# Building Empathy

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**  
**A Selective Annotated Bibliography**

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<tr>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EASY</strong></td>
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E  
B6333T

Jeremy, who longs to have the black high tops that everyone at school seems to have but his grandmother cannot afford, is excited when he sees them for sale in a thrift shop and decides to buy them even though they are the wrong size.

Min/Max Grade Level: K through 12; Lexile: AD550L; BL: 3.1

E  
B77797W

In a poetic, philosophical exchange, two children of different races ask themselves why they are who and what they are and speculate on how they could be different.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 2; Lexile: AD200L; BL: n/a

E  
B81418D

When they find a dead bird, a group of children buries it in the woods, sings a song to it, and puts flowers on the grave.

Sam must decide how to spend the lucky money he's received for Chinese New Year. But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced until a surprise encounter with a stranger.


Grandpa explains that the golden rule is a simple statement on how to live that can be practiced by people of all ages and faiths, then helps his grandson figure out how to apply the rule to his own life.


Torn between her fear of the bully on the school playground and her sympathy for her classmate, a girl must make a difficult choice.


A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.


Just before Christmas, when Frances sees a sad-eyed organ grinder and his monkey performing near her apartment, she cannot stop thinking about them, wondering where they go at night, and wishing she could do something to help.

George the giant, known for wearing his old patched clothes, finally buys new ones, but then gives them away to some needy animals.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 3; Lexile: AD600L; BL: 2.9


Woolbur, a sheep with a mind of his own, never seems to follow the flock, despite his parents' reminders about how he should behave.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 2; Lexile: AD460L; BL: 2.3


Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 2; Lexile: 570L; BL: 3.3


When Lily tries to read, the letters seem to get all jumbled up, and so she does not know what to do when her teacher announces that they must all read a page aloud for Parent's Day.

Min/Max Grade Level: 1 through 3; Lexile: n/a; BL: 3.1


Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

Min/Max Grade Level: K through 2; Lexile: 680L; BL: 3.5


Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives, everything changes.

Min/Max Grade Level: K through 2; Lexile: AD680L; BL: 2.8

When Stillwater the panda encourages Koo, Addy, Michael, and Karl to help a grouchy neighbor, their efforts are rewarded in unexpected ways.

Min/Max Grade Level: 1 through 5; Lexile: 460L; BL: 2.7


Ill-tempered Red got too powerful for his own good and had to be brought down to size by One—a single entity with the courage to stand up for what was right.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through K; Lexile: 510L; BL: 2.2


One snowy night, a fox loses its way, entering a village. Chased away by the villagers, Fox takes shelter in a greenhouse. A child sees this from his window. Without hesitating, he brings a basket of food to the fox. His gift and kindness are noticed, and the night becomes a garden, full of hope and surprise.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 1; Lexile: n/a; BL: n/a


A dog trying to make sense of the world of humans is puzzled then jealous when a new baby arrives on the scene, but a friendship with the girl dog next door leads him to a new understanding.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 2; Lexile: n/a; BL: 2.3


A little bear explains that he cares about the feelings of others and that others care about him.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through Pre-K; Lexile: n/a; BL: 1.7


A little girl's smile as she skips down the street in New York inspires a neighbor to send cookies to her grandson in Mexico, and the goodwill soon spreads around the
world.

Min/Max Grade Level: 2 through 4; Lexile: AD820L; BL: 3.5


A story about a rude cake who never says please or thank you or listens to its parents, and a Giant Cyclops who is polite.

Min/Max Grade Level: Pre-K through 1; Lexile: AD360L; BL: 1.6


A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

Min/Max Grade Level: 1 through 2; Lexile: n/a; BL: 3.4


When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

Min/Max Grade Level: 2 through 5; Lexile: AD530L; BL: 3.4


A man drives his truck up to a cliff’s edge. Unable to go any further, he opens the back door of his truck and a flock of birds flies out, but, as the man soon discovers, a small timid bird remains. Surprised and delighted, the man acts kindly towards the bird and an intimacy develops. After lunch, the man tries to show the bird that he should fly off and join his friends. The man's comic attempt at flight deepens the encounter between these two very different creatures. Soon the bird flies off and the man drives away, but in a surprise twist the bird and his friends return, and in a starkly lyrical moment we see them all experience something entirely new.

Min/Max Grade Level: K through 2; Lexile: n/a; BL: n/a
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<tr>
<th>FICTION</th>
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<td>Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.</td>
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<td>Min/Max Grade Level: 3 through 6; Lexile: 750L; BL: 4.3</td>
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<td>Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it is like when she, too, becomes a target.</td>
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<td>Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: 610L; BL: 3.8</td>
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<td>Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.</td>
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<td>Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 6; Lexile: 700L; BL: 4.3</td>
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<td>None of her classmates pay much attention to Wanda Petronski, a Polish-American girl, until she announces she has 100 dresses in her closet. Everyone laughs and teases her so much that she stops coming to school. Then, her classmates discover she really does have 100 dresses and discover something about teasing and themselves.</td>
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<td>Min/Max Grade Level: 3 through 4; Lexile: n/a; BL: 5.4</td>
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<td>As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.</td>
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<td>Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 8; Lexile: 700L; BL: 4.5</td>
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A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 7; Lexile: 890L; BL: 5.2


Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 7; Lexile: 790L; BL: 4.8


Greg is crippling shy, afraid of spiders, and obsessed with Breakfast at Tiffany's. He's not exactly the most popular kid at his high school. In fact, he pretty much goes out of his way to avoid talking to anybody he doesn't have to. And it doesn't help that he has a severe lisp. But Greg's English teacher, Miss Hayes, can see that there's something different about him. When Greg begins to take an interest in a girl at his school named Alice, he realizes that he will have to face his most paralyzing anxieties if he wants to befriend Alice and help her escape from her tumultuous family life.

Min/Max Grade Level: 9 through 12; Lexile: n/a; BL: n/a


Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Min/Max Grade Level: 5 through 8; Lexile: 770L; BL: 5.6


Marley Sandelski has always felt invisible at school when he is not facing bullies, but a series of unexpected events gives him a taste of popularity and insights into some classmates, well-liked or greatly-feared.

Min/Max Grade Level: 5 through 9; Lexile: 620L; BL: 4
NONFICTION


A brief biography of the woman whose concern for others led her to become a pioneer in the field of nursing.

Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: 670L; BL: n/a


Twenty-five short stories illustrate the kinds of pressure children can face in social situations, including peer pressure, bullying, being part of a clique, and tolerance, and offer discussion questions at the end of each story.

Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 6; Lexile: n/a; BL: n/a


The Kids Book of Dealing with Bullies will teach kids stay in control, walk away, get help, share their feelings and be proud in the face of bullying. This book will show kids how to use compassion, respect, responsibility, and honesty with those around them.

Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: 390L; BL: n/a


Discusses the issues surrounding bullying in schools and examines different methods of handling bullying, from zero tolerance punishment policies to counseling and holistic approaches to preventing bullying.

Min/Max Grade Level: 4 through 6; Lexile: 1040L; BL: n/a


_Everyone is Equal: The Kids’ Book of Tolerance_ will teach kids to be tolerant of other peoples’ looks, abilities, beliefs, and to talk & learn about differences. This book will show kids how to use compassion, respect, responsibility, and honesty with those around them.

Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: 190L; BL: n/a

Offers a Young Adult adaptation of the best-selling exploration of the impact of extreme differences between parents and children.

Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: 1050L; BL: n/a


Describes the differences between cultures.

Min/Max Grade Level: 1 through 2; Lexile: n/a; BL: 3.8


Dr. Fisch connects with students in a manner which goes far beyond words. In his visits to schools, he has stated, “Good can be learned from one of the worst human tragedies. We must remain human, toward everyone, even in an inhuman environment.” He began asking the students to write to him about their thoughts and feelings.

Min/Max Grade Level: n/a; Lexile: n/a; BL: n/a

**BIOGRAPHY**


The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

Min/Max Grade Level: 2 through 6; Lexile: n/a; BL: 2.7


The disabilities advocate behind the nonprofit, laughingatmynightmare.com, presents a highly visual reference that answers the most common questions about his wheelchair and spinal muscular atrophy, describing how he works through his physical challenges so that he can fully enjoy the activities he loves.

Min/Max Grade Level: 1 through 3; Lexile: 860L; BL: 4.1
Robert Hoge was born with a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs, but he refused to let what made him different stand in the way of leading a happy, successful life. This is the true story of how he embraced his circumstances and never let his "ugly" stop him from focusing on what truly mattered."

Min/Max Grade Level: 3 through 6; Lexile: 890L; BL: 5.7

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