

# *What to say to the children when visiting their classroom:*

## **SAMPLE SPEECH**

### **Introduce yourself:**

“Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I’m a member of the Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ and we Rotarians like to do good things in the world. Rotary is a group of older people that get together once a week and have lunch. We try to do good things for other people. It’s understood that third grade is the most important year of your schooling because this year you will really begin to work on reading. Reading is very important.

We all use reading nearly every hour of the day, whether we are in the store reading prices on the shelves, ordering food at a cafe, understanding street signs, reading an article on the internet, or filling out an application to get a job.

We are told that a dictionary is the most important tool in learning to read. In a dictionary you will learn how to pronounce a word, how to spell it, and what it means. We think it is also important for your teacher that all of you have the same dictionary as you learn as a class how to use it.

Your library probably doesn't have enough copies of the same book that you all can be learning together. The book I am giving you is written just for kids your age. I am going to give each of you your very own book to keep forever.

We put the carton of books in front of the teacher and ask them to decide if they are going to distribute or call the children up. It’s up to them to read the names one-by-one and then hand the book to the Rotarian.

**Only the teacher should read the student's name.** A child's name is their most precious possession. It identifies them from all others. If we mispronounce their name it might be a terrible embarrassment to them.

The Rotarian then presents the book to the child as they come up with an attitude of caring, a smile and a pat on the back, and perhaps a word of praise, or can address the children as a whole if the books are placed in front of the kids.

*Teachers are also given a book to keep them current* and we encourage the teacher to plan activities and exercises using the dictionary and reference materials within the book.

Refer to ways to Engage through The Dictionary Project online – be creative and find questions you could ask. For example, when I visited my classroom they were having a superhero day. I had them look up the word hero - and picked a child who remembered my name after my introduction, to read the definition of the word. I went around - as did other teachers - to make sure everyone had sounded out the word and knew how to spell it, and where to find it. And encouraged classmates to help each other.

Enjoy your visit to the classroom. You're witnessing our future leaders there and we Rotarians want to be sure that the children are literate in order to help them succeed in life.