Art

Friday

Swim Team
Fashion Design
* Sorority Party *

About the Author

Marie Ciota began teaching in 1972. During that time she has taught nearly 1,500 children ranging in age from 4 to 13.

She first became interested in the Habits of Mind over ten years ago when she was introduced to them by Art Costa and Bena Kallick. Her teaching and outlook on life has never been the same since.

Ms. Ciota lives in Somers, New York with her wonderful daughter, Hope. She is a teacher in the Somers Central School District.



*The author and illustrator, Marie Ciota,
with her daughter, Hope*

Photo Credit: Dong Abdellnour, Bedford Photographic

Views from the Fourth Grade

Q: When did you first learn about the Habits of Mind?

A: *Over ten years ago, when Dr. Costa and Dr. Kallick were introducing them to teachers. (I was remaining open to continuous learning!)*

Q: Why did you decide to write poems about the habits?

A: *I was looking for a fun way to explain them to my students. (I was questioning and problem posing.)*

Q: How did you illustrate the poems?

A: *I collaged the illustrations because I really can't draw! (I was using flexibility as well as creating and innovating.)*

Q: Which habit is the easiest for you to practice?

A: *I love to laugh. (I found humor in situations.)*

Q: Which habit is the hardest for you to practice?

A: *Managing Impulsivity. (I had to think about my thinking to answer that question.)*

Q: Was writing this book ever frustrating?

A: *Yes! (But I kept on persisting.)*

Q: Do you ever stop thinking about the habits?

A: *No! (They have become habits!)*

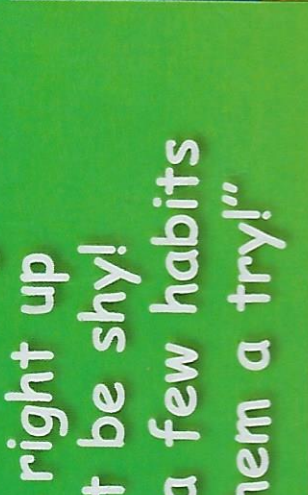
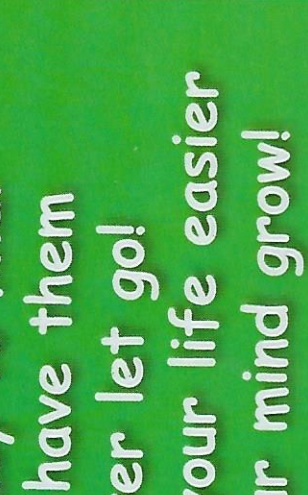
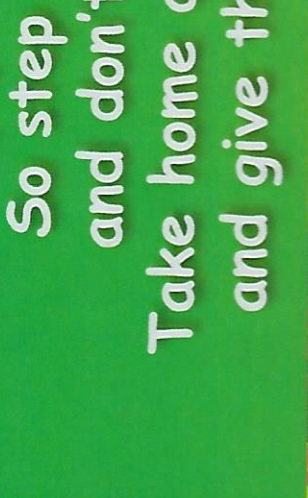
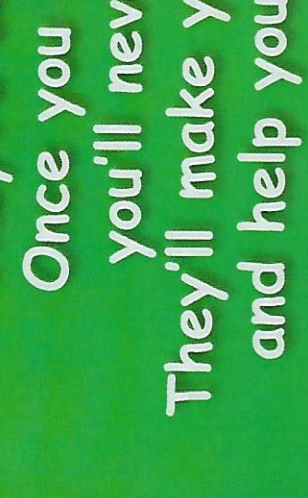
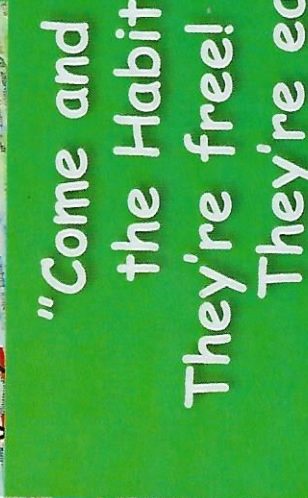
Q: Can we be in the book?

A: *Yes! (We can all feel wonderment and awe together!)*



4th grade class at Somers Intermediate School

Photo Credit: Dong Abdelhoun, Hedford Photography



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Friday



“Come and get them....
the Habits of Mind!
They're free! They're great!
They're easy to find!
Once you have them
you'll never let go!
They'll make your life easier
and help your mind grow!
So step right up
and don't be shy!
Take home a few habits
and give them a try!”

