

EARLY ELEMENTARY



Albert the Fix-it Man

(Janet Lord. Illus. by Julie Paschkis)

2008. Peachtree. ISBN: 9781561454334. PreS–Gr. 2.

Albert, the “fix-it man” in the neighborhood, receives care and kindness from those he’s helped in this community story illustrated in a folk-art style

Before Morning

(Joyce Sidman. Illus. by Beth Krommes)

2016. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. ISBN: 9780547979175. PreS–Gr. 2. Striking scratchboard artwork illustrates this poetic picture book about a city slowed down by snowfall—and an unexpected day of togetherness for a family.

A Chair for My Mother

(Vera Williams)

1982. HarperCollins. ISBN: 9780688009151. K–Gr. 3.

In this classic family story, a young girl, her mother, and her grandmother save money in a glass jar to buy a chair after their furniture is lost in a fire.

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

(Janice Harrington. Illus. by Shelley Jackson)

2007. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN: 9780374312510. PreS–Gr. 2.

Chicken-chasing seems like irresistible fun to a young girl until she begins to understand her effect on the barnyard hens. Colloquial poetry and collage artwork mix in this terrific read-aloud.

Destiny's Gift

(Natasha Anastasia Tarpley. Illus. by Adjoa J. Burrowes)

2004. Lee & Low. ISBN: 9781600606441. PreS–Gr. 2.

When her beloved neighborhood children’s bookstore faces possible closure due to rising rents, Destiny and her parents help organize the community to save it.

Don't Say a Word, Mamá / No Digas Nada, Mamá

(Joe Hayes. Illus. by Esau Andrade Valencia)

2013. Cinco Puntos. ISBN: 9781935955290. PreS–Gr. 2.

Two sisters create humorous mix-ups and misunderstandings when they exchange secret gifts in this warm, humorous family story.

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Each Kindness

(Jacqueline Woodson. Illus. by E. B. Lewis)

2012. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. ISBN: 9780399246524. K–Gr. 3.

This award-winning title is told from an unusual viewpoint—that of a young bully who regrets her unkindness and reflects on how she might have behaved differently.

Elmer and the Hippos

(David McKee)

2010. Lerner. ISBN: 9780761364429. K–Gr. 2.

When a group of elephants doesn't want to share their watering hole with newly arrived hippos, Elmer the elephant demonstrates how to be an upstander, rather than a bystander, as he helps to speak out and resolve the conflict.

Estela's Swap

(Alexis O'Neill. Illus. by Enrique O. Sanchez)

2002. Lee & Low. ISBN: 9781600602535. K–Gr. 3.

A girl exercises problem-solving, cooperation, and more when she admires a beautiful skirt at a vibrant swap market.

The Gardener

(Sarah Stewart. Illus. by David Small)

1997. Farrar. ISBN: 9780374325176. K–Gr. 3.

When hard times hit her family, a young girl is sent to stay with her taciturn uncle. In letters, she describes how her love of gardening brings joy to both her new home and her whole community.

The Golden Rule

(Ilene Cooper. Illus. by Gabi Swiatkowska)

2007. Abrams. ISBN: 9780810909601. K–Gr. 3.

While on a walk, a boy and his grandfather discuss the simple, profound idea of treating others as one would like to be treated—a way of living that crosses cultures and religions.

Invisible Boy

(Trudy Ludwig. Illus. by Patrice Barton)

2013. Knopf. ISBN: 9781582464503. PreS–Gr. 2.

Inventive illustrations that move from gray tones to full, bright color capture a boy's loneliness and then joy when he finds friendship among his classmates.

The Kindness Quilt

(Nancy Elizabeth Wallace)

2006. Two Lions. ISBN: 9780761453130. PreS–Gr. 2.

When her teacher assigns a "Kindness Project," Minna isn't sure what to do until she decides to make a quilt that illustrates small acts of kindness.

Last Stop on Market Street

(Matt de la Peña. Illus. by Christian Robinson)

2015. Putnam. ISBN: 9780399257742. PreS–Gr. 2.

A boy and his grandmother take a bus ride that reflects that vibrant diversity of their community in this Caldecott Medal winner.

Mouse & Lion

(Rand Burkert. Illus. by Nancy Burkert)

2011. Scholastic/Michael Di Capua. ISBN: 9780545101479. PreS–Gr. 2.

This retelling of a familiar Aesop's fable of courage and kindness features exquisitely detailed illustrations of animals of the African Savanna.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee

(Philip C. Stead. Illus. by Erin E. Stead)

2010. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter. ISBN: 9781596434028. PreS–Gr. 2.

An exceptionally big-hearted zookeeper finds his role reversed after he falls ill and is cared for by his beloved animals. A Caldecott Medal winner.

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The Song of Delphine

(Kenneth Kraeger)

2015. Candlewick. ISBN: 9780763670016. PreS–Gr. 2.

In a fictional African kingdom, a young orphan and a princess create a bond based on shared appreciation and kindness.

The Teddy Bear

(David McPhail)

2002. Holt. ISBN: 9780805078824. PreS–Gr. 2.

A teddy bear becomes a homeless man's companion after a boy loses it. When the boy spots his former toy on a bench, he's thrilled, but he realizes that the bear belongs with its new owner.

The Three Questions

(Jon Muth)

2002. Scholastic. ISBN: 9780439199964. PreS–Gr. 3.

Big questions—"What is the right thing to do?" "What is the right time to do things?"—are explored in a beautifully illustrated, child-friendly story of a boy conversing with animal friends.

Those Shoes

(Maribeth Boelts. Illus. by Noah Z. Jones)

2007. Candlewick. ISBN: 9780763642846. K–Gr. 3.

A boy yearns for sneakers that his family can't afford, but he eventually finds new, unanticipated rewards in this non-didactic story.

What Does It Mean to Be Kind?

(Rana DiOrio. Illus. by Stéphane Joris)

2015. Little Pickle. ISBN: 9781939775092. PreS–Gr. 2.

After a young girl helps a new student feel welcome, kindness spreads throughout a community, one act at a time.