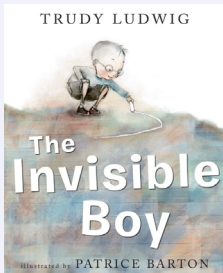


Book Recommendations • Empathy • Grades 2-4, 5-6

To enhance the reading experience, complete this enrichment activity before, during, and after reading:

[Objectives Explanation Version](#) | [Cards Version](#)

Section 1: Picture Books—Short Stories with Many Illustrations

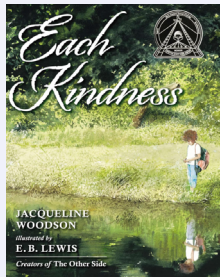


The Invisible Boy

Author: *Trudy Ludwig*

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. No one ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party... until a new kid arrives in class.

When Justin, the new boy, shows up, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up for a class project, Brian finds a way to shine.

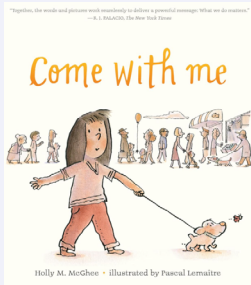


Each Kindness

Author: *Jacqueline Woodson*

Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join them, they reject her. Eventually, Maya stops coming to school.

When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is struck by the missed opportunity for friendship and thinks about how things might have been different if she had shown Maya just a little kindness.



Come With Me

Author: *Holly M. McGhee*

When the news is filled with hate and fear, a girl asks her father what she can do to make the world a better place. Come with me, he says. Hand in hand, they head to the subway, tipping their hats to those they pass.

The next day, the girl asks her mother what she can do—her mother says, Come with me, and together they go to the grocery store, because one person does not represent an entire race or the people of a whole land.

After dinner that night, the little girl asks if she can do something on her own: walk the dog... and her parents let her go.

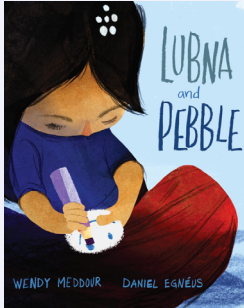
Come with me, the girl says to the boy across the hall. As they walk together, one step at a time, the girl and the boy begin to see that, as small and insignificant as their part may seem, it matters to the world.



We're All Wonders

Author: *R.J. Palacio*

Auggie is a boy who looks different from other kids, and because of that, people sometimes stare or say hurtful things. But Auggie knows he's just like everyone else on the inside—full of love, hope, and imagination. Through his eyes, readers are reminded that everyone has their own story and that choosing kindness can help us see the wonder in everyone.

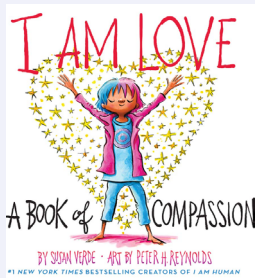


Lubna and Pebble

Author: *Wendy Meddour*

In a story that gently touches on the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide whether friendship means giving up the one thing that brings her comfort during a time of complete uncertainty.

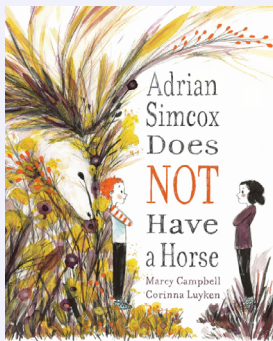
Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she's afraid. But when a lost little boy arrives in the world of tents, Lubna realizes he needs Pebble even more than she does.



I Am Love: A Book of Compassion

Author: *Susan Verde*

Love means showing kindness, living with gratitude, and taking care of our minds and bodies. Letting our hearts lead the way can help bring us closer to a better world. I place my hands on my heart and listen. And that's where I find the answer: I have compassion. I act with tenderness. I am love.



Adrian Simecox Does NOT Have a Horse

Author: *Marcy Campbell*

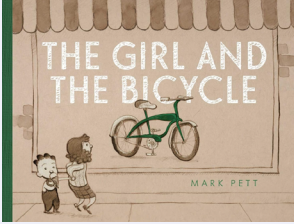
Adrian Simecox tells anyone who will listen that he has a horse—the best and most beautiful horse anywhere.

But Chloe doesn't believe him. Adrian Simecox lives in a small house. Where would he keep a horse? He has holes in his shoes. How could he possibly afford a horse?

The more Adrian talks about his horse, the angrier Chloe gets. But when she calls him out at school and even complains to her mom about him, Chloe doesn't get the validation she's looking for—she gets something much more important.

The Girl and the Bicycle

Author: Mark Pett



A little girl sees a shiny new bike in a shop window. She rushes home to see if she has enough money in her piggy bank, but when she comes up short, she knocks on her neighbors' doors, hoping to do some work for them. They all turn her away—except for one kind old woman.

The woman and the girl work side by side through the seasons. They form a tender friendship. When the weather warms up, the girl finally has enough money for the bike. She returns to the store, but the bike is gone. What happens next shows the reward of hard work and the true meaning of generosity.

The Shelter

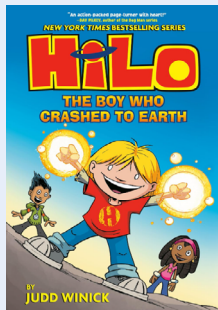
Author: Céline Claire



A big storm is about to hit the forest. As each animal family scrambles to gather supplies and take shelter from the wind and snow blowing in the opposite direction, two mysterious figures appear in the distance. Watching skeptically from their windows, unsure of the strangers' intentions, all the families close their doors and hearts to the unknown and ask for help to withstand the storm... until Little Fox steps up bravely.

With a simple act of kindness, Little Fox extends an olive branch that keeps both the strangers and his own family from being left out in the cold.

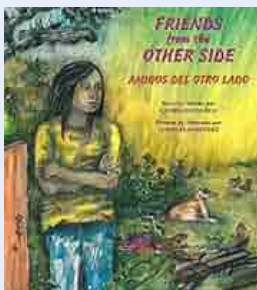
Section 2: Chapter Books and Graphic Novels



HiLo Book 1: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth

Author: Judd Winick

A funny and fast-paced graphic novel about two regular kids who befriend a strange boy who literally crashes to Earth. He has incredible powers, a mysterious past, and no idea how to fit in, but together they face giant robot threats, uncover secrets, and discover the power of friendship.

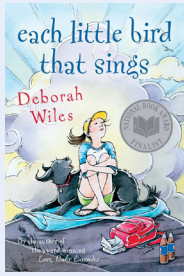


Friends from the Other Side / Amigos del Otro Lado

Author: Gloria Anzaldúa

After crossing the Rio Grande into Texas with his mother in search of a new life, Joaquín finds friendship and support from Prietita, a young Mexican American girl. When neighborhood children taunt Joaquín with hurtful names, Prietita stands up for him. But when the border patrol van slowly approaches their hiding place, she faces a difficult challenge: how to protect Joaquín and his mother from being caught.

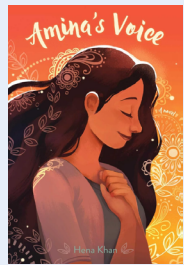
This story captures the daily struggles at the border, the beauty of the landscape, and the spirit of dignity and generosity shared by Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants.



Each Little Bird that Sings

Author: *Deborah Wiles*

Ten-year-old Comfort Snowberger has attended nearly 250 funerals because her family runs the town funeral home. Despite the losses of relatives like Great-uncle Edisto and Great-great-aunt Florentine, Comfort believes she knows how to handle grief. But life surprises her in other ways—like dealing with her troublesome cousin Peach and the sudden silence of her best friend, Declaration. Through these challenges, Comfort learns what it truly takes to face loss and grow up.



Amina's Voice

Author: *Hena Khan*

Amina, a shy Pakistani American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while trying to fit in at middle school. When her best friend begins changing and their local mosque is vandalized, Amina is forced to confront big questions about identity, friendship, and belonging. Through it all, she discovers how her voice can help bring people together and strengthen her community.



The Secret Garden

Author: *Frances Hodgson Burnett*

This book tells the story of Mary Lennox, a lonely and ill-tempered girl sent to live with her uncle in a large, gloomy estate after the death of her parents. While exploring the grounds, Mary discovers a hidden, neglected garden. As she begins to bring the garden back to life with the help of new friends—including a sickly cousin named Colin—Mary experiences her own transformation. Through nature, friendship, and care, all three children begin to heal and grow in unexpected ways.