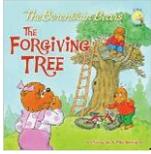




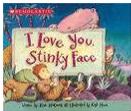
A List of Suggested Readings for Children Exploring the Themes of Friendship, Love, Forgiveness and Peace.



In The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree, by Jan and Mike Berenstain - “Cousin Fred accidentally damages Brother’s brand-new bike. When Brother Bear gets angry, can Sister Bear help him see that forgiving his friend is the right thing to do?”



Rising Above the Storm Clouds: What It's Like to Forgive by Robert Enright. The book teaches children both the essence and value of forgiveness.



I Love You Stinky Face by Lisa McCourt. This simple story is a comforting bed-time story, and it will reassure children when they worry that they might not be loveable any more.



Little Fur Family by Margaret Wise Brown. The book examines themes of exploration and discovery, the familiar and unfamiliar, and the fear of the unknown as well as recognizing the power of love.



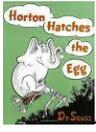
It's Not Easy Being a Bunny by Marilyn Sadler. It is about a young bunny named P.J. Funnybunny and his adventures to live with a different animal because he does not like being a bunny. It explores learning to appreciate one’s own individuality and the realization that “the grass is not always greener on the otherside”.



Will You Forgive Me? by Sally Grindley and Penny Dann. The book explores the timeless and universal themes of friendship and forgiveness.



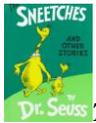
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown. The books shows the steadfast love of a mother for her child through an imaginary game of hide-and-seek.



Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss. The motto of the story is "I meant what I said and I said what I meant, And an elephant's faithful, one hundred per cent!" This book explores the importance of friendship and standing up for your beliefs against resistance.



Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss. (Book and/or DVD). The motto of the story is "a person's a person, no matter how small." This book also explores the importance of friendship and standing up for your beliefs against resistance.



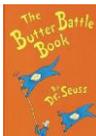
The Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss. This story offers varied lessons. It portrays the senselessness of prejudice and discrimination, and also a lesson of materialism and entrepreneurship.



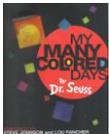
Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss explores the importance of individual rights, one person can make a difference, standing up for what is right, freedom and peace through a story of one turtle's success in overturning an autocratic ruler. The last lines of "Yertle the Turtle" read: "And turtles, of course ... all the turtles are free / As turtles, and maybe, all creatures should be."



The Grinch that Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. (Book and/or DVD). The story is about a misanthrope who learns to love Christmas and humanity through seeing the errors of his ways. The story offers lessons in forgiveness and the importance of community.



The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss. *The Butter Battle Book* tells the story of a land where two hostile cultures, the Yooks and the Zooks, live on opposite sides of a long curving wall and the conflict between the two sides that leads to an arms race. It is an anti-war story; specifically, a parable about arms races in general and mutually assured destruction.



My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss. This book is a rhyming story, it describes each day in terms of a particular color which is in turn associated with a specific emotion.



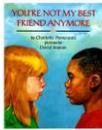
Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper. This book tells the story of three friends; a cat, squirrel and duck that have a quarrel one day. The story is a lesson in friendship.



The Fox and the Hound DVD produced by Walt Disney. The film tells the story of two unlikely friends, a red fox and a hound dog, who struggle to preserve their friendship despite the social pressures surrounding them expecting them to be enemies.



Dumbo DVD produced by Walt Disney. This animated film has messages about friendship, acceptance, courage, and believing in yourself.



You're Not My Best Friend Anymore by Charlotte Pomerantz. This book tells the story of two friends who live on different floors in a two-family house and how they learn about conflict, reconciliation and forgiveness.



Cinderella Video. A wonderful story of a young woman who is forced to live with her mean-spirited step-mother and step-sisters and although she is mistreated remains a kind and generous person whose life changes dramatically for the better. The story also offers lessons in forgiveness.



Mad Isn't Bad: A Child's Book About Anger by Michaelene Mundy. The book offers children a positive and honest view of anger and what to do with it. Adults will love this book.



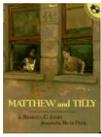
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams (Book and DVD). This book explores friendship and love through the story of a young boy who is given a stuffed toy rabbit. The rabbit learns that a toy becomes real if its owner truly loves it.



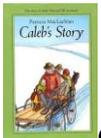
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. This book is about a relationship between a young boy and a tree in a forest. It offers a lesson in unconditional love. The relationship between the tree and the boy is often viewed as similar to that between a parent and child.



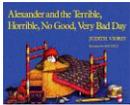
All the Places to Love by Patricia MacLachlan. A story of the bonds of family and nature.



Matthew and Tilly by Rebecca C. Jones. The story of two friends who live in the same neighborhood in the heart of a big city, and they do everything together. The two friends quarrel and stop playing with each other until they realize they miss each other. This book reminds us of the importance of friendship and forgiveness.



Caleb's Story by Patricia MacLachlan. Caleb's Story continues the saga begun by the Newbery Medal-winning Sarah, Plain And Tall and its sequel, Skylark, spinning a tale of love, forgiveness, and the ties that bind a family together.



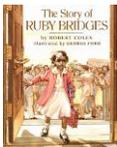
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst. This is a great book for anyone who has ever had a bad day.



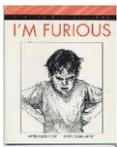
The Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau. This book teaches the value of generosity and community.



Summer Wheels by Eve Bunting. This book reinforces the credo that "with freedom comes responsibility". It is about a man who fixes up bicycles and lets the neighborhood children sign them out for the day as long as they follow some simple rules.



The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles. The story of a six year old African American girl in 1960, sent to integrate an elementary school in New Orleans. Ruby's calm perseverance, academic commitment, and gracious forgiveness are powerful lessons.



I'm Furious by Elizabeth Crary. The book shows a parent and child discussing feelings openly and gives a constructive process for handling those feelings.



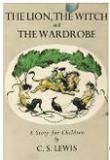
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell. The author Scott O'Dell said "that the two most important themes of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* were forgiveness and respect for all life. The book has other themes, too, including the themes of survival and of the place of girls and women in society".



A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements. This book explores helping children understand themselves and others by discussing the themes of first impressions, fairness, loyalty and courage.



The Magic in You by Sally H. Taylor. This book explores the power of faith, love and forgiveness.



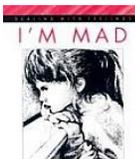
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (Book and/or DVD - Part of the Chronicles of Narnia Series). A fantasy novel turned DVD for children. The story is about four children who during World War II are sent to live in the countryside for their safety.



The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis (Book and/or DVD - Part of the Chronicles of Narnia Series).



The film is based on the award-winning book, ***The Tale of Despereaux***, written by Kate DiCamillo in 2003. The screen play was written and produced by Gary Ross. The star of the Tale of Despereaux may be small in stature, but he offers kids and parents alike some big lessons about forgiveness and compassion. The story centers around Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse with abnormally large ears who lives in the Kingdom of Dor. "The lovable mouse doesn't fit in with his peers. He is much braver than the others. He's not afraid to be an individual. He knows what's right in his heart, and he is willing to stand up for that no matter what the consequences. With his indomitable spirit, his ethics, and his sense of right and wrong, it just makes for a wonderful hero" (Gary Ross).



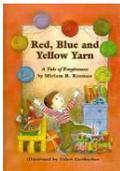
I'm Mad by Elizabeth Crary. The book shows a parent and child discussing feelings openly and gives a constructive process for handling those feelings.



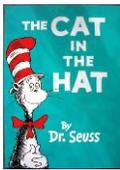
A Pig Called Shrimp by Lisa Taylor. A wonderful story of two different types of friends. One friend is very self absorbed and the other friend is unable to set limits and an unexpected change that occurs due to one particular incident.



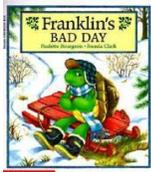
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan. An award winning book about what family.



Red, Blue and Yellow Yarn – A Tale of Forgiveness by Miriam R. Kosman. Another wonderful tale about family member relationships, misunderstandings, helping support and forgiveness.



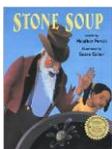
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss does it again showing how easy it is to get into trouble.



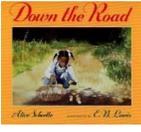
Franklin's Bad Day by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark. A wonderful story addressing feelings.



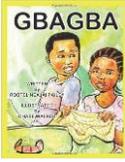
Thidwick The Big-Hearted Moose by Dr. Seuss. A great story that addresses bullying.



Stone Soup Retold by Heather Forest. A great retelling to an ancient and widely circulated legend shows that when each person makes a small contribution, “the collective impact can be huge”.



Down the Road by Alice Schertle. A great story addressing a child's first steps toward independence and responsibility.



GbaGba by Robtel Neajai Pailey. Gbagba is a wonderful children's book about two siblings who live in Liberia. The carefully crafted story presents the ethical dilemmas that people from every station in life face on a daily basis and introduces the meaning of the word GbaGba.