



BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Words of Wisdom to Keep Your Bucket Filled

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Lids to the Rescue!

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As young children, fairy tales are woven into our imaginations. They depict a wide range of stories in which the princess (or prince) is challenged by witches, goblins, ogres, dragons, self-centered humans, or other evil entities. In most fairy tales, the victim (the princess, prince, or other kindhearted being) is helped to overcome an evil or dangerous challenge by the support, encouragement, and kind thoughts of others.

In the story of Cinderella, the good fairy godmother and a variety of fanciful woodland creatures helped to create Cinderella's ball gown. They transformed a pumpkin into a regal carriage and gave her the confidence to override the oppressive and bullying behaviors of her wicked stepmother and jealous stepsisters.

A strikingly similar, but real-life story, took place recently in a small Michigan community when a 16-year-old sophomore was nominated to her school's annual homecoming court. Soon after, this gesture was found to be a mean joke initiated by classmates, who had cruelly planned to victimize and humiliate her.

However, like the good fairy godmother and the rallying woodland creatures of fairy tales, the community and many students rallied around this student. As the story surfaced, local businesses enthusiastically offered free services for her hair, nails, dress, and shoes. A tiara created a perfect final touch. Word of the incident spread past the small town and the story became national news.

A Facebook page gave strong support for the homecoming candidate and a YouTube video told the story, which focused, not on the bullies, but on the support this modern-day Cinderella received from other classmates and her community.



This story could have turned out very differently, and negatively, for both the student and those observing. The power of choice created the ultimate positive outcome. In bucketfilling parlance, this modern day fairy tale shows the good that can result when we use our lids for others. This is the second part of *Rule Three: Use Your Lid*, developed by Carol McCloud. The lid concept is explained in Chapter 5 of her book, *Growing Up with a Bucket Full of Happiness*. According to this rule, students who witnessed the homecoming prank had at least three choices: 1) Stand by and do nothing, 2) Join the pranksters, or 3) Use their lids to protect and stand up for the person who was being intentionally hurt.

The mid-Michigan students and their community did the right thing. It wasn't magic or any "bibbity-bobbity-boo" that made this teen's dream come true. It was the choices that were made that rescued her from emotional damage.

Magic wands and stardust are not needed when you **use your lid**.

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Designed and edited by Glenny Merillat

Congratulations, Esther!

Esther Stevens of Kissimmee, FL. is our bucket filler of the week. You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner. Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled by subscribing to our free e-newsletter at www.bucketfillers101.com

Words of Wisdom

"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are." — Roy Disney