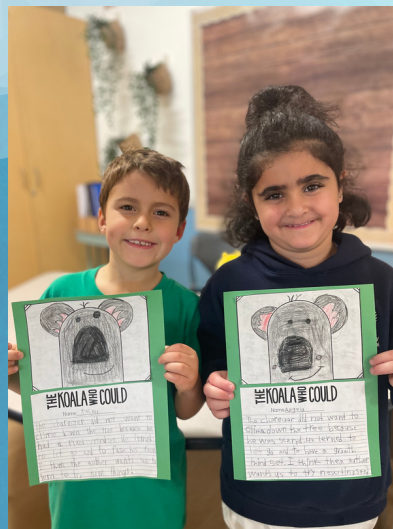
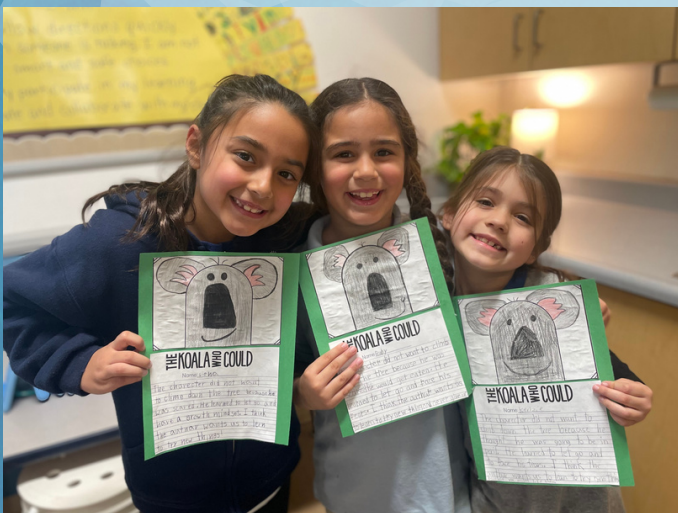


1ST GRADE READING: THE KOALA WHO COULD

This week in 1st grade, students delved into learning about character development, resilience, and the power of a growth mindset while reading our book *A Koala Who Could!* Our discussions and lessons throughout the week aligned with reading standard RL.1.2—focusing on the students' ability to analyze the central message of a book. Students explored different levels of Bloom's Taxonomy by recounting events, understanding the problem and solution, analyzing how the character changed throughout and ultimately evaluating what we as readers take away from the story. Throughout our discussions, we focused on themes such as growth vs. fixed mindset, learning from our mistakes and failures, having resilience and a positive attitude, empathizing with others, and taking responsibility to apply a growth mindset in our own lives.

1st grade students then connected themes in our book *A Koala Who Could* with Christian values. Verses like Philippians 4:13 ("I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me") encouraged students to believe their abilities and intelligence can be developed through dedication and hard work. Proverbs 3:5-6 ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding...") reinforced the importance of embracing challenges with faith and humility. Romans 5:3-4 ("Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope") connected with the theme of resilience and viewing mistakes and failures as an opportunity to grow.



Throughout our lessons, we discussed questions to reinforce critical thinking skills and connect these with Christian values including:
Knowledge: What was the main problem Kevin faced? What were some of the feelings Kevin experienced throughout the story?

Understanding: Why do you think Kevin didn't want to leave his tree? How did Kevin's friends encourage him to try new things? Why do you think Kevin felt happy at the end of the story?

Applying: How can we help our friends when they face challenges? When was a time you were scared to try something new? How did you overcome your fear?

Analyzing: How did Kevin change throughout the story? What can we learn from Kevin? How do his friends show friendship and support in difficult times?

Evaluating: Do you think Kevin made the right choice by trying new things? Why or why not?

Create: How can you turn challenges into an opportunity to learn and grow? What can you do to take responsibility for your own growth?

After completing our writing assignment, discussions and lessons, students not only honed their literary analysis skills but also worked on cultivating Christian values essential for navigating the challenges of life. They learned that within the pages of a children's book is a world where growth mindset, empathy, and resilience come together to help us grow personally and spiritually!

