

Empathy

Empathy is at the heart of what it means to be human. Teaching children empathy can be a challenge. These picture books will help introduce the concept as they celebrate the importance of caring for one another.



[Those Shoes](#)/Maribeth Boelts

Jeremy wants a pair of shoes that everyone at school seems to be wearing, but he can't afford them. When Jeremy's shoes fall apart at school, and the guidance counselor gives him a hand-me-down pair, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes. Through a hard lesson, Jeremy comes to realize that the things he has are more important than the things he wants. (Picture Book BOE)



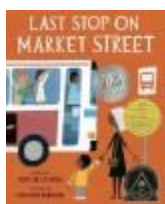
[Maddi's Fridge](#)/Lois Brandt

Best friends share secrets and help each other. One day after playing, Maddi and Sofia race to Maddi's house for a snack. Maddi is embarrassed her fridge is empty and explains her mom can't afford food. She makes Sofia promise she won't tell anyone. Each night after dinner, Sofia packs food in her backpack for Maddi. Eventually Sofia realizes she must tell a grownup to help her friend. (Picture Book BRA)



The Name Jar/Yangsook Choi

Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when your name is difficult to pronounce? On the way to school, Unhei is teased on the bus for her Korean name. Her classmates recommend American names, but eventually Unhei chooses to keep her Korean name. (Picture Book Older CHO)



Last Stop on Market Street/Matt De La Pena

Every Sunday CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. CJ wonders why they don't own a car; why doesn't he have an iPod? How come they always get off in the dirty part of town? Grandma answers each question with an encouraging answer and helps CJ see the beauty and fun in the world around him. This book was the Newbery winner for 2016. (Picture Book DEL)



A Castle on Viola Street/Dyanne Disalvo

Andy and his family live in a small, rundown apartment that is never quite warm enough. He dreams of a house of his own. One Saturday, he notices people beginning to work on boarded up houses. He learns that families who assist in the renovation are eligible to get a house of their own. Children are encouraged to feel empathy for Andy and his family as they strive to afford their own home.



The Spiffiest Giant in Town/Julia Donaldson

George wishes he wasn't the scruffiest giant in town. He buys himself a new set of clothes and looks forward to showing them off. However, when he meets animals in need of his assistance, George is only happy to help and knows that being a good person is better than looking like one. A perfect lesson for all! (Picture Book DON)



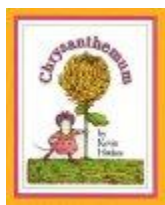
How to Heal a Broken Wing/Bob Graham

In a city full of hurried people, Will is the only one who notices a bird with a broken wing. He takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky. In this book, the beauty is in the details: the bedroom filled with animal memorabilia; the saving of the single feather as a good-luck charm for the bird's return to the sky. A loving story not to be missed. (Picture Book GRA)



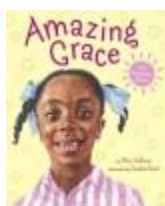
How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box: And Other Wonders of Tzedakah/Linda Heller

When Dalia learns about tzedakah, the Jewish tradition of charity and caring, she creates a tzedakah box where she can keep the money she's saved to help those in need. Dalia's story serves as a powerful reminder that the greatest joy of all comes from giving generously to others. (Picture Book HEL)



Chrysanthemum/Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum loves her name- it's absolutely perfect for her! But once she starts school, the other children make fun of it and Chrysanthemum goes home in tears. By chance, all the students love and adore their music teacher who also has an unusual name—Delphinium, which sparks a new fad of flower names. (Picture Book HEN)



Amazing Grace/Mary Hoffman

Grace loves stories. She imagines herself to be Hiawatha, Joan of Arc and Aladdin. When auditions are set for the role of Peter Pan, Grace's classmates tell her she won't get the part because she's a girl and she's black. Grace's family tells her she can be anything she wants to be and Grace decides to prove her friends wrong. (Picture Book HOF)



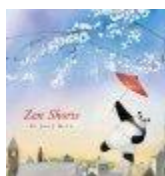
Hey, Little Ant/Phillip and Hannah Hoose

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on begged you not to squish him? Readers are forced to look at life from the ant's point of view and decide what choice they will make. (Picture Book HOO)



Otis and the Scarecrow/Loren Long

The farmer has introduced a scarecrow to the farm where Otis the tractor lives. Otis and the friendly animals try to engage the scarecrow with smiles, but the scarecrow keeps a frown on his face. Otis can't stop thinking about the lonely scarecrow and how he must feel. Readers will appreciate how Otis stands up for the right choice. (Picture Book LON)



Zen Shorts/Jon Muth

When Stillwater the giant panda moves into the neighborhood, he teaches three siblings to look at the world in new ways. With graceful art, this story is filled with love and enlightenment. Be sure to check out [Zen Ties](#) and [Zen Socks](#). (Picture Book MUT)



Sam's New Friend/ Thierry Robberecht

At Sam's school, boys are tough and they only play with each other. Ellie, a sad looking new girl in class, comes home with Sam and even stays over. Ellie's mom and Sam's mom are friends. At night, Ellie wakes up crying because she fears her parents are divorcing. After Sam comforts her, he is amazed at her courage and realizes girls are as strong as boys. (Picture Book ROB)



[Bluebird](#)/Bob Staake

In this wordless picture book, readers will be captivated as they follow the journey of a bluebird as he develops a friendship with a boy and ultimately risks his life to save his friend from harm. A special book you won't soon forget. (Picture Book Older STA)



[First Grade Dropout](#)/Audrey Vernick

A hilarious story about a first grader who makes a major mistake in class (he calls his teacher mommy!) He is so embarrassed he doesn't know how he will ever return to school. When he meets his friend Tyler at the soccer field, Tyler acts like nothing ever happened and even makes a mistake himself! Children will be sure to empathize with being embarrassed in front of their class. (Picture Book VER)



[A Chair for My Mother](#)/Vera B. Williams

After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa and her family save their coins to buy a really comfortable chair for all to enjoy. (Picture Book WILL)



[Bear Feels Scared](#)/Karma Wilson

Bear is frightened when he becomes lost in the woods. His animal friends, imagining how scared he must be, search for bear so he will feel safe again. Be sure to check out [Bear Feels Sick](#) when his friends nurse him back to health. (Picture Book WIL)