Parker Feder

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The Ripple Effect Of Rory Deutsch

In 1998 Rory Deutsch, a second grader at Indian Trail School died from a brain tumor. At only seven years old, Rory had an amazing amount of courage and optimism. After researching his life and his acts of courage and kindness, I know Rory Deutsch was an inspiring citizen. It was a tragedy that he died so young. If he was still alive, I believe he would be filling this world with happiness and the kindness and courage that everyone who knew him said he possessed.

Since Rory isn't here to share his goodness, it is up to the rest of us to follow his example and try to be the kind of good citizen that he was. Being a good citizen means a lot of different things. One of the ways to be a good citizen is to do an act of kindness without expecting or seeking a reward. If you are doing a good deed for a reward, you are doing it for the wrong reason. Doing a good deed without any specific expectation means that you are truly doing it from the good of your heart, like Rory did. Rory was the kind of person who would value the good feeling inside of him, knowing that he did what was right and good, more than any thank you or payment or reward.

Doing an act of kindness is just one way to be a good citizen, like Rory was. Another way you can be a good citizen is to standing up for what you know is right. Sometimes this means defending a person who is being treated unfairly. As my dad once told me, "Standing there doing nothing is the same as being the one who is doing the bullying." He was making the point that, if you see someone getting bullied, you should try to help as much as possible. If you allow the bullying to happen without trying to stop it, you might as well be participating in the bullying. Most people would try to come to the aid of their close friends, but it doesn't matter if they are a close friend or not; try to help them! If a person gets bullied or hurt and others just stand there watching it happen, they are part of the problem. They wouldn't want people to just stand around, doing nothing if it was happening to them. They would wish that someone was there to stick up against the bully. Rory was the type of kid who would stand up for others around him, even if they weren't his best friend. In many ways, Rory was a lot like the character, Jack Will, from the book *Wonder.* In the book, Jack stood up against the bully, Julian, when he was treating Auggie unfairly. At the time, Jack wasn't even Auggie's friend, but he did what was right. The next time you see someone being bullied or treated poorly, try to stick up for them and think about what Rory would do and how you would feel if it was happening to you.

In the seven years Rory was alive, his kindness created a ripple effect. He's like the stone thrown into the pond. The ripples that have spread and keep spreading because of his inspiration means that, in a way, Rory's goodness continues to spread almost as if he is still alive. There is a

foundation that has been started in Rory's memory, and donating money helps fund research to help find cures for brain tumors like Rory's. Donating money is only one way you can help, because you can also spread kindness to those around you, like Rory did.