

Suggested Wisdom Books on Kindness and Compassion

The following are some suggested titles about kindness and compassion. The books have been chosen for literary quality, illustrations, message, and uniqueness. Most of the books were published within the past ten years. Whenever preparing a bibliography, I seek titles that represent racial, ethnic, gender, and economic diversity. Other useful resources for finding wisdom books include

- Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison (www.ccbc.education.wisc.edu)
- The Classroom Bookshelf (www.classroombookshelf.blogspot.com)
- Learning to Give (<http://learningtogive.org>)

14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy.
Peachtree, 2009.

Ant and Grasshopper by Luli Gray.
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011.

Because of You by B.G. Hennessy.
Candlewick Press, 2005.

The Birdman by Veronika Martenova Charles.
Tundra Books, 2006.

Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz.
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

The Dog Who Belonged to No One
by Amy Hest. Abrams Books for
Young Readers, 2008.

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson.
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012.

Elsie's Bird by Jane Yolen.
Philomel Books, 2010.

Emily's New Friend by Cindy Post Senning.
Collins, 2010.

Fly Free! by Roseanne Thong.
Boyds Mills Press, 2010.

Gathering Sparks by Howard Schwartz.
Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

*I Will Come Back for You: A Family in Hiding
During World War II* by Marisabina Russo.
Dragonfly Books, 2011.

Journey by Aaron Becker.
Candlewick Press, 2013.

Kindness by Kimberley Jane Pryor.
Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2008.

Ladder to the Moon by Maya Soetoro-Ng.
Candlewick Press, 2011.

*Leopard & Silkie: One Boy's Quest to
Save the Seal Pups* by Brenda Peterson.
Henry Holt, 2012.

The Mitten String by Jennifer Rosner.
Random House, 2014.

The Odious Ogre by Norton Juster.
Michael Di Capua Books/Scholastic, 2010.

Sharing by Sue Barraclough.
Heinemann Library, 2010.

South by Patrick McDonnell.
Little, Brown, 2008.

Sparrow Girl by Sara Pennypacker.
Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009.

Timmerman Was Here by Colleen Sydor.
Tundra Books, 2009.

Very Tiny Baby by Sylvie Kantrovitz.
Charlesbridge, 2014.

*Where's Mom's Hair? A Family's Journey
Through Cancer* by Debbie Watters.
Second Story Press, 2005.

Winter Is the Warmest Season
by Lauren Stringer. Harcourt, 2006.

Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku
by Lee Wardlaw. Henry Holt, 2011.

The Word Collector by Sonja Wimmer.
Cuento De Luz, 2011.

More Ideas for Using Wisdom Books

Wisdom book projects can also encompass other subject areas. Select a group of books based on the subject content and design the final project around the content. The following are some ideas for other ways to use wisdom books.

- **Grade 3:** Feature folktales from around the world. Illustrate the beginning/middle/end in representative slides.
- **Grade 4:** Feature wisdom book examples from genres studied during the year (e.g., realistic fiction, biography, nonfiction, poetry, fantasy, etc.).
- **Grade 5+:** Create a Read across America display based on a study of fiction and nonfiction about individual states or US regions. Digital photo displays work well for this activity, as do poster boards modeled after *The Train of States* by Peter Sis (Greenwillow, 2004). A similar approach could be used with countries around the world.
- **Grade 3+:** Use the new picture books from the NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books (www.nsta.org/publications/ostb), Notable Social Studies Trade Books (www.socialstudies.org/notable), or National Council of Teachers of English (www.ncte.org/awards/books) lists of outstanding books.
- **Grade 4+:** Create a Poetry Tree (search on Pinterest for lots of examples). Add poem leaves to the tree. Videotape children reciting their favorite poems under (or next to) the Poetry Tree.