

Suggested Reading List

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Picture Books

Kindness and Friendship

Cole, Henry. *Try a Little Kindness*. Scholastic, Incorporated, 2018.

- Cute, rhyming story with funny animals who do many different kind things. Lexile AD490L

DiOrio, Rana, and Jorisch Stéphane. *What Does It Mean to Be Kind?* Little Pickle Press, 2017.

- Simple and engaging picture book to teach actionable lessons on kindness in an easy, enjoyable way. It's a positive addition to lessons tied to bullying and Bullying Prevention Month. Guided Reading L; Lexile AD430L

Donaldson, Julia, and Axel Scheffler. *The Spiffiest Giant in Town*. National Braille Press, 2013.

- George the giant goes to town for a spiffy new outfit. On his way home he keeps finding others in need and ends up giving away all of his spiffy new stuff. Guided Reading I; Lexile AD600L; Accelerated Reader Level 2.9

Kerascoët. *I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness*. Schwartz & Wade., 2018.

- Wordless picture book based on a true story about how one little girl who stands up for a classmate treated unkindly ends up inspiring a movement of kindness within her community. Lexile NP; Grade Level PK-4

Ludwig, Trudy, and Craig Orback. *Gifts from the Enemy*. White Cloud Press, 2014.

- True story told from the perspective of Alter Wiener, a teen survivor of several Nazi prison camps during WWII. He relays the story of a German woman who showed bravery and kindness by sneaking food to him. IBPA Gold Benjamin Franklin Award, Nonfiction, Ages 8-12

McKinley, Cindy, and Mary Gregg Byrne. *One Smile*. Illumination Arts, 2002.

- Another "pay it forward" style story where we see the impact of one girl's kind smile as its impact ripples through the community. Accelerated Reading Level 3.7



McKissack, Pat, and April Harrison. *What Is Given from the Heart*. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019.

- Beautiful story about a young boy who has to think hard about what to give a friend. He and his family don't have much, but they still know how important it is to help another family who lost everything in a fire. Lexile AD660L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.6

Miller, Pat Zietlow, and Jen Hill. *Be Kind*. Roaring Brook Press, 2018.

- Tanisha's classmate wants to be kind after she spills grape juice on her dress, but can't figure out exactly what that means. This moving and thoughtful story explores what kindness is through a child's eyes. Lexile AD480L; Accelerated Reader Level 2.2

Pearson, Emily, and Fumi Kosaka. *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed*. Gibbs Smith, 2002.

- Picture book about kindness and giving back. Illustrates the impact created by small efforts that create a ripple effect. Lexile AD950L; Accelerated Reader Level 4.2

Stein, David Ezra. *Because Amelia Smiled*. Candlewick Press, 2012.

- Lovely picture book that follows the ripple effect around the world when one little girl smiles. Lexile 820L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.5

Change Makers, Personal Passions and Social Entrepreneurship

Berenstain, Stan, and Jan Berenstain. *Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need*. Random House, 1999.

- Mama Bear realizes the family has too much stuff so they find worthy organizations around town where their old stuff will have value again. Accelerated Reader Level 3.9; Grade Level 2

Bouler, Olivia. *Olivia's Birds: Saving the Gulf*. Sterling Childrens Books, 2011.

- This book is proof that kids can make a difference! Learn facts about birds from an 11 year old who raised over \$150,000 using her time and talents. Lexile 880L; Accelerated Reader Level 5.1

Brown, Monica, and John Parra. *Waiting for the Biblioburro*. Tricycle Press, 2011.

- A little girl in a remote village loves stories and is thrilled to meet the biblioburro. Based on the true story about a librarian who brought books to remote locations in Columbia. Connects to passions and giving back to meet needs, also printed in Spanish under the title *Esperando El Biblioburro*. Guided Reading M; Lexile AD560L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.7

Fleming, Candace, and Stacey Dressen-McQueen. *Boxes for Katje*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

- Historical fiction WWII, a young girl in Indiana sends a box to a girl in Holland and it begins a movement of helping those in need. Guided Reading S; Lexile 460L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.5

Hood, Susan, and Sally Wern Comport. *Ada's Violin: the Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016.

- This inspiring true story takes place in the poorest slum in South America. Aspiring child musicians use scraps from the landfill to build their orchestra and bring their music to the world. Lexile 820L; Accelerated Reader Level 4.6

Lee, Spike, et al. *Giant Steps to Change the World*. Simon & Schuster Children's Pub., 2011.

- Uplifting book that references famous change makers and activists while encouraging kids to believe in themselves. Lexile AD870L



McNamara, Margaret. *Eliza: the Story of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton*. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2018.

- Epistolary style picture book about a real philanthropist. Good for all ages as a read aloud, written as a letter to her granddaughter and highlights the ways Eliza Hamilton gave back, website links and historical references at end so research could be extended. Lexile AD1100L

Milway, Katie Smith, and Shane Evans. *The Banana-Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World*. Kids Can Press Ltd., 2017.

- Story about young children in African refugee camps who play sports to overcome differences. Based on true events. Guided Reading S; Grade Level 4; Lexile 780L

Milway, Katie Smith, and Eugenie Fernandes. *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*. Kids Can Press Ltd., 2008.

- Story about villagers who collect money to give small loans within the community. One boy who has lost his father takes a small loan from his mom and works hard to become a change maker for his whole African country. Based on true events. Guided Reading P; Lexile 650L; Accelerated Reader Level 4.6

Polacco, Patricia. *The Lemonade Club*. Philomel Books, 2007.

- Tear-jerking true story about Patricia Polacco's daughter and her best friend who battles cancer with the support of their classroom teacher. A great example of overcoming obstacles. Guided Reading R; Lexile 740L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.9

Stewart, Sarah, and David Small. *The Library*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1995.

- What happens when you focus solely on your passion for reading? You create a problem of too many books, so this is the story about one woman who gives back to her community by creating a library and sharing her treasured books. Guided Reading S; Lexile NP; Accelerated Reader Level 3.3

Winter, Jeanette. *Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan; Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan*. Beach Lane Books, 2014.

- Simplified biographies of real life child change makers. Lexile AD640L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.6

Empathy, Perspective Taking and Design

Caraballo, Samuel. *Estas Manos: Manitas De Mi Familia/These Hands: My Family's Hands*. Arte Público Press, 2014.

- Bilingual story that builds empathy using family and symbols of Central and South America. Accelerated Reader Level 3.2

Clinton, Hillary Rodham, and Marla Frazee. *It Takes a Village*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017.

- Simple story with detailed illustrations depicting the importance of connecting with community to accomplish big things together. Lexile 390L; Grade Level 1

Davies, Nicola, and Laura Carlin. *The Promise*. Candlewick Press, 2013.



- Moving story about a girl who pays forward kindness even when surrounded by unkindness and darkness. Empathy building, giving back, taking care of the earth, and kindness. Guided Reading O; Accelerated Reader Level 3.7

Fox, Amanda, and Luna D. Stella. *Zom-Be a Design Thinker!* Dave Burgess Consulting, Incorporated, 2019.

- Zom-Be Zip teaches kids design thinking – a process that uses your heart, brain, and hands to create. When you use your heart to empathize, think with your brain, and make with your hands, you turn Zom-Be Zip back into a real boy again. This book also works with the Artive, Merge AR/VR, Metaverse, and CoSpacesEDU. Early Elementary and up.

Hooks, Bell, and Christopher Raschka. *Skin Again*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2017.

- Simple story with artistic illustrations that help kids realize our skin is just a covering and we have to find out what's inside of each person to truly know them. Ages 5-10

Johnson, Chelsea, et al. *Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All*. Dottir Press, 2019.

- Powerful book to help connect kids with different races, classes, and gender; we are all humans who deserve compassion and respect. Rhyming story that focuses on difference as a source of community. Includes book notes and discussion guide at the end. Reading levels unidentified; Read Aloud to any age, independent reading for grades 3 and up

Kono, Yara, and Henriqueta Cristina. *Three Balls of Wool (Can Change the World)*. Translated by Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Enchanted Lion Books, 2017.

- Simple historical fiction set in fascist and communist Europe, helps kids understand the importance of the human right of freedom of expression through the colors of sweaters people wear. Lexile Level 640L

Lawson, JonArno, and Sydney Smith. *Sidewalk Flowers*. Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2015.

- Wordless picture book where we witness a little girl collecting little flowers on a walk and each one becomes a gift for someone she encounters. Another example of the ripple effect of small acts.

Ludwig, Trudy, and Patrice Barton. *The Invisible Boy*. Knopf, 2013.

- Picture book about friendship and kindness. Great for empathy building, especially for younger kids, questions for discussion at end. Guided Reading N; Lexile AD680L; Accelerated Reader Level 2.8

Lovell, Patty, and David Catrow. *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*. CNIB, 2001.

- Story about an awkward girl who is bullied at a new school, but stays true to herself and helps a classmate build empathy. Guided Reading L; Lexile AD560L; Accelerated Reader Level 3.5

Moss, Peggy, and Penny Weber. *One of Us*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2010.

- Roberta is new to her school so she spends the day getting to know the other children to see where she fits in. Lexile 350; Ages 5-8



Chapter Books, Young Adult Novels, & Nonfiction Books

Andrus, Aubre. *101 Small Ways to Change the World*. Lonely Planet Global Limited, 2018.

- This engaging and graphic non-fiction book is split into sections on Caring for Others, Caring for the Planet, and Caring for Yourself, which contain all 101 ideas for changing the world. Think big, but start small! Recommended for ages 9-12

Cerone, Lulu. *Philanthroparties!: a Party-Planning Guide for Kids Who Want to Give Back*. Aladdin, 2017.

- A party planning guide for kids who want to give back. Teen author Lulu Cerone offers plans for over 36 party ideas, and shares her expertise on how to make an impact as a young person. Lexile 1010L; Grade Levels 5-12

Darnton, Kate. *Chloe in India*. Delacorte Press, 2016.

- A middle grades novel that leads to perspective taking and empathy building. Chloe is upset about being so different in her new school until she takes a chance to get to know another girl that doesn't quite fit in either. Recommended for ages 8-12

Demuth, Patricia, and Ted Hammond. *Who Is Bill Gates?* Grosset & Dunlap, An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 2013.

- Easy reading biography from the "Who Is?" series. Chapter 10, "Sharing the Wealth" p. 83-91, is a great excerpt when researching philanthropists (copies attached). Entire book is great for kiddos who want to be change makers, or who are passionate about entrepreneurship and innovation. Guided Reading S; Lexile 720L; Accelerated Reader Level 5.2

Korman, Gordon. *Slacker*. Scholastic Press, 2016.

- A great story for the up and coming "slacktivist" generation! Young Cameron, who loves gaming and considers himself a slacker, starts a fake club at school that ends up getting him more involved than he ever dreamed. Guided Reading W; Lexile 710L; Accelerated Reader Level 5.2

McCarney, Rosemary A, and Jen Albaugh. *Because I Am a Girl: I Can Change the World*. Second Story Press, 2014.

- In depth true stories about eight girls from around the world who face injustice because they are girls. Includes global facts and inspirational ways to take action against injustice. Lexile 990L

Penn, Maya S. *You Got This!: Unleash Your Awesomeness, Find Your Path, and Change Your World*. North Star Way - Simon & Schuster, 2016.

- Teen author Maya Penn offers encouragement on how young people can find their voice and use their passions to make an impact on meeting needs in their community or around the world. All of this great advice comes from an artist, designer, and philanthropist who became CEO of her own company at the age of eight! Grade Level 5-12

Reis, Ronald A. *Henry Ford for Kids: His Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities*. Chicago Review Press, 2016.

- Biography of Henry Ford with elements of interest for middle grades and above. Offers 21 hands-on STEM activities. This biography goes beyond listing facts and takes a critical look at



possible motivations for certain beliefs. Ford was a true entrepreneur and a philanthropist, but was also anti-Semitic. Our youth will understand we can admire historical figures as we learn from their failures. Grade Level 5-12

Skog, Susan. *Your Voice Matters: Stand up, Speak Out*. Cliffrose Communications, 2019.

- Rich with content from the voices of young changemakers, students will be inspired to take action and lift their voices for a cause they're passionate about. Young adult; middle school and up



Professional Development for Educators & Personal Development for Parents

Borba, Michele. *Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-about-Me World*. Touchstone, 2017.

- Great read for educators and parents, with 9 steps for building the “Empathy Advantage”. Includes concrete ideas for activities and books to read.

Bornstein, David. *How to Change the World*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

- Fantastic book for teachers and parents, either as a cover to cover read or a reference book to revisit parts of often. Complete with stories of real life change makers, the importance of social entrepreneurs, and plenty of resources for anyone looking to become a change maker or supporting youth to make the leap.

Duhigg, Charles. *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business*. Random House, 2012.

- If empathy and creativity are indeed a matter of mindset, things that can be learned and cultivated, then taking a look at our habits is certainly worthwhile. Using real life examples, Charles Duhigg gives us perspective on how practicing keystone habits can improve our lives.

Heiss, Renée. *Helping Kids Help: Organizing Successful Charitable Projects*. Zephyr Press, 2007.

- Fantastic resource with actionable steps to help kids create philanthropy projects of all scopes and sizes! From organizing a lemonade stand for charity to starting your own 501(c)(3) foundation, this book is a great resource to keep on hand throughout your journey.

Lieber, Ron. *The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart about Money*. Harper, 2015.

- Great book for teachers and parents. Offers research explanations and actionable steps to help build the empathy advantage through the lens of finances. Having a grounded sense of money is vital for all young philanthropists and entrepreneurs.

Silverstein, Natalie. *Simple Acts: the Busy Family's Guide to Giving Back*. Gryphon House, Inc., 2019.

- Fantastic resource for parents and teachers, complete with actionable steps on how to infuse kindness into events and our everyday lives. Includes a call to action in making service part of your family (or classroom) traditions.

Wagner, Tony. *Creating Innovators: the Making of Young People Who Will Change the World*. Scribner, 2012.

- This is a must read for educators or parents looking to leverage innovative mindsets in supporting our kids and students. Author Tony Wagner is internationally recognized as being an expert on educational change leadership. The book also included companion video content to expand on key ideas in the book.

