

# Compassion Bibliography

Compiled by Deb Gallaher and Jay Stickler

## Picture Books

- Badoe, Adwoa. *Nana's Cold Days*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2002.  
Nana comes from Africa to visit her grandsons Rama and Ken, but she finds it hard to cope with the icy cold winter weather in North America. She retreats under a pile of blankets in bed, and her family tries to entice her out of her nest.
- Barron, T. A. *Where Is Grandpa?* New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2000.  
As his family reminisces after his beloved grandfather's death, a boy realizes that his grandfather is still with him in all the special places they shared.
- Best, Cari. *Goose's Story*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.  
A young girl finds a Canada goose with a badly injured foot and looks for her each day to see how she is doing.
- Boyden, Linda. *The Blue Roses*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books, 2002.  
A Native American girl gardens with her grandfather, who helps to raise her. She learns about life and loss when he dies, and speaks to her from a dream surrounded by blue roses.
- Bradby, Marie. *More Than Anything Else*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 1995.  
A fictionalized story about the life of young Booker T. Washington, focusing on his quest to learn to read.
- Bunting, Eve. *Fly Away Home*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1991.  
A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom.
- Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*. 1st ed. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1994.  
When the Los Angeles riots break out in the streets of their neighborhood, a young boy and his mother learn the values of getting along with others no matter what their background or nationality.
- Bunting, Eve. *Someday a Tree*. New York, NY: Clarion, 1993.  
A young girl, her parents, and their neighbors try to save an old oak tree that has been poisoned by pollution.
- Bunting, Eve. *The Wednesday Surprise*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1989.  
On Wednesday nights when Grandma stays with Anna everyone thinks she is teaching Anna to read.
- Bunting, Eve. *The Wall*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1990.  
A boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather, who was killed in the conflict.
- Bunting, Eve. *Your Move*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1998.

- When ten-year-old James' gang initiation endangers his six-year-old brother Isaac, they find the courage to say, "thanks, but no thanks."
- Bunting, Eve. *One Candle*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Joanna Cotler Books, 2002.  
Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a German concentration camp.
- Casey, Patricia. *One Day at Wood Green Animal Shelter*. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001.  
It is a very busy day at Wood Green Animal Shelter, where the workers take care of a variety of animals that need their help.
- Cech, John. *My Grandmother's Journey*. 1st American ed. New York, NY: Bradbury, 1991.  
A grandmother tells the story of her eventful life in early twentieth-century Europe and her arrival in the United States after World War II.
- Clifton, Lucille. *Three Wishes*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Viking Press, 1976.  
When a young girl finds a good luck penny and makes three wishes on it, she learns that friendship is her most valued possession.
- Coakley, Lena. *On the Night of the Comet*. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers, 2004.  
A grieving boy is given another chance to say goodbye when three great cats show upon his doorstep.
- Coman, Carolyn. *Losing Things at Mr. Mudd's*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992.  
After losing a valuable old ring given to her by her distant relative, Mr. Mudd, six-year-old Lucy learns with him that the true worth of things may not lie in their monetary value.
- Creech, Sharon. *Fishing in the Air*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Joanna Cotler Books, 2000.  
A young boy and his father go on a fishing trip and discover the power of imagination.
- Day, Alexandra. *Not Forgotten: A Consolation for the Loss of an Animal Friend*. Seattle, WA: Laughing Elephant, 2004.  
A pet that has died offers comfort to its owner and hope that they will someday see each other again. Includes illustrations by well-known artists.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*. 1st ed. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2000.  
Retells the World War II story of King Christian X and the Danish resistance to the Nazis.
- Demi. *The Dalai Lama*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Henry Holt, 1998.  
A picture book for children ages 4 to 8, on the life of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Includes information on Tibet and Buddhism.
- De Paola, Tomie. *Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs*. New York, NY: Puffin Books, 1978, 1973.  
A small boy enjoys his relationship with his grandmother and his great-grandmother, but he learns to face their inevitable death.
- Dunbar, Joyce. *Indigo and the Whale*. Mahwah, NJ: BridgeWater Books, 1996.  
Indigo wants to be a musician, not a fisherman like his father, and with the aid of an enormous whale he finally gets his wish.

Dunlap, Julie. *Louisa May & Mr. Thoreau's Flute*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2002.

In nineteenth-century Concord, Massachusetts, seven-year-old Louisa May Alcott joins other local children on the varied excursions led by teacher and naturalist Henry David Thoreau, and is inspired to write her first poem.

George, Jean Craighead. *Frightful's Daughter*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books, 2002.

The author brings back characters from her classic *My Side of the Mountain* in this story about a falcon chick named Oksi, one of Frightful's babies. Oksi is rescued and nursed through her first winter by Sam, a boy who lives alone and at one with nature, on a mountain nearby.

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Mountains of Tibet*. 1st Harper Trophy ed. New York, NY: HarperTrophy, 1989.

After dying, a Tibetan woodcutter is given the choice of going to heaven or to live another life anywhere in the universe.

Godard, Alex. *Mama, Across the Sea*. 1st American ed. New York, NY: Henry Holt, 2000.

Although she loves the sunny island where she lives with her grandparents, Cecile longs to see her mother again.

Goffstein, M.B. *Neighbors*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1979.

Relates the year-long attempt of one shy person to befriend her equally shy neighbor.

Greenberg, Polly. *Oh Lord, I Wish I Was a Buzzard*. 1st SeaStar Books paperback ed. New York, NY: SeaStar Books, 2003, 2002.

As a little girl picks cotton, she dreams of changing places with a buzzard, a dog, and other creatures of the field.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Grandpa's Face*. 1st Sandcastle Books ed. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1988.

Seeing her beloved grandfather making a mean face while he rehearses for one of his plays, Tamika becomes afraid that someday she will lose his love and he will make that mean face at her.

Gregory, Nan. *How Smudge Came*. New York, NY: Walker and Co., 1995.

Cindy, who is developmentally disabled and has to work all day, fights to keep the small stray dog she finds on the street.

Grifalconi, Ann. *Osa's Pride*. 1st ed. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1990.

Osa's grandmother tells her a tale about the sins of pride and helps Osa gain a better perspective on what things are important.

Grifalconi, Ann. *Kinda Blue*. 1st ed. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1993.

Sissy feels lonely and blue until her Uncle Dan cheers her up by explaining that everything, even corn, needs special attention every now and then.

Guy, Rosa. *Billy the Great*. New York, NY: Doubleday Book for Young Readers, 1992.

Billy's parents try to plan his life for him, including his choice of friends, but he has ideas of his own.

- Hatley, Julie. *Dasher Gets Adopted: A Story of Love, Trust, and Family*. 1st ed. Issaquah, WA: Shine Publications, 2001.  
Dasher, a greyhound racer, learns that she will be leaving the track to be adopted by a family. The change is abrupt and confusing for Dasher, but soon she comes to love her new owners.
- Hegi, Ursula. *Trudi & Pia*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.  
A dwarf girl goes to the circus where she meets another dwarf and realizes that she is not alone.
- Heide, Florence Parry. *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*. 1st Mulberry ed. New York, NY: Mulberry Books, 1995.  
A young Egyptian boy describes the city of Cairo as he goes about his daily work and waits for the evening to share a special surprise with his family.
- Henkes, Kevin. *So Happy!* 1st ed. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 2005.  
The lives of a bored little boy, a lost rabbit, and a magic seed happily intersect once the rain begins.
- Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2004.  
Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall.
- Hest, Amy. *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1997.  
A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States, too.
- Hest, Amy. *Mr. George Baker*. 1st ed. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004.  
Harry sits on the porch with Mr. George Baker, an African American who is one hundred years old but can still dance and play the drums, waiting for the school bus that will take them both to the class where they are learning to read.
- Hoban, Russell. *Jim's Lion*. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001.  
A young boy who is afraid of the operation that can help him get well learns to overcome his fear with the help of a caring nurse.
- Hoffman, Mary. *Amazing Grace*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991.  
Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.
- Hooks, Bell. *Homemade Love*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2002.  
A girl who is Girlpie to her mama and Honey Bun Chocolate Dewdrop to her daddy savors the warmth and love of her family.
- Hooks, Bell. *Skin Again*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.  
Children note that skin color is not as important as what is inside a person for determining who a person really is.

- Innocenti, Roberto. *Rose Blanche*. 1st Creative Editions/Harcourt Brace ed. Mankato, MN: Creative Editions, 1996.  
During World War II, a young German girl's curiosity leads her to discover something far more terrible than the day-to-day hardships and privations that she and her neighbors have experienced.
- Johnston, Tony. *The Wagon*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Tambourine Books, 1996.  
A young boy is sustained by his family as he endures the difficulties of being a slave, but when he finally gains his freedom, his joy is tempered by the death of President Lincoln.
- Johnston, Tony, 1942. *That Summer*. 1st ed. San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2002.  
A family sews their memories and love into a quilt for a child who is dying.
- Joose, Barbara M. *Papa, Do You Love Me?* San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2005.  
A Masai father in Africa answers his son's questions, reaffirming his unconditional love for the boy.
- Kalman, Maira. *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002.  
A fireboat, launched in 1931, is retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River. But, on September 11, 2001, it's called into service and saved from being scrapped.
- Kessler, Cristina. *Jubela*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001.  
When a baby rhino loses his mother, he must rely on his own resources to survive until he is adopted by an old female rhino.
- Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. *The Bear That Heard Crying*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Cobblehill Books, 1993.  
A fictionalized retelling of the true story of three-year-old Sarah Whitcher. In 1783, she became lost in the woods of New Hampshire and was protected by a bear until her rescue four days later.
- Kurtz, Jane. *Only a Pigeon*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.  
Ondu-ahlem carefully trains his pigeons and prepares them for the day when he and other Ethiopian boys test the homing instinct and loyalty of their precious birds.
- LaMarche, Jim. *Up*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2006.  
Tired of being called Mouse and staying home while his brother helps on their father's fishing boat, Daniel proves himself when a problem arises that he can solve using his newly-developed, extraordinary talent.
- Lasker, Joe. *He's My Brother*. Chicago, IL: A. Whitman, 1973, 1974.  
A young boy describes the experiences of his slow learning younger brother at school and at home.
- Levitin, Sonia. *A Piece of Home*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996.  
Gregor decides to take his special blanket when his family leaves Russia to live in America, but he worries about his choice all during the journey.

- Levitin, Sonia. *The Man Who Kept His Heart in a Bucket*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991.  
Having once had his heart broken, Jack keeps it in a bucket safe from harm until one day a young maiden asks him to solve a riddle which teaches him the true meaning of love.
- Louie, Therese on. *Raymond's Perfect Present*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books, 2002.  
When Raymond's mother becomes sick, he can't afford flowers for her, but he does have enough money for seeds. They turn out to be the perfect present.
- Lucado, Max. *You Are Special*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997.  
Punchinello's opinion of himself changes after talking to his creator.
- Lyon, George Ella. *Mother to Tigers*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.  
Tells the story of Helen Martini, the woman who became the first woman zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo. In 1944, her experiences caring for animal cubs brought home by her husband gave her the idea to start an animal nursery at the zoo.
- Macaulay, David. *Angelo*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.  
While restoring the front of a church, an old master plasterer rescues an injured pigeon and nurses it back to health.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. *All the Places to Love*. 1st ed. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1994.  
A young boy describes the favorite places that he shares with his family on his grandparents' farm and in the nearby countryside.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.  
Mirette learns tightrope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a celebrated tightrope artist who has withdrawn from performing because of fear.
- Millman, Dan. *Secret of the Peaceful Warrior: A Story about Courage and Love*. Tiburon, CA: H.J. Kramer Inc., 1991.  
An old man named Socrates shows Danny that the best way of dealing with a bully is the way of the peaceful warrior, through courage and love.
- Millman, Isaac. *Moses Goes to School*. New York, NY: Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.  
Moses and his friends enjoy the first day of school at their special school for the deaf and hard of hearing, where they use sign language to talk to each other.
- Mobin-Uddin, Asma. *My Name is Bilal*. 1st ed. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2005.  
When Bilal and his sister transfer to a school where they are the only Muslims, they must learn how to fit in while staying true to their beliefs and heritage.
- Mollel, Tololwa M. (Tololwa Marti). *My Rows and Piles of Coins*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1999.  
A Tanzanian boy saves his coins to buy a bicycle so that he can help his parents carry goods to market, but then he discovers that in spite of all he has saved, he still does not have enough money.

- Munsch, Robert N. *Lighthouse: A Story of Remembrance*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2003.  
After her grandfather's funeral, Sarah wakes her father in the middle of the night so they can go to the lighthouse her grandfather loved and remember other night-time visits there.
- Munson, Derek. *Enemy Pie*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2000.  
Hoping that his father's enemy pie will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy gets a surprise - it helps him make a new friend.
- Muth, Jon J. *The Three Questions*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2002.  
Nikolai asks his animal friends to help him answer three important questions: "When is the best time to do things?" "Who is the most important?" and "What is the right thing to do?"
- Muth, Jon J. *Stone Soup*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2003.  
Three hungry men charm a poor village into making enough soup to feed them all.
- Napoli, Donna Jo. *Albert*. 1st ed. San Diego, CA: Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2001.  
One day when Albert is at his window, two cardinals come to build a nest in his hand, an event that changes his life.
- Nichol, Barbara. *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*. 1st Orchard Paperbacks ed. New York, NY: Orchard Books, 1999.  
The letters that ten-year-old Christoph and his uncle exchange show how Christoph's feelings for Mr. Beethoven, the eccentric boarder that shares his house, change from anger and embarrassment to compassion and admiration.
- Oberman, Sheldon. *The Always Prayer Shawl*. 1st ed. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1994.  
A prayer shawl is handed down from grandfather to grandson in this story of Jewish tradition and the passage of generations.
- Oberman, Sheldon. *The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba*. 1st ed. Honesdale, PA: Caroline House/Boyds Mill Press, 2000.  
King Solomon learns a lesson from a little bird in this story based on Jewish and African tales.
- O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2002.  
Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean's status as the Recess Queen.
- Paraskevas, Betty. *The Strawberry Dog*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1993.  
A homeless and independent dog and a lonely man find companionship at a beach resort.
- Perkins, Lynne Rae. *The Broken Cat*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 2002.  
While they wait for the veterinarian to determine what is wrong with their cat, Andy asks his mother to tell the story about breaking her arm.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1994.  
Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, an African-American soldier, during the Civil War and their capture by Southern troops.

Polacco, Patricia. *My Rotten, Redheaded, Older Brother*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1994.

After losing competitions in running, climbing, throwing, and burping to his obnoxious older brother, a young boy makes a wish on a falling star.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mrs. Katz and Tush*. New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1992.

A long-lasting friendship develops between Larnel, a young African-American, and Mrs. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, when Larnel presents Mrs. Katz with a scrawny kitten without a tail.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way*. New York, NY: Philomel, 2001.

When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.

Polacco, Patricia. *Thank you, Mr. Falker*. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1998.

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb. Then, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

Ringgold, Faith. *Bonjour, Lonnie*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Hyperion Books for Children, 1996.

An African-American Jewish boy traces his ancestry with the help of the Love Bird of Paris.

Roth, Roger. *The Sign Painter's Dream*. New York, NY: Crown, 1993.

A spunky old woman's request and a rather unusual dream convince Crabby Clarence, the sign painter, to make the most glorious and magnificent sign of his career - and then give it away.

Sakai, Kimiko. *Sachiko Means Happiness*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press [Distributed to schools and libraries by Raintree Publishers], 1990.

Although at first five-year-old Sachiko is upset when her grandmother no longer recognizes her, she grows to understand that they can still be happy together.

Say, Allen. *Home of the Brave*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Following a kayaking accident, a man experiences the feelings of children interned during World War II and children on Indian reservations.

Silverman, Erica. *Mrs. Peachtree and the Eighth Avenue Cat*. New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1994.

A grouchy old woman learns the ways of the heart from a stray cat.

Spinelli, Eileen. *Sophie's Masterpiece*. 1st edition. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Sophie the spider makes wondrous webs, but the residents of Beekman's Boarding House do not appreciate her until at last, old and tired, she weaves her final masterpiece.

- Spohn, David. *Starry Night*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1992.  
Nate and Matt have a peaceful evening camping out with their father in the woods behind their house.
- Steig, William. *The Amazing Bone*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976.  
On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers.
- Steig, William. *Caleb & Kate*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1977.  
When Caleb finds himself transformed into a dog and is unable to tell his wife his true identity, he decides to become her companion.
- Stewart, Sarah. *The Friend*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2004.  
With Mom too busy and Dad away much of the time, Belle finds companionship with a household employee who after each day's work takes Belle "hand in hand" to the beach.
- Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabeth's Doll*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books, 1998.  
When a young Tanzanian girl gets a new baby brother, she finds a rock, which she names Eva, and makes it her baby doll.
- Thompson, Colin (Colin Edward). *Unknown*. New York, NY: Walker, 2000.  
Ignored by prospective human owners who walk past her cage at the pound, a shy dog with an unusual name becomes a hero during a lightning storm.
- Vander Zee, Ruth. *Mississippi Morning*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2004.  
Amidst the economic depression and the racial tension of the 1930s, a boy discovers a horrible secret of his father's involvement in the Ku Klux Klan.
- Vaugelade, Anais. *The War*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda, 2001.  
Prince Fabien uses an ingenious trick to end the war between the Reds and the Blues without violence.
- Vigna, Judith. *Saying Goodbye to Daddy*. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman, 1991.  
Frightened, lonely, and angry after her father is killed in a car accident, Clare is helped through the grieving process by her mother and grandfather.
- Wallace, Ian. *The Naked Lady*. 1st ed. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2002.  
When a sculptor moves in to the farm next door, young Tom is inspired to become an artist.
- Wishinsky, Frieda. *Each One Special*. Custer, WA: Orca, 1998.  
Harry the cake decorator, laid off from his job because he doesn't work fast enough, gets help from his friend in finding another outlet for his creativity.

### **Children's Non-Fiction Books**

- Aliki. *Feelings*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 1984.  
Pictures, dialogues, poems, and stories portray various emotions we all feel - jealousy, sadness, fear, anger, joy, love, and others.

- Anno, Mitsumasa and Raymond Briggs. *All in a Day*. New York, NY: Philomel, 1986.  
Brief text and illustrations by ten internationally well-known artists reveal a day in the lives of children in eight different countries showing the similarities and differences and emphasizing the commonality of humankind.
- Braman, Arlette. *Kids Around the World Create!: The Best Crafts and Activities from Many Lands*. New York, NY: J. Wiley, 1999.  
Illustrated instructions for a variety of simple crafts and activities provide lessons on the customs of cultures around the world.
- Carroll, Colleen. *Feelings: Joy, Sadness, Fear, Love*. New York, NY: Abbeville Kids, 2001.  
Presents sixteen famous works of art and discusses the feelings they encompass, introducing basic art concepts, styles, and techniques to children. Also includes brief artists' biographies, an annotated further-reading list, and lists of places to see each artist's work.
- Greenfield, Eloise and Leo and Diane Dillon. *Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems*. New York, NY: Crowell, 1978.  
Poems written about experiences from a child's everyday life.
- Hatkoff, Isabella. *Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2006.  
Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise.
- Hollyer, Beatrice. *Wake Up, World!: A Day in the Life of Children Around the World*. New York, NY: H. Holt, 1999.  
Describes how children in eight countries spend their mornings.
- Jenness, Aylette. *Families: A Celebration of Commitment, Diversity and Love*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.  
Photographs and text depict the lives of seventeen families from around the country, some with step relationships, gay parents, foster siblings, and other diverse components. The material was originally a traveling exhibition, begun at the Children's Museum in Boston.
- Jones, Lynda. *Kids Round the World Celebrate!: The Best Feasts and Festivals from Many Lands*. New York, NY: J. Wiley, 2000.  
Introduces a variety of festivals celebrated around the world. Includes recipes and hands-on activities to give a taste of what it is like to be part of a feast or ceremony in another country.
- Maher, Ramona. *Alice Yazzie's Year*. New York, NY: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1977.  
Twelve free verse poems chronicle the events and feelings of a Navajo girl's eleventh year.
- Meiners, Cheri J. *Understand and Care*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit, 2003.  
Includes twenty first-person stories about young risk takers who benefited from taking a chance.

Reynolds, Jan. *Celebrate!: Connections Among Cultures*. New York, NY: Lee & Low Books, 2006.  
Explores the similarities of rituals among several indigenous cultures around the world and compares them with celebrations in the United States. Includes a map and an author's note.

### **Visual Media**

Lifetime Learning Systems. *Share the World: Everyone Matters*. Stamford, CT: Lifetime Learning Systems, 1998.

Interdisciplinary program that teaches students respect and compassion for all living things.

### **Sound Media**

Long, Larry. *I Will Be Your Friend*. Montgomery, AL: Teaching Tolerance; [S.I.]: Southern Poverty Law Center, 2003.

A musical anthology for grades 2 to 5 that teaches activism from our nation's proud tradition of singing for social change. Includes Native American chant, African American poetry, songs of friendship and belonging from immigrant communities, and classics new and old.

### **Young Adult Fiction**

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *The Killer's Tears*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2006.

A young boy, Paolo, and the man who murdered his parents, Angel, gradually become like father and son as they live and work together on the remote Chilean farm where Paolo was born.

Castellucci, Cecil. *Beige*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2007.

Katy's mom has the chance of a lifetime to continue her doctoral research at some ruins in Peru, so Katy is shipped to L.A. to stay with her biodad, the Rat, who, with best buddy Sam, enjoyed fleeting, cult-like fame with a punk band called Suck. Katy's well-ordered life is turned upside down by a world where everyone else is obsessed with a kind of music she finds appalling. The Rat thinks Katy will benefit from hanging out with someone her own age, so she's thrust into the company of Lake, Sam's daughter, who nicknames Katy "Beige" because she rebels against and is out of touch with the punk scene. Katy's mom, the Rat, and Lake's mom were hard-core drug addicts and best friends when they were young; Katy's mom kicked when she found out she was pregnant and dived into life as an academic. The Rat has been clean for a while, but Lake's mom died of an overdose. Lake drives Katy crazy but they cobble together a friendship that helps Katy understand that her picture of both her parents is flawed. Strong language, intriguing characters. Katy eventually learns to show compassion for her father and for Lake.

Cooney, Caroline. *Diamonds in the Shadow*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2007.  
At first teen narrator Jared reminded me of Mitty in the author's *Code Orange*; there's a strong element of the irresponsible rich kid slacker in Jared, but his character comes more individually to life as he interacts with the Amabo family, four west African refugees his parents agree to house when the apartment their church arranged for them falls through. Jared's mom throws herself heart and soul into solving problems – teaching mom Celestine how to grocery shop, arranging for prosthetic hands for dad Andre, establishing capable son Mattu at Jared's high school, and trying to find some help for daughter Alake, who appears to have a severe case of post-traumatic stress disorder. Younger sister Mopsy is enthusiastically accepting of the Amabos, and dad is somewhat withdrawn from the situation as he deals with the betrayal of a friend who partnered with him on a church fund-raising committee and then embezzled the funds raised. Jared is the only family member who seems to get the odd dynamics between the Amabos and concludes that they aren't really relatives. Blood diamonds transported by Mattu and a fifth refugee - who has browbeaten the Amabos into transporting them - add tension to the plot; but the strength of the book is in Jared's response to the stresses of hosting a family from another culture. Jared's parents show a sort of blind compassion toward the refugee family; Jared comes to believe in the value of compassion, but with a bit more caution.

Courtenay, Bryce. *The Power of One*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2005.  
Story of Peekay, an English boy, living in South Africa during World War II whose dream is to become a winner.

Draper, Sharon. *Fire from the Rock*. New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books, 2007.  
Sylvia, in her last year before she starts at the segregated Horace Mann High School in Little Rock, must weigh the pros and cons of staying on the list of students who will integrate all-white Central High. Her older brother Gary wants to be on the list but his hot-headedness makes him an unlikely candidate. Sylvia is the target of plenty of unsolicited advice - from her friends who want her to go with them to Mann, from her new boyfriend Reggie who says it will be hard to stay together if she goes to Central, from the older members of the community of both races who advise her not to rock the boat and let change happen too fast. Thoughtful and conflicted, Sylvia weighs her hopeful friendship with Rachel, a local Jewish girl against the persistent persecution from a local white family and their teen-aged sons. When she finally makes her decision, readers will sympathize with Sylvia's reasons

Eliot, George. *Silas Marner*. South Yarmouth, MA: Curley Pub., 1991.  
In rural nineteenth-century England, a weaver, lonely and embittered at the unjust treatment he has received from people he considered to be his friends, finds his only solace in money until he inadvertently becomes the guardian of an orphaned little girl.

Going, K.L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*. New York, NY: Speak, 2004.  
Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Halpin, Brenda. *How Ya Like Me Now*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007.  
Eddie is a suburban high school student whose mom has been strung out on drugs ever since his dad died two years ago. He's been taking care of himself until mom stops paying the bills, the state intervenes, and Eddie goes to live with his aunt, uncle, and same-age cousin Alex in urban Boston. Alex attends a rigorous college prep alternative school designed to prepare inner city kids for college and is one of the few white kids

- there. Eddie comes from a mostly white suburb and has no idea how to enter into the close knit culture of Alex's school. Numb with grief about his family, Eddie makes little effort to fit in. Initially discouraged, Alex tries again to reach out to Eddie and finally Eddie lets himself accept the role of kid again, working hard at school and puzzling out girls. Themes of friendship across racial and cultural lines are strong. Alex's compassion for Eddie is realistic and encouraging.
- Hyde, Catherine Ryan. *Pay It Forward: A Novel*. New York, NY: Pocket Books, 2000.  
A young boy who believes in the goodness of human nature sets out to change the world with his seemingly simple plan, but he soon learns that some people are not willing to help him.
- Kehret, Peg. *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio*. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman, 1996.  
The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.
- Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. New York, NY: Viking, 2002.  
Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers. They find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina, at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.
- Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees: A Novel*. New York, NY: HarperFlamingo, 1998.  
Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.
- Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial, 2006, 1960.  
Eight-year-old Scout Finch tells of life in a small Alabama town where her father is a lawyer undertaking the defense of an African American man accused of rape.
- Magorian, Michelle. *Good Night, Mr. Tom*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1986, 1981.  
A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during World War II.
- Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty*. New York, NY: Blue Sky Press, 1993.  
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning-disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.
- Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper: A Novel*. New York, NY: Atria, 2004.  
Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate, who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.
- Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006.  
Based on the true story of the author's aunt, told in accessible poetry. Only twelve children survived the Lodz ghetto, and Sylvia, the narrator, describes the luck and incredible courage shown by her parents that result in their entire family escaping death again and again. It's an amazing account. Many acts of compassion enable the survival of the family.
- Sharenow, Robert. *My Mother, the Cheerleader*. New York, NY: Laura Geringer

Books, 2007.

The title is needlessly confusing; chick lit fans will be expecting something entirely different, but they're not the audience for this thought-provoking novel set in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans the year that Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary. Narrator Louise has just turned 13 and it's not quite clear why she's still at Frantz, but when all the other white kids are pulled out of school, Louise's mom is more than happy to put her in charge of tasks at their down-at-heel rooming house while mom herself finds identity as one of the "cheerleaders" who mock and harass Ruby every morning. When white northerner Morgan Miller arrives to take a room, both Louise, and eventually her mother, begin to see questions of race in a new light.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. *Make Lemonade*. New York, NY: Holt, 1993.

Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, trying to earn the money for college, takes a job caring for the two children of Jolly, a single teenage mom, and must find the courage to make the right decision for all of them after Jolly is fired.

Zarr, Sara. *Story of a Girl*. New York, NY: Little, Brown, 2006.

In the three years since her father caught her in the back seat of a car with an older boy, sixteen-year-old Deanna's life at home and school has been a nightmare; while dreaming of escaping with her brother and his family, she discovers the power of forgiveness.

### **Non-Fiction Books**

Barasch, Marc. *Field Notes on the Compassionate Life: A Search for the Soul of Kindness*.

Emmaus, PA: Rodale; New York, NY: Distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2005.

In his thrilling exploration of the "deep backcountry of human kindness," Marc Ian Barasch takes us with him on a healing journey of the heart. How can compassion, a trait hardwired into our nervous system and just waiting to be awakened, transform our lives and the world at large? From up-to-the-minute research to timeless spiritual truths, throughout the spectrum of the best (and worst) of human behavior, Barasch weaves a stirring, unforgettable account of his search to find within himself and others the essence of the compassionate life.

Einhorn, Stefan. *The Art of Being Kind*. New York, NY: Pegasus Books, 2007.

Suggests that kindness is an art whose skills we can develop in order to succeed and feel good about ourselves.

Frankl, Victor. *Man's Search for Meaning*. New York, NY: Pocket Books, 1985, 1984.

A reissue of Frankl's classic account of his imprisonment at Auschwitz and his resulting search for ways of healing the mind and spirit.

Kraybill, Donald B. *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2007.

The remarkable response of the Amish community to the horrific shooting of ten school girls at Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, in October 2006, stunned the larger world. Amish Grace tells the incredible story of this community's reaction to this senseless shooting and explores its profoundly countercultural practice of forgiveness.

Metzler, Barbara R. *Passionaries: Turning Compassion into Action*. Philadelphia, PA:

Templeton Foundation Press, 2006.

In *Passionaries*, meet people who have turned their compassion into action and positively changed the world. Along with the 20 million volunteers in the organizations included in this book, these heroes are making the world a better place and paving the way for millions of others to blaze their own visionary paths.

Miller, Jonathan. *The Compassionate Community: Ten Values to Unite America*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

*The Compassionate Community* is Miller's blueprint for a new vision of the common good. He outlines innovative policy prescriptions to tackle some of our most pressing problems. When we all take action on issues such as poverty and climate change, Miller argues, we truly reflect our shared moral values.

O'Reilly, James (edited by). *Stories to Live By: Wisdom to Help You Make the Most of Every Day*. Palo Alto, CA: Solas House, 2005.

Good stories have an unusual power to guide people through life. Featuring contributions from Robert Fulghum, Paulo Coelho, Sylvia Boorstein, Caroline Myss, Dave Barry, and M. Scott Peck among others, this collection of inspiring stories offers solace, provides guidance, and illuminates pathways to change, exploring the human condition and illustrating through anecdotes how people have found joy in life. The stories share human foibles and help readers accept and avoid them, pointing them toward a greater sense of tranquility and happiness.

Piero, Ferrucci. *The Power of Kindness: The Unexpected Benefits of Leading a Compassionate Life*. New York, NY: J.P. Tarcher/Penguin, 2006.

Piero Ferrucci, one of the world's most respected transpersonal psychologists, explores the many surprising facets of kindness and argues that it is this trait that will not only lead to our own individual happiness and the happiness of those around us, but will guide us in a world that has become cold, anxious, difficult, and frightening.

Salzberg, Sharon. *The Force of Kindness: Change Your Life with Love and Compassion*. Boulder, CO: Sounds True, 2005.

Through stories, teachings, and guided meditations, offers practical instruction on how we can cultivate the essential trait of kindness within ourselves. (Book with CD)

Worthington, Everett L. (edited by). *Dimensions of Forgiveness: Psychological and Theological Perspectives*. Philadelphia, PA: Templeton Foundation Press, 1998.

This is a collection of papers from a symposium convened to define the field of forgiveness and lay the foundation for future research. It is a strong first volume in a series intended to explore how "positive mind-set and virtues enhance the lives of individuals and, ultimately, the well-being of society." The first two papers define forgiveness in terms of Christianity and Judaism; the final paper redefines it from a secular standpoint.