

LEVEL 1

Kindergarten

All Families Are Special by Norma Simon (2003)

When Mrs. Mack says she will soon be a grandmother, her students realize that teachers have families just like they do! Suddenly everyone in the class wants to share information about his or her own unique family. Sarah tells of flying to China with her parents where they adopted her sister, Rachel. Christopher tells about his parents' divorce. They are still a family, but now he and his brother spend a few days every week at their dad's apartment. Nick lives with his parents, five siblings, and his grandparents--they need to order three large pizzas for dinner! And Hannah tells how she loves to garden with her two mommies.

All Kinds of Families by Mary Ann Hoberman (2009)

With irresistible, rollicking rhyme, beloved picture book author Mary Ann Hoberman shows readers that families, large and small, are all around us. From celery stalks to bottle caps, buttons, and rings, the objects we group together form families, just like the ones we are a part of. And, as we grow up, our families grow, too. Mary Ann Hoberman gives readers a sense of belonging in this all-inclusive celebration of families and our role in them.

Are You My Mother? By Dr. Seuss (1998)

A baby bird is hatched while his mother is away. Fallen from his nest, he sets out to look for her and asks everyone he meets -- including a dog, a cow, and a plane -- "Are you my mother?"

Ask Mr. Bear by Marjorie Flack (1971)

Trying to find the perfect birthday present for his mother isn't easy for Danny. The hen offers eggs, the goose feathers and the sheep wool. But mother already has those things. Then the cow suggests that Danny go ask Mr. Bear. It's from him that Danny gets a special and unique gift for his mother.

Berenstain Bears – A Week at Grandma's by Stan and Jan Berenstain (1986)

Brother and Sister worry about spending a week at Gran and Gramp's house. By the end of the visit they've learned a lot from their lively grandparents--and the older bears have discovered how wonderful it is to be grandparents.

Caillou Learns to Swim by Sarah Margaret Johanson (2013)

Caillou's confidence in the water grows in this story drawn from the popular television series. Caillou's a bit afraid of the big pool and would prefer to stay in the wading pool. But as Daddy teaches him to swim, Caillou soon has lots of fun in the big pool, too. A poster containing fun, interactive activities that reinforce the book's themes is also included.

Families Are Different by Nina Pellegrini 1991

Although Korean-born Nico doesn't like looking different from her adoptive parents, her mother assures her that, indeed, there are all kinds of families, "glued together with a special kind of glue called love." Thus follows some of the many variations of modern-day families, featuring a multiracial mix of both traditional and non-traditional groupings. Single and adoptive parents, grandparent guardians, and step-relatives all receive equal attention.

Fox Makes Friends by Adam Relf (2005)

Poor little Fox! He's all alone in his room, with no friends at all. So when Mama suggests that he make some, Fox sets out to do that...literally. "What can I make a friend out of?" he wonders. Soon, he's gathered all the materials he thinks he needs--sticks, stones, fruit, and more--and built his first friend. "Are you my friend?" Fox asks. "Can you come and play?" But it doesn't reply and it doesn't move. What could be wrong? Only when a variety of curious animals come round to help that Fox discovers what pals are all about.



Franklin is Lost by Paulette Bourgeois (2011)

In this Franklin Classic Storybook, Franklin's mother tells him never to go into the woods. But one day Franklin is playing hide-and-seek with his friends and forgets what his mother has told him. Franklin is frightened when he realizes he's lost, but he knows just what to do -- stay in his shell and wait to be found. A dramatic story with a happy ending

Help! A Story of Friendship by Holly Keller (2007)

Mouse, Hedgehog, Rabbit, Squirrel, and Snake are friends. But one day Mouse hears from Skunk (who heard it from Fox) that snakes are dangerous, especially to mice. Oh, dear! Can friendship survive gossip? Should friends stick together, no matter what? And what do friends do when a friend is in trouble? Or when a friend has hurt feelings? Do you know the answers? Mouse and Snake need your help!

I Can Help by David Hyde Costello (2010)

"Uh-oh. I'm lost," a little duck says. "I can help," says a monkey, who swings down from a tree and points out Mama duck. Then the monkey loses his balance! Who can help him?! Giraffe can! And so the fun begins in this story about how easy it is to help someone in need.

Stuck by Oliver Jeffers (2012)

Floyd gets his kite stuck up a tree. He throws up his shoe to shift it, but that gets stuck too. So he throws up his other shoe and that gets stuck, along with...a ladder, a pot of paint, the kitchen sink, an orangutan and a whale, amongst other things!

The Berenstain Bears – Big Bear, Small Bear by Stan and Jan Berenstain (1998)

Small hat, big head. Big hat, small head. Can a bear find a hat that is not too small and not too big, but just right?

The Biggest Snowman Ever by Steven Kroll (2005)

Clayton and Desmond both want to win the town snowman contest. As the day of the contest approaches, Clayton and Desmond join forces to build the biggest snowman ever.

The Family Book by Todd Parr (2003)

This book represents a variety of families, some big and some small, some with only one parent and some with two moms or dads, some quiet and some noisy, but all alike in some ways and special no matter what.

There Is A Bird On Your Head by Mo Willems (2007)

Gerald discovers that there is something worse than a bird on your head—two birds on your head! Can Piggie help her best friend?

Who's In a Family by Robert Skutch (1997)

Family is important, but who's in a family? Why, the people who love you the most! This equal opportunity, open-minded picture book has no preconceptions about what makes a family a family. There's even equal time given to some of children's favorite animal families. With warm and inviting jewel-tone illustrations, this is a great book for that long talk with a little person on your lap.



LEVEL 2

Grade 1, Grade 2

A Big Guy Took My Ball by Mo Willems (2013)

Piggie is devastated when a big guy takes her ball! Gerald is big, too...but is he big enough to help his best friend?

Bailey Goes Camping by Kevin Henkes (1997)

Bailey is upset that he can't go camping with his siblings because he is too young, but his parents help make his own fun through a creative camping experience at home.

Because Brian Hugged His Mother by David Rice (1999)

Kindness IS contagious, and this story shows how even young Brian can start a chain reaction that brings a bit of joy to people he does not even know. It all starts out one morning when Brian wakes up and gives his mother a hug. A hug from Brian touches many people (and even animals), often in a humorous way.

Being Responsible by Cassie Mayer (2007)

This book teaches about life skills and personal awareness. It uses simple text and engaging illustrations to teach important principles such as taking turns and sharing, leading by example and following rules.

Being Responsible: A Book About Responsibility by Mary Small (2006)

This book gives examples of children who are being responsible. It is a good book to show what responsibility means for younger children.

Chopsticks by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (2012)

Meet Chopsticks! They've been best friends forever. But one day, this inseparable pair comes to a fork in the road. And for the very first time, they have to figure out how to function apart. This tale celebrates both independence and the unbreakable bonds of friendship.

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes (1996)

She was a perfect baby, and she had a perfect name. Chrysanthemum. When she was old enough to appreciate it, Chrysanthemum loved her name. And then she started school. "I'm named after my grandmother," said Victoria. "You're named after a flower." Chrysanthemum wilted. Life at school didn't improve. In fact, it got worse. Then the students were introduced to their music teacher, Mrs. Twinkle. Mrs. Delphinium Twinkle. And suddenly, Chrysanthemum blossomed....

Franklin Rides a Bike by Paulette Bourgeois (1997)

The last of his friends who still needs training wheels for his bicycle, Franklin becomes increasingly discouraged as he continues to fall down, but his mother gently encourages him until he succeeds.

How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids by Tom Rath (2009)

How Full Is Your Bucket? is a quick, breezy book that helps readers boost the amount of positive emotions in their lives, and in the lives of those around them.

I Am Responsible by Sarah L. Schuette (2007)

Simple text and photographs show various ways children can be responsible including taking care of pets, brushing teeth, and performing household duties.

I Am Utterly Unique: Celebrating The Strengths Of Children With Asperger Syndrome And High Functional Autism by Elaine Marie Larson (2006)

This book, laid out in an A-to-Z format, celebrates the extraordinary gifts and unique perspectives that ASD children possess. Each page of this playful alphabet book presents one of the children's many talents and abilities.



I Miss Franklin P. Shuckles by Ulana Snihura (1998)

Molly Pepper plays with Franklin P. Shuckles all summer long. But when school starts, she hears the other children making fun of him and an embarrassed Molly dumps her "geeky" friend with a nasty note. When Franklin stops offering to play and tell stories, a lonely Molly realizes how much she misses him.

Just Because I Am by Lauren Murphy Payne (2004)

"I am a person. I am special. I am important...just because I am."

Warm, simple words and enchanting illustrations strengthen and support young children's self-esteem.

King Of The Playground by Phyllis Reynolds Payne (1994)

Kevin loves to go to the playground, but not when Sammy is there. And Sammy, who boasts that he is King of the Playground, is there most of the time. If he catches Kevin on the swings or the slide or the monkey bars, Sammy says, he will do awful, terrible things to him. Kevin tells his dad what Sammy says and they talk it over.

Leave Me Alone: A Tale Of What Happens When You Stand Up To A Bully by Kes Gray (2011)

A little boy is feeling sad because every day he has to face a bully. A frog, a cat, a rabbit, a cow, and other animal friends insist on helping him, even after he tells them: "There's nothing you can do for me. There's nothing you can say." Fortunately, he is mistaken, because the next time the bully approaches, they all join with him and shout, "LEAVE HIM ALONE!" And it works! The bully turns around and goes away.

Mamma I Am Responsible by Adam Ahmed Yusuf (2011)

This book talks about thinking responsibly as a skill that can be learned and practiced.

Ruby the Copycat by Peggy Rathman (1993)

This book is about a child trying to discover her own identity.

Square Cat by Elizabeth Schoonmaker (2011)

Eula is the only square cat in town. Everything that normal cats do is hard for her -- she can't get her square paw into mouse holes, she can't wear her favorite circle skirt, and all of her friends are round! Eula is sad until her two best friends show her just how well a square cat can fit into this round world.

The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone (1985)

Little Red Hen is a time-tested cautionary tale about how we reap what we sow.

The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill (2002)

The new kid to school goes up against the recess bully by doing the unthinkable, she invites her to be her friend!

We Live Here Too: Kids Talk About Good Citizenship by Nancy Loewen and Omarr Wesley (2002)

Uses an advice-column format to define citizenship and explain how it can be demonstrated or used in daily situations.



LEVEL 3

Grade 3, Grade 4

Franklin is Bossy by Paulette Bourgeois (1994)

Franklin has lots of friends and one best friend named Bear. They play tag, hopscotch and ball. But Franklin always wants to pick the game and make the rules. No one wants to play with him -- he's too bossy!

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae (2001)

Gerald is a giraffe who simply can't dance. Try as he may, his long, spindly legs buckle whenever he starts to boogie. Every year he dreads going to the Great jungle Dance, until one night he finds his own special music.

Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Bullies by Howard Binkow (2008)

A bunny was being bullied at school. His intuition told him to tell the teacher. Instead he chose different failed strategies. He finally told the teacher who took action to make him feel okay & safe.

I am Utterly Unique: Celebrating the Strengths of Children With Asperger Syndrome and High Functional Autism by Elaine Marie Larson (2006)

This book, laid out in an A-to-Z format, celebrates the extraordinary gifts and unique perspectives that ASD children possess. Each page of this playful alphabet book presents one of the children's many talents and abilities.

If Only I Had A Green Nose by Max Lucado (2002)

Just like Punchinello, we all want to fit in. To be accepted by the crowd. But at times that may mean we either have to look and act like others--or risk being rejected. Punchinello's hard-earned lesson shows us how important it is to be who we were created to be, and why that matters.

Just Because I Am by Lauren Murphy Payne (2004)

"I am a person. I am special. I am important...just because I am." Warm, simple words and enchanting illustrations strengthen and support

Leave Me Alone: A Tale Of What Happens When You Stand Up To A Bully by Kes Gray (2011)

A little boy is feeling sad because every day he has to face a bully. But the little boy also has friends. A frog, a cat, a rabbit, a cow, and other animal friends insist on helping him, even after he tells them: "There's nothing you can do for me. There's nothing you can say." Fortunately, he is mistaken, because the next time the bully approaches, they all join with him and shout, "LEAVE HIM ALONE!" And it works! The bully turns around and goes away.

Marshall Armstrong Is New To Our School by David Mackintosh (2011)

When Marshall Armstrong is the new kid at school, his classmates see him as different and flawed. But these differences reveal a great friend and the story ends with a change of view, creating a school that is more accepting of new people and differences.

Nobody Knew What To Do by Becky Ray McCain and Todd Leonardo (2001)

A group of children witness one boy being bullied but no one knows what to do until one boy approaches a teacher for help. This action helps solve the conflict and bring a number of issues into the open so they can be dealt with.

Pebble: A Story About Belonging by Susan Milord (2007)

There once was a pebble on a rocky shore. It was small and round and nearly smooth. Amid a seascape dotted with endless rocks, one pebble yearns to be special. Can you find the pebble? This book offers a timeless message about finding one's place in the world.



Say Something by Peggy Moss (2008)

At this school, there are some children who push and tease and bully. Sometimes they hurt other kids by just ignoring them. The girl in this story sees it happening, but she would never do these mean things herself. Then one day something happens that shows her that being a silent bystander isn't enough. Will she take some steps on her own to help another kid?

Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (2009)

He's always been a happy little utensil. But lately, he feels like life as a spoon just isn't cutting it. He thinks Fork, Knife, and The Chopsticks all have it so much better than him. But do they? And what do *they* think about Spoon? A book for all ages, *Spoon* serves as a gentle reminder to celebrate what makes us each special.

Square Cat by Elizabeth Schoonmaker (2011)

Eula is the only square cat in town. Everything that normal cats do is hard for her -- she can't get her square paw into mouse holes, she can't wear her favorite circle skirt, and all of her friends are round! Eula is sad until her two best friends show her just how well a square cat can fit into this round world.

Tell Me My Story Mama by Deb Lund and Hiroe Nakata (2004)

A young girl asks her mother questions about herself; what it was like before she was born and as a baby. These stories become an important part of experiencing significance and security for the young girl within her family.

The Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss (1961)

In this collection of "The Sneetches", "The Zax", "Too Many Daves", and "What Was I Scared Of?", the author touches on important moral issues, and while they can be read for sheer pleasure, they are also ideal for sparking conversations about tolerance, the need for compromise, and fear of the unknown.

What I Like About Me! By Allia Zobel-Nolan (2009)

The kids in "*What I Like About Me!*" are as different as night and day. And, guess what? They love it. Some adore the fact that their braces dazzle and gleam, others feel distinguished when they wear their glasses. Still others wouldn't trade their big feet for a lifetime of free video games. A mylar mirror embedded in the last page let kids take a look at themselves and decide what they like best about themselves.

Whoever You Are by Mem Fox (2006)

Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. But inside, they are alike.

You Are Special by Max Lucado (1997)

Every day the small wooden people called Wemmicks do the same thing: stick either gold stars or gray dots on one another. The pretty ones--those with smooth wood and fine paint--always get stars. The talented ones do, too. Others, though, who can do little or who have chipped paint, get ugly gray dots, like Punchinello. Eli the woodcarver helps Punchinello understand how special he is--no matter what other Wemmicks may think.

You Be You by Linda Kranz (2011)

When Adri sets out to explore the ocean, he has no idea how colorful the world is. He quickly discovers that there are all kinds of fish in the deep blue sea—big and tiny, smooth and spiny, colorful and plain, different and the same.



LEVEL 4

Grade 5, Grade 6

Because Brian Hugged His Mother by David Rice (1999)

Kindness IS contagious, and this story shows how even young Brian can start a chain reaction that brings a bit of joy to people he does not even know. It all starts out one morning when Brian wakes up and gives his mother a hug. A hug from Brian touches many people (and even animals), often in a humorous way.

Bully B.E.A.N.S by Julia Cook (2009)

Bully B.E.A.N.S. is a fun story that teaches people of all ages to become proactive when it comes to bullying. This book can help children and adults understand why bullying happens and what they can do to stop it. Finally, a bullying book that speaks to the bystander!

Colors Of Me by Brynne Barnes (2011)

As a young child begins to question the significance of skin color he comes to see the importance of a world filled with and accepting of all colors.

Don't Laugh At Me by Steve Seskin (2002)

For anyone who's ever been bullied, or been a bully himself or herself, it's time to change your tune. This is not a book for whiners, but a new language that will give you the words you need to take charge and stop the cycle of teasing.

Family Reunion by Mary Quattlebaum (2004)

This book includes a series of poems describing memories about family members, family strengths, and the special traditions and feasts shared together by families.

Goldilocks And The Three Bears by Jan Brett (2002)

Everybody loves the story of the curious little girl named Goldilocks, who made herself quite at home in the house of the three bears.

How Full Is Your Bucket? By Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer (2009)

How Full Is Your Bucket? is a quick, breezy book that helps readers boost the amount of positive emotions in their lives, and in the lives of those around them.

I Am Utterly Unique: Celebrating the Strengths of Children with Asperger Syndrome and High Functional Autism by Elaine Marie Larson (2006)

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I like Who I Am by Tara White (2008)

Celina moves with her mother back to her reserve. She is bullied by some of the kids who won't believe she is Mohawk because she has blonde hair and blue eyes. Celina begins to doubt herself and refuses to dance at the upcoming Pow Wow. After she dances, the other kids begin to accept her, and she even begins to teach some of them the language.

Jenneli's Dance by Elizabeth Denny (2008)

Jenneli feels she is "nothing special" and as a Métis, looks different than the others. She takes bannock bread for lunch and loves dancing to fiddle music. Her beloved Grandma Lucee, however, instills pride in their heritage and teaches her grandchildren to jig to the traditional Métis fiddle tune, The Red River Jig. When she enters her granddaughter in a children's jig contest at the local fair, Jenneli overcomes her fears and learns that being Métis makes her feel there is "something special" about her.



Just Because I Am by Lauren Murphy Payne (2004)

"I am a person. I am special. I am important...just because I am."

Warm, simple words and enchanting illustrations strengthen and support young children's self-esteem.

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester (2008)

I am a story. So are you. So is everyone. Julius Lester says, "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details."

Say Something by Peggy Moss (2008)

At this school, there are some children who push and tease and bully. Sometimes they hurt other kids by just ignoring them. The girl in this story sees it happening, but she would never do these mean things herself. Then one day something happens that shows her that being a silent bystander isn't enough. Will she take some steps on her own to help another kid?

Stick by Steven Breen (2007)

Stick is a frog who likes to do things on his own with no help from Mom. But one day he gets carried away . . . literally. His tongue accidentally sticks to a dragonfly, and off he's pulled across the swamp and into the big city of New Orleans, causing havoc along the way. When he finds himself stranded at the seashore, will he finally be ready to ask for help?

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi (2001)

Adjustments to a new classroom can be hard, especially when children also make cultural adjustments for each other, recognizing and understanding contributing uniqueness of others.

The Quilt Of Belonging by Janice Weaver (2006)

A series of quilted prints and their cultural significance for different countries are presented, providing great history and facts, and representing global differences and uniqueness of countries as strengths.

What I Like About Me! By Allia Zobel-Nolan (2009)

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