

## SPECIAL TOPICS

### BOOKLIST



### ADOPTION

Author	Title	Description	Qualities
Caines, Jeannette L, G	ABBY 3+	An engaging story about Abby, an adopted little girl who loves exploring her past. She tells us about her relationships with her older brother, her mother and father.	love curiosity goodness affection
Cole, Joanna L,G	How I Was Adopted 3+	A cheerful, informative approach to telling a young child about adoption. It is a story about love and what it means to grow up in a loving home. It includes an excellent introduction containing information concerning an adopted child's questions and raising an adopted child.	love family nurture connections
Keller, Holly L	Horace 0-5	Horace who has yellow fur and spots is adopted by loving parents who have orange fur and stripes. Horace thinks he looks silly until he discovers a family that looks like him. The new family asks Horace to come home with them, but he decides he wants to go home where he belongs with parents who chose him.	affection caring nurturing home

Kirk, David <b>L</b>	Little Miss Spider <b>0-5</b>	As soon as she is born, Little Miss Spider discovers her mother is nowhere to be found. She looks everywhere from the top of the trees to down in a hole. Then, when she is about to become dinner for a baby bird, beetle Betty rescues her and takes her home. When Betty asks her to stay, Little Miss Spider realizes that your mother is the one who loves you the best.	caring family home
Kroll, Virginia <b>L</b>	Beginnings: How Families Come to Be <b>4+</b>	Through short stories the author explores how six different families were formed, all but one, through adoption. Different nationalities are represented.	caring commitment family love
Lamperti, Noelle <b>L</b>	Brown Like Me <b>3+</b>	A celebration of families and the color brown. Noelle is brown and adopted into a white family. She is lonesome for her own color, so she explores everything she can find that is brown.	awareness beauty celebration
Pellegrini, Nina <b>L</b>	Families Are <b>3+</b>	Nico is different. (She was adopted from Korea.) She looks like her sister but not her mom and dad. At first she doesn't like looking different, but then she realizes families are different. They can have one parent, two parents, grandparents, step brothers or sisters or parents that don't look alike. This helps Nico realize she is just like everyone else, she is different!	awareness family relationship

Thomas, Eliza <b>L</b>	The Red Blanket <b>3+</b>	A red blanket proves to be the very thing that strengthens the bond between a new mother and her adopted Chinese baby. As time goes by, it becomes a “security blanket”.	family caring connectedness gentleness nurture
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## DEATH

Durant, Alan <b>L</b>	Always and Forever <b>3+</b>	Otter, mole, fox and hare live happily together in a house in the woods. Each one contributes to the daily chores. Then one day fox dies and a great sadness fills the home. Finally the friends begin to talk about how much he made them laugh. They decide to make a special garden in memory of fox. Mole built a bench and as they sat there together remembering, their sadness turns to joy.	caring friendship sharing
Ommen, Sylvia <b>L</b>	Jellybeans <b>4+</b>	Two very different friends sharing jellybeans and hot chocolate in the park are reminded of heaven by the blue jellybean.	imagination friendship wonder curiosity cycles
Rogers, Fred <b>L</b>	When a Pet Dies <b>4+</b>	Assures youngsters that no matter how badly they feel when they lose a pet, in time their hurt will ease, and they will be able to remember with fondness the happiness they shared.	caring empathy relationship
Smith, Will <b>G</b>	Just the Two of Us <b>4+</b>	A father expresses his love for his son. The beautiful illustrations and rhyming	awe, caring commitment delight

		words make this a pleasure for both reader and listener.	joy, gratitude hope
Thomas, Pat L,G	I Miss You: a first look at death 4+	This reassuring picture book explores the difficult issue of death. It helps young children understand their loss and to come to terms with their feelings.	caring empathy relationship
Viorst, Judith L	The Tenth Good Thing About Barney 4+	A boy's cat Barney dies and the boy can only think of nine good things to say about Barney. Later, while talking to his father, the boy discovers the tenth good thing and begins to understand the cycle of life.	cycles caring love
Wilhelm, Hans L	I'll Always Love You 4+	A small boy deals with the illness and later the death of his dog. Simple, tender and touching illustrations show the feelings he experiences.	connectedness cycles love caring kindness
<b>DIVORCE</b>			
Hines, Anna L	When We Married Gary 3+	A beautifully written exploration of how children can be assisted in accepting a step-parent.	affection family relationship
Masurel, Claire L	Two Homes 3+	Two Homes is a comforting story that reassures children. It tells them that, in the face of divorce, there can be warmth and love.	hope love trust
Schotter, Roni L	Room for Rabbit 4+	A stuffed rabbit is a little girl's constant companion. He goes with her to Mama's house and to Papa's house and he helps her to	caring family imagination

		adjust to the changes brought about by Papa remarrying.	
Smith, Will L,G	Just the Two of Us 4+	A father expresses his love for his son. The beautiful illustrations and rhyming words make this a pleasure for both reader and listener	awe, caring commitment delight joy, gratitude hope
Thomas, Pat L	My Family is Changing 3+	An outstanding picture book that can help a family work through the issues involved in a divorce. Children's questions, fears and worries are explained in ways that are kind, sympathetic and practical.	caring family home

### NEW BABY

Ballard, Robin L	When I Am a Sister 4+	A young girl wonders how things will change when her stepmother's baby is born. Her papa reassures her and explains that change can be a good thing.	caring relationship affection family
Bourgeois, Paulette L	Franklin's Baby Sister 3+	Franklin's parents tell him they are going to have a baby in the spring. He waits impatiently through the long winter and finally his baby sister arrives. One of the many books in the "Franklin" series.	affection family patience
Cole, Joanna L	A New Baby at Your House 3+	The pictures and text show big brothers and sisters how to share the joy of having a new baby. The book includes helpful notes to parents.	awareness caring connections

Sears, William, Sears, Martha and Kelly, Christie <b>L</b>	What Baby Needs <b>3+</b>	A new baby necessitates many changes. This warm, insightful book explains how to help brothers and sisters adjust and develop a meaningful relationship with this new family member.	caring family sharing responsibility awareness
Thomas, Shelly <b>L</b>	A Baby's Coming to Your House <b>3+</b>	Through photographs and well chosen words, this book portrays how a new baby's arrival can joyfully involve the whole family. It explains the needs of a newborn and how a preschool child can help teach a baby about hugs, laughter and love.	affection family gentleness nurture

### OLDER PEOPLE

Adams, Pam <b>L</b>	Who Cares About Elderly People? <b>3+</b>	Children learn they have a lot in common with older people and there are many ways they can help each other.	caring helpfulness kindness
dePaola, Tomi <b>L,G</b>	Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs <b>4+</b>	In this true story the author describes his grandmother and his great grandmother. Each in her own time is confined to her bed upstairs. He learns to say goodbye to each of them – one when he's a child and the other when he's a teenager. This story of love, caring and death is touching and heartwarming.	affection kindness cycles gentleness respect serenity trust
Fox, Mem <b>L,G</b>	Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge <b>4+</b>	A small boy befriends a variety of people living in an old people's home. His favorite person is a ninety-six year old woman who is losing her	caring wonder sharing kindness generosity

memory. He explores the meaning of “memory” with the other residents. Then he shares things he treasures and these help his friend remember.

Sakai, Kimiko  
L

Sachiko Means  
Happiness  
4+

A young Japanese girl helps her grandmother who is dealing with Alzheimers. Her name means happiness and she finds happiness when her irritation turns to devotion.

caring  
affection  
gentleness  
hope  
nurture  
patience

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Adams, Pam

Who Cares About  
Disabled People?  
4+

A positive and uplifting overview of a variety of conditions that challenge people with special needs. It shows children how to appropriately respond and to realize we all belong together.

empathy  
awareness  
helpfulness

Atkinson, Mary  
L

Why do some  
people use  
wheelchairs?  
4+

Illustrated with a variety of photographs. The book answers questions children ask about people with special needs. It includes answers to questions such as why a friend wears a hearing aid, why people read with their fingers and why people talk with their hands.

awareness  
curiosity  
empathy  
helpfulness

Casely, Judith  
L

Harry and Willy  
and Carrothead  
4+

Harry was born without a left hand, but he can do everything other children can do. When he was four he was fitted with a prothesis and then he could even play ball.

friendship  
kindness  
sharing

Cohen, Miriam L,G	See You Tomorrow Charles 4+	Charles is a new boy in class and he is blind. Gradually, the other children learn he is like them in all the ways that matter and he can even do some things they can't do.	awareness Friendship helpfulness
Gregory, Nan L	How Smudge Came 4+	A young woman with Downs Syndrome finds a puppy that needs a home. Where can she keep him?	affection caring joy cooperation
Pirner, Connie	Even Little Kids Get Diabetes 4+	A child sized view of what it is like for a family to live with diabetes. It portrays a hopeful, yet realistic family oriented approach to managing the challenges.	caring courage family
Pulver, Robin L	Why to Go Alex 4+	The story of a girl's relationship with her older brother who has mental retardation. Through the family's support of her brother's participation in Special Olympics, she learns the importance of trying, sharing, and caring.	helpfulness hope patience
Reese, Bob L	Recess 3+	With expressive pictures and few words, this story shows how a girl who walks with crutches inspires a boy who lacks the courage to try.	caring friendship helpfulness
Riggs, Stephanie L	Never Sell Yourself Short 4+	Josh is a dwarf, but he doesn't let his short-stature limit him. With a few modifications he is able to do things everyone	awareness friendship independence

else does. And through the example of other short-statured people, he learns to aspire to becoming whatever he wants to be.

Thomas, Pat <b>L,G</b>	Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability <b>4+</b>	A warm and caring way to explain to young children how others may appear to be different, but inside we are all the same. And the world is more interesting when we are all together and learn from each other. Includes a helpful section concerning "How to Use This Book".	awareness empathy kindness relationship
Willis, Jeanne <b>L,G</b>	Susan Laughs <b>3+</b>	This simple picture book shows how a physically challenged little girl is just like everyone else. We follow the activities of a happy child who finds joy in the things she can do.	awareness friendship family
Woloson, Eliza <b>L</b>	My Friend Isabelle <b>3+</b>	Isabelle and her friend Charlie are different from each other because Isabelle has Down Syndrome. But they both like to draw, read, play in the park and eat cheerios. Their friendship is a blessing to both of them.	caring patience sharing

### DISASTERS

Beard, Darleen Bailey <b>L</b>	Twister <b>4+</b>	Two young children experience and survive a tornado.	awareness hope courage
Bourgeois, Paulette <b>L</b>	Franklin and the Thunderstorm	Franklin's friends help him overcome his fear of stormy	comfort helpfulness

	<b>3+</b>	weather. One of the many kindness books in the “Franklin” series.
Holmes, Margaret <b>L</b>	A Terrible Thing Happened – a story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma <b>4+</b>	This gently told and tenderly caring illustrated story is for kindness children who have witnessed comfort something terrible such as physical abuse, violence, accidents or a disaster such as fire or flood. Includes suggestions for helping traumatized children.
Suggs, Nan	Erin and Katrina <b>4+</b>	A well told story of a child’s compassion concern for the animals and helpfulness people who lived in the path courage of Hurricane Katrina. Harsh reality is balanced by hope as people help each other.

### **BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES**

Berry, Joy <b>L,G</b>	A children’s book about. . . . <b>4+</b>	disobeying, lying, being selfish, teasing
Berry, Joy <b>L,G</b>	Let’s talk about <b>4+</b>	being helpful feeling angry
Thomas, Pat <b>L</b>	Stop Picking on Me <b>4+</b>	A picture book that explores courage the difficult issues of positive empathy bullying.