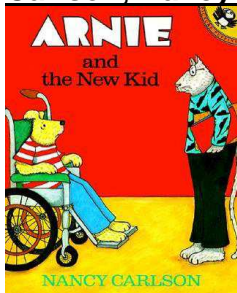


Compassion Themed Books: Preschool through Grade Five

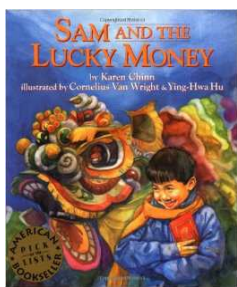
<https://www.charterforcompassion.org/compassion-themed-books-preschool-through-grade-five>

This list was compiled with help from Ilene Cooper, Children's Books Editor at Booklist Magazine, <http://booklistonline.com> and Amy Stutzman

Carlson, Nancy. *Arnie and the New Kid*. (Puffin; Reprint edition, 1992) PreK-Gr.2



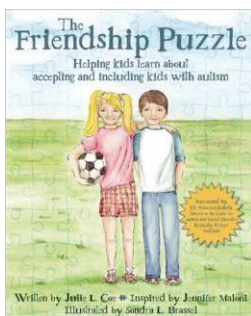
The new boy Philip, "different from most kids" because he uses a wheelchair, is generally ignored by his classmates because they don't know how to include him in their games. But when Arnie, his main tormentor, falls down the stairs while teasing Philip, the usually able-bodied boy discovers firsthand how hard and slow it is to navigate on crutches. The two develop a friendship as they realize all the things they both enjoy and can share together--birdwatching, reading, watching movies, and playing computer games. When Arnie triumphantly appears at school one day without his cast, he will only return to the baseball diamond if Philip can come along as coach. This is a triumphant ending to a purposeful story that will be welcomed for its lighthearted treatment of a common situation. Carlson's vividly colored cartoon illustrations feature a variety of animals humorously dressed in children's clothes. Children won't miss--but won't mind--the obvious moral.



Karen Chinn. *Sam and the Lucky Money* (Perfection Learning, 1997).

PreK-Gr.2.

Sam receives four bright red envelopes decorated with shiny gold emblems as part of the traditional Chinese New Year celebration, each containing a dollar. As he accompanies his mother through Chinatown, his anticipation of how to spend it diminishes when he realizes that the "lucky money" won't buy as much as he had hoped. His mood is further sobered after an encounter with a man he stumbles upon in the street. He nobly, though not surprisingly, concludes that his four dollars would be best spent on the barefoot stranger. Though the traditional message that it is better to give than to receive will be apparent to adults immediately, it is handled in a genuine, thoughtful manner that will be realistic to children. Detailed descriptions of the sights and sounds of the New Year celebration build in contrast to Sam's growing introspection, becoming even more dramatic and adding to the depth of the story. The illustrators masterfully combine Chinatown's exotic setting with the universal emotions of childhood through expressive portraits of the characters.



Coe, Julie L. *The Friendship Puzzle: Helping Kids Learn About Accepting and Including Kids with Autism* (Larstan Publishing, 2009.) PreK-Gr. 2

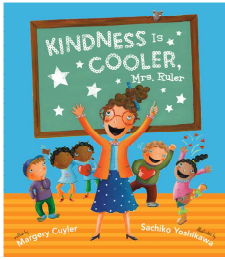
The world of autism is one that few understand. The condition comes in many forms, and those affected exhibit a wide range of personality traits, some of which make social relations daunting. *The Friendship Puzzle* helps young readers learn about accepting and including their friends and classmates with autism. Mackenzie Mackabee is going to school at Brook Acres Elementary. Mackenzie loves to make new friends, and she's very excited when she finds out there is a new boy at school named Dylan. But when her attempts at befriending him fail, she goes to her mother for advice. Together they determine to solve this "friendship puzzle." As she sets out to learn how she can be his friend, Mackenzie discovers that friendships come in many different forms. This book is lively, upbeat and sends an encouraging message about the importance of friendship and inclusion. The activity guide makes the book especially useful for educators and parents.



Cooper, Ilene. Illustration by Gabi Swiatkowska. *The Golden Rule* (Harry N. Abrams, 2007).

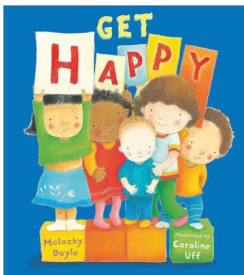
This book is a gentle reminder of a timeless rule for parent and child: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Everyone knows a version of the Golden Rule. But what does it really mean? And how do you follow it? In this gorgeously illustrated book, a grandfather explains to his grandson that the Golden Rule means you "treat people the way you would like to be treated. It's golden because it's so valuable, and a way of living your life that's so simple, it shines." And though it may be a simple rule, it isn't easy to follow. Fortunately, following the Golden Rule is something everyone can do, which means that every person—old or young, rich or poor—can be a part of making the world a better place.



Cuyler, Margery. Illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa. Kindness Is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler (Simon and Schuster, 2007). PreS–Gr. 1.

Mrs. Ruler is frustrated with her kindergarten class. They have been acting out all week, so she reminds them —kindness is cool and charges each student to perform five acts of kindness.



Doyle, Malachy. Illustrated by Caroline Uff. Get Happy (Bloomsbury, 2011). PreS–Kindergarten.

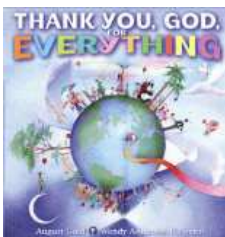
Tease less . . . tickle more!

Shout less . . . sing more!

Worry less . . . wonder more!

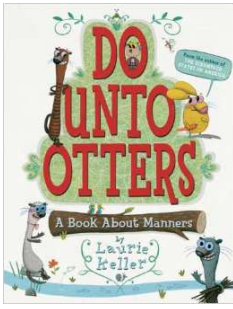
With a cheerful message about sharing, giving, and being kind to others, *Get Happy* will show any child how to turn a frown into a giggle, spread the joy around, and live life to the fullest.

Perfect for the youngest of readers, it won't be long before everyone knows how to get happy! Pithy text and great messages.



Gold, August. Illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. Thank You God, for Everything. (Putnam, 2009). PreS–Gr. 2.

Gold, the spiritual director of Sacred Center New York, notes that the happiest people see everything in their lives—both the good and the bad—as reasons to be thankful. Her goal here is to —show young readers how to develop their own thankful eyes. A diverse group of children do just that in the meaningful text and attractive art.



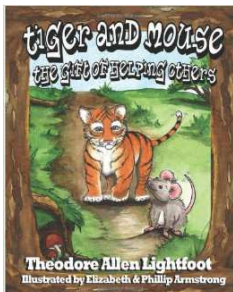
Keller, Laurie. *Do Unto Otters: A Book about Manners* (Holt, 2007). K–Gr. 3.

Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you.

—Socrates (the Greek philosopher), circa 470-399 B.C.

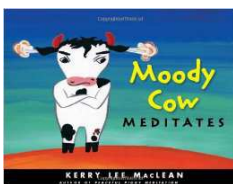
Mr. Rabbit's new neighbors are Otters. OTTERS! But he doesn't know anything about otters.

Will they get along? Will they be friends? Just treat otters the same way you'd like them to treat you, advises Mr. Owl. In her smart, playful style Laurie Keller highlights how to be a good friend and neighbor simply follow the Golden Rule! Do Unto Otters is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.



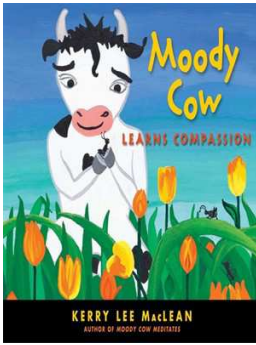
Lightfoot, Theodore Allen, edited by Julia H. Young. Illustrated by Elizabeth and Philip Armstrong. *Tiger and Mouse: The Gift of Helping Others* (Lightfoot Books, 2011).

A rambunctious tiger cub and a hard working mouse cross paths one day in the jungle. Tiger is only interested in playing, but soon discovers that his friend needs help. What will he decide to do? With an engaging story and stunning illustrations, your child will love every page of this uplifting tale.



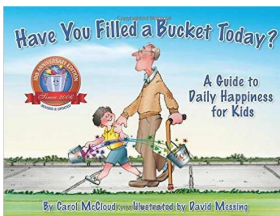
MacLean, Kerry Lee. *Moody Cow Meditates* (Wisdom Publications, 2009). PreS-Gr.2.

Peter the Cow is having a bad day. After missing the bus and wiping out on his bike, he loses his temper and gets in trouble. To make matters worse, all the other kids and cows are teasing him, calling him "Moody Cow." Peter's day just seems to get worse until his grandfather comes over. Can Grandpa teach him to settle his mind and let go of his frustration? This vibrant children's book is a fun and funny way to introduce children to the power of meditation. With full-color illustrations by the author, Moody Cow is ideal for parent-child sharing and for repeat reads.



MacLean, Kerry Lee. *Moody Cow Learns Compassion* (Wisdom Publications, 2012).

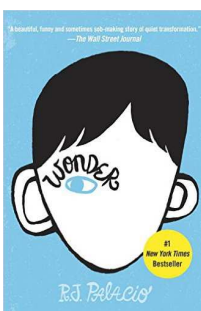
We are reintroduced to Peter (aka Moody Cow) and meet his mischievous “boys-will-be-boys” friend Bully. Along the way we meet a snake named Jaws, who also goes on to appear in Peter’s terrifying dreams, and watch as Bully revels in the deaths of the crickets he feeds the snake. Peter is uncomfortable with the plight of the little creatures, earning him a new nickname: “Coward Cow” because Bully thinks he’s a wimp. Once again, Grandfather, the beloved old steer from *Moody Cow Meditates*, brings serenity and long-horned wisdom as he gently teaches to compassionately identify with other beings. And the story ends with everyone sharing a laugh — and even Jaws and the crickets are happy.



McCloud, Carol. Illustrated by David Messing. *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* (Bucket Fillers, 2015).

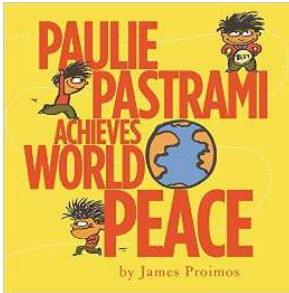
Through simple prose and vivid illustrations featuring girls and boys from around the world, this heartwarming book encourages positive behavior as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love. Bucket filling and dipping are effective metaphors for understanding the effects of our actions and words on the well being of others and ourselves.

"Bucket filling is easy. It doesn't cost any money. It doesn't take much time. It doesn't matter how young or old you are. Bucket filling makes everyone feel good." -- Carol McCloud

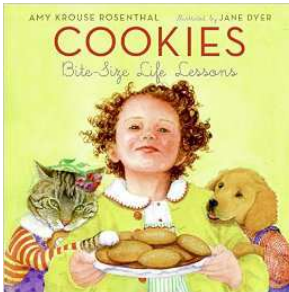


Palacio, R. J. *Wonder* (Knopf Books for Young Readers; 1 edition, 2012).

After being home schooled all his life, 10-year-old August Pullman is starting 5th grade at a private middle school in his Upper East Side neighborhood. He wonders if anyone will realize that he’s just a normal kid underneath his disfigured face, an affliction he was born with. His middle school classmates are challenged to “be kinder than is necessary” but can they? Will they? In this uplifting story, it turns out that everyone carries some kind of disfigurement that feels isolating, even though most can’t be seen. We cheer for Auggie, as we are moved to tears, that kindness can indeed change the world. Warning: this chapter book teaches compassion. [Chapter book, ages 9 and up]

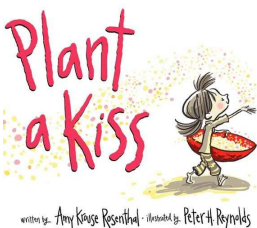


Proimos, James. Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace (Little, Brown, 2009). K–Gr. 3. Paulie is —nothing special...no more special than you are, but things change after he begins showing kindness to animals and even—reading to trees. Soon, Paulie moves on to people, making amends with his sister and sharing his lunch with a classmate; and when he discovers that cupcakes can resolve disputes, his peace-making ambitions grow.



Rosenthal, Amy Krause. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons (HarperCollins, 2006). PreS–Gr. 1.

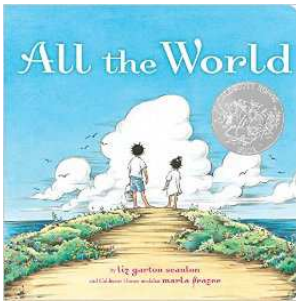
Everyone knows cookies taste good, but these cookies also have something good to say. Open this delectable book to any page and you will find out something about life. Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons is a new kind of dictionary, one that defines mysteries such as "fair" and "unfair" and what it really means to "cooperate." The book is by turns clever, honest, inspirational, and whimsical. Go ahead, take a bite!



Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. Illustrated by Peter Reynolds. Plant a Kiss (HarperCollins, 2011).

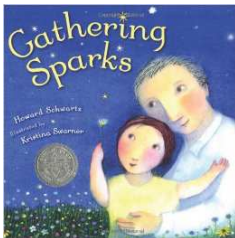
Little Miss planted a kiss... One small act of love blooms into something bigger and more dazzling than Little Miss could have ever imagined in this epic journey about life, kindness, and giving.

New York Times bestselling author Amy Krouse Rosenthal and award-winning illustrator Peter H. Reynolds have teamed together for the first time, creating what may soon prove to be a perennial favorite.



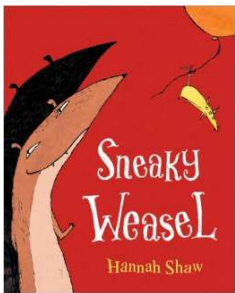
Scanlon, Liz Garton. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. *All the World* (Simon & Schuster, 2009). PreS–Gr. 1.

All the world is here. It is there. It is everywhere. All the world is right where you are. Now. Following a circle of family and friends through the course of a day from morning till night, this book affirms the importance of all things great and small in our world, from the tiniest shell on the beach, to warm family connections, to the widest sunset sky. Little ones will get a chance to feel a part of the larger world and understand how we are all connected in this lovely book with eye-catching, child-appealing illustrations.



Schwartz, Howard. Illustrated by Kristina Swarner. *Gathering Sparks* (Roaring Brook, 2010). PreS–Gr. 3.

The concept of repairing the world is explained as a Grandfather and his grandchild look at the stars. Grandfather explains God made 10 vessels to carry light across the sky. If they had stayed intact, —the world would have been perfect, but they became increasingly fragile and broke apart. Now, it's up to us repair the world.



Shaw, Hannah. *Sneaky Weasel* (Knopf, 2009). K–Gr. 3.

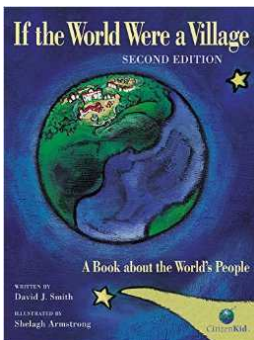
When nobody comes to Weasel's birthday party, he wants to find out why. He's reminded by his classmates that his mean actions have repercussions, and he decides to better. The meaning and value of friendship get a solid treatment in this smartly illustrated book.



Stone, Jesse. *Honey Badger at Home* (Irrational Worlds, 2013).

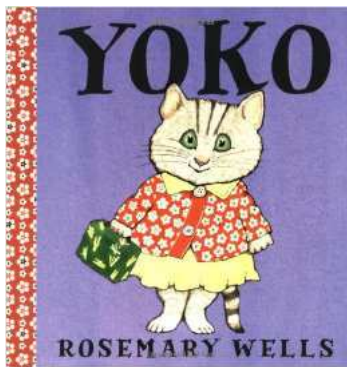
Grades 1-4.

When Squirrel gets an invitation to tea, she's excited- UNTIL SHE REALIZES THAT IT'S TEA AT HONEY BADGER'S HOUSE! Everyone knows about Honey Badger, of course- she's known far and wide for being unpredictable, and just plain mean. Should Squirrel go? Or should she stay at home, and risk making Honey Badger angry with her?



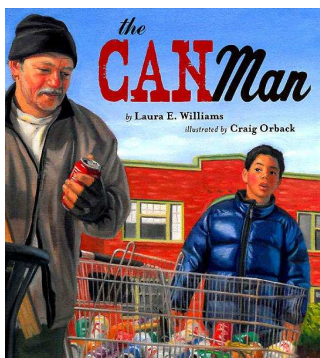
Smith, David S. *If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People* (CitizenKid) (Kids Can Press; 2 edition, 2011). 3-5 Gr.

To make the idea of a world of 6.2 billion people more understandable, Smith suggests that children imagine the population of the world as a village of just 100 people. That's one person representing 62 million people in the real world. Surprising, even shocking statistics follow--for example, many kids in the U. S. take computers for granted, but only seven people in the global village own one. Each double-page, picture-book spread relates a few consciousness-raising facts about such topics as nationalities, food, language, and religion. With the aid of a calculator, even younger kids can do the math; the tricky part is to get children to really understand the ideas. Armstrong's large acrylic paintings, nice complements to the text, look like stained glass windows, with blocks of intense color outlined in thick black lines. This highly informative book will get kids thinking and asking questions, and it can easily be incorporated into a middle-school social studies curriculum. The endnote suggests related activities for home and classroom.



Wells, Rosemary. *Yoko* (Hyperion Book, Reprint edition, 2009). PreK-Gr. 2.

Everyone makes fun of Yoko's lunch because it's different. Her teacher frets and comes up with a plan to have an International Food Day. But still, no one will touch Yoko's sushi. Finally, Timothy tries it and loves it. Yoko and Timothy push their desks together to have a "restaurant" serving sushi and sandwiches every day!



Williams, Laura E. *The Can Man* (Lee & Low Books, 2010). K-Gr. 3

Tim's birthday is just a week away, and more than anything he wants a skateboard. But money is tight, and Tim knows his family cannot afford to buy him a board.

As Tim ponders how he might earn money for a skateboard, he hears The Can Man down the street collecting empty soft drink cans. The clang of the cans in the homeless man's cart gives Tim an idea. He will collect cans too, and cash them in for the redemption money. By the end of the week, Tim has almost reached his goal-until a couple of chance encounters with The Can Man change everything. Told with honesty and respect, this timely story shines a perceptive light on current social concerns. Readers will be encouraged to think beyond themselves and celebrate the simple acts of kindness and sharing that make a difference in people's lives.