

# Compassionate Comprehension with the Common Core

## TEXTS FOR CONSIDERATION

### to use with the 5 Key Questions in CC/CC

© 2015, 2017 (Rev. 7-9-17) by Linda K. Williams LKW\_BetterWorld@yahoo.com

**Books Matter:** A quote from www.ADL.org

È Books have the potential to create lasting impressions.

È They have the power to • instill empathy • affirm children's sense of self • teach about others  
• transport to new places, and • inspire actions on behalf of social justice.

Categories:

- I. Familiar and/or Required Texts
- II. Suggested/ Recommended Texts

#### A. My personal favorites

- 1. Texts which I selected to give to our CC/CC case study classroom teachers
- 2. More of my personal favorites (picture and chapter books, fiction and non-fiction)

#### B. Multiple lists of Suggested/ Recommended Texts

## I. FAMILIAR and/or REQUIRED TEXTS:

Teachers may wish to use only texts which are **familiar** to them, and/or texts which are **required** for their grade/ subject when having students answer the 5 Key Questions.

\* CC/CC was designed to be used with almost any teacher-selected texts, and almost all fiction and many non-fiction texts will serve quite well.

\* ANY books with a plot can be used --- i.e., WHO wanted WHAT but WHAT, so WHAT --- having students explore characters' feelings at each point in the plot.

\* Many non-fiction texts can also be used, including History texts, news reports, etc. e.g. Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber, is a non-fiction CA Standards recommended book which can easily be used with the CC/CC Key Questions.

\* Even math word problems can be used to encourage students to practice empathy and identify feelings. (e.g., "How do you think they felt when 4 of their 8 cookies fell on the floor and were gobbled up by the dog?")

## II. Suggested/ Recommended Texts:

If teachers would like to expand upon the above selections, there are MANY texts which I would like to suggest you consider, which fall into a number of categories:

**A. MY PERSONAL FAVORITES** -- as of 6-23-17, Offered below are texts which I highly recommend for CC/CC including a number of which I've used and loved over the years. I'm constantly discovering and falling in love with new books which would make powerful springboards for CC/CC; let me know if you want updates, as available! LKW :-) LKW\_BetterWorld@yahoo.com

### 1. Texts which I selected to give to our CC/CC case study classroom teachers:

~ Stand in My Shoes: Kids learning about Empathy by Bob Sornson, Ph.D.

~ SORRY! by Trudy Ludwig

~ Caring and Capable Kids by Williams, Schilling, and Palomares (Stories, Songs, and Activities for teaching Kindness, Tolerance, Self-Control and Responsibility) more info: Better-World-Resources.com

~ Chicken Soup for the Soul: Stories for a Better World (some stories available electronically; a spreadsheet tells which stories include children of various ages as main characters, and also a short synopsis of each story  
<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/chicken-soup-stories-by-age-of-children-youth-47-stories.pdf>)

~ Biographies of Peace Heroes from <http://www.betterworld.net/heroes/list.htm>,

## 2. And, more of my personal favorites (*non-fiction in italics*):

### PICTURE BOOKS

- ~ Most Dr. Seuss books: How the Grinch Stole Christmas (which has a Restorative Justice component!), The Sneetches (and other stories in that book), Yertle the Turtle, The Butter Battle, Horton Hears a Who ...! ~
- ~ How are you Peeling?: Foods with Moods by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers (also in Spanish)  
for development of Feelings Words vocabularies
- ~ Feelings to Share from A to Z by Todd and Peggy Snow
- ~ Juice Box Bully by Bob Sornson, Ph.D., and Maria Dismondy
- ~ Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber
- ~ Say Something by Peggy Moss
- ~ Make Someone Smile: and 40 More Ways to be a Peaceful Person by Judy Lalli
- ~ Bully by Judith Caseley
- ~ Smoky Nights by Eve Bunting
- ~ Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie de Paola
- ~ The Quarreling Book by Charlotte Zolotow
- ~ The Hating Book by Charlotte Zolotow
- ~ Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus
- ~ I Hate English! by Ellen Levine
- ~ Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace by Shelley Moore Thomas
- ~ The Blind Men and the Elephant Retold by Karen Backstein
- ~ Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier
- ~ Playing War by Kathy Beckwith
- ~ Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud (song and support materials online; search: Fill a Bucket Song)
- ~ Don't Laugh at Me by Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7Dej4Gfkmc> shows the pages of the picture book --- Hip-Hop/ Rap version of "Don't Laugh at Me" by Baby Jay, BabyJayMusic.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjT9lhcp1E4> Please note: Free curricula written to accompany "Don't Laugh at Me" is available, <http://www.operationrespect.org/curricula/>
- ~ The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust  
by Karen Ruelle
- ~ If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith
- ~ Who Belongs Here?: An American Story by Margy Burns Knight
- ~ I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings

### CHAPTER BOOKS

- ~ Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
- ~ Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
- ~ A Wrinkle in Time and other books by Madeleine L'Engle
- ~ Kizzy Ann Stamps by Jeri Watts
- ~ Diary of a Wimpy Kid series (some PDF's online-- especially for Question #4: "What would you do...?")
- ~ The Giver by Lois Lowry
- ~ The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
- ~ Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
- ~ Bridge to Teribithia by Katherine Paterson
- ~ Wonder by R. J. Palacio
- ~ Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins (teacher/ parental discretion)
- ~ Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling
- ~ Island of the Blue Dolphins and other books written by Scott O'Dell (*Historical Novel*)
- ~ Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr (*Historical Novel*)
- ~ The White Feather by Ruth Eitzen (only 4 chapters/ 64 p. (*Historical Novel*)
- ~ Farewell to Manzanar a memoir by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston
- ~ Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
- ~ Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- ~ Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time  
by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
- ~ Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic
- ~ The Peace Seekers: The Nobel Peace Prize by Nathan Aaseng (© 1992, but other similar more recent books available, as well: <http://www.pragmaticmom.com/2016/05/9-people-who-changed-world/>)
- ~ Le Ly Hayslip: Asian-American Biographies by Mary Englar

## **II. B. Multiple lists of Suggested/ Recommended Texts:**

For your consideration, these lists of books offer a number of texts which I believe will serve as great springboards for using the CC/CC questions with your students. I plan to add to these lists in the future; please let me know if you would like to receive updates (no more than once a month): [LKW\\_BetterWorld@yahoo.com](mailto:LKW_BetterWorld@yahoo.com)

### **Addressing Islamophobia: 36 texts to help build harmony and mutual respect**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/tigt-rev-5-10-17-36-on-book-list-to-address-islamophobia1.pdf>

### **Addressing Islamophobia: Text Kits - 7 texts with accompanying online Resources**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/addressing-islamophobia-text-kits-7-texts-with-accompanying-online-resources.pdf>

### **Case Study Classroom Teachers' Recommended Texts**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/texts-recommended-by-cc-cc-case-study-classroom-teachers-spring-2015.pdf>

### **Chicken Soup for the Soul: Stories for a Better World - 47 Peacemaking Stories involving Children and/or Youth; 100 True stories in all**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/chicken-soup-stories-by-age-of-children-youth-47-stories.pdf>

### **Compassion-themed Books Pre-K to Gr. 5**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cc-cc-suggested-texts-compassion-themed-books-pre-k-5.pdf>

### **Compassion-themed Books Gr.'s 6-12**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cc-cc-suggested-texts-compassion-themed-books-grades-6-12.pdf>

### **Mentor Texts recommended to support the 5 CC/CC Key Questions**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/mentor-texts-for-use-with-cc-cc.pdf>

### **Newbery Award Winners - Medal and Honor Books**

[https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cc\\_cc-suggested-texts\\_-newbery-award-winners-medal-and-honor.pdf](https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cc_cc-suggested-texts_-newbery-award-winners-medal-and-honor.pdf)

### **Novels that teach a Growth Mindset Gr. 4 and Up**

<https://lkwbetterworld.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/cc-cc-suggested-texts-novels-that-teach-a-growth-mindset-gr-4-and-up.pdf>