

OK

Community

13 Children's Books That Encourage Kindness Toward Others

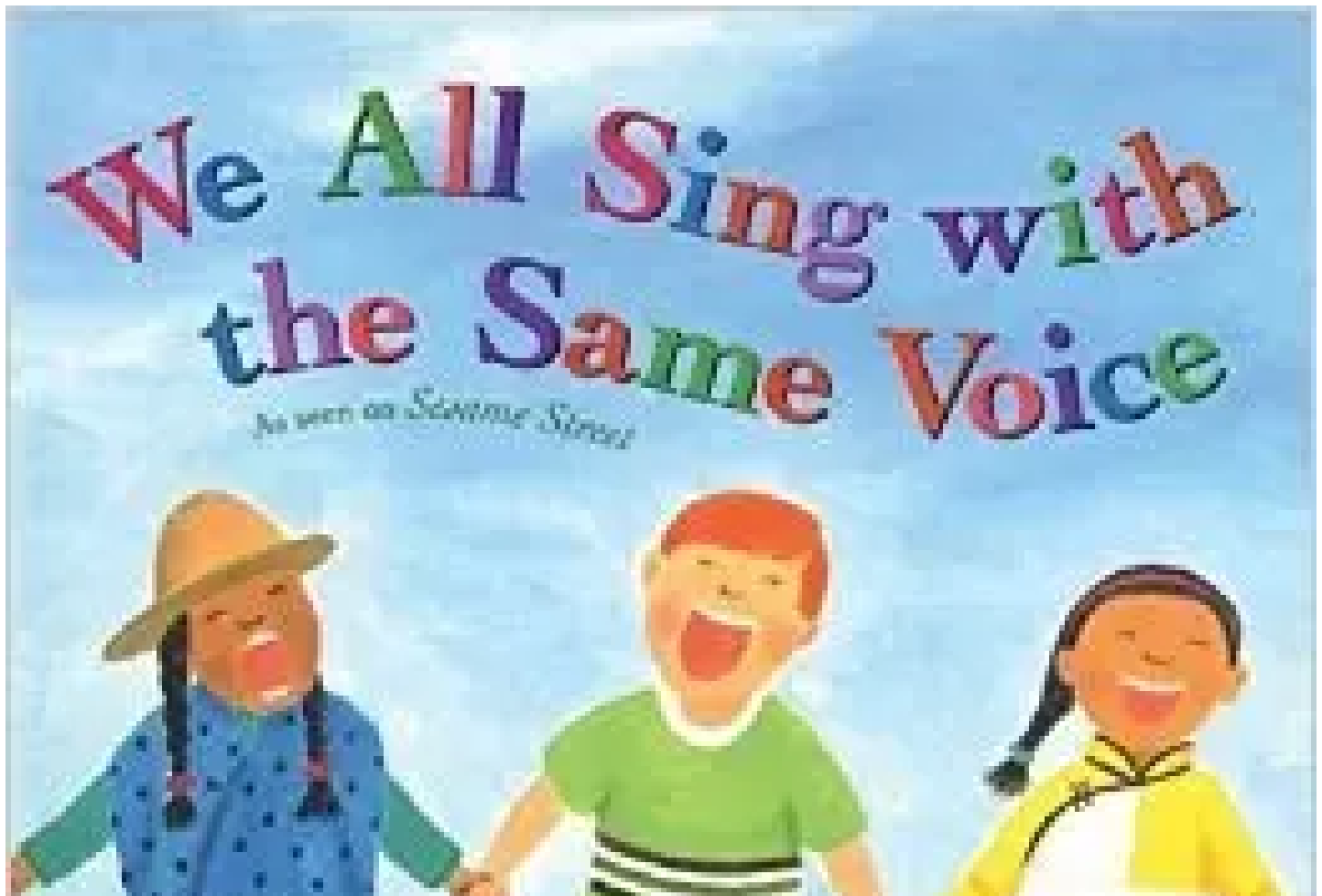
Happy reading!

Posted on March 6, 2016, at 3:01 p.m.



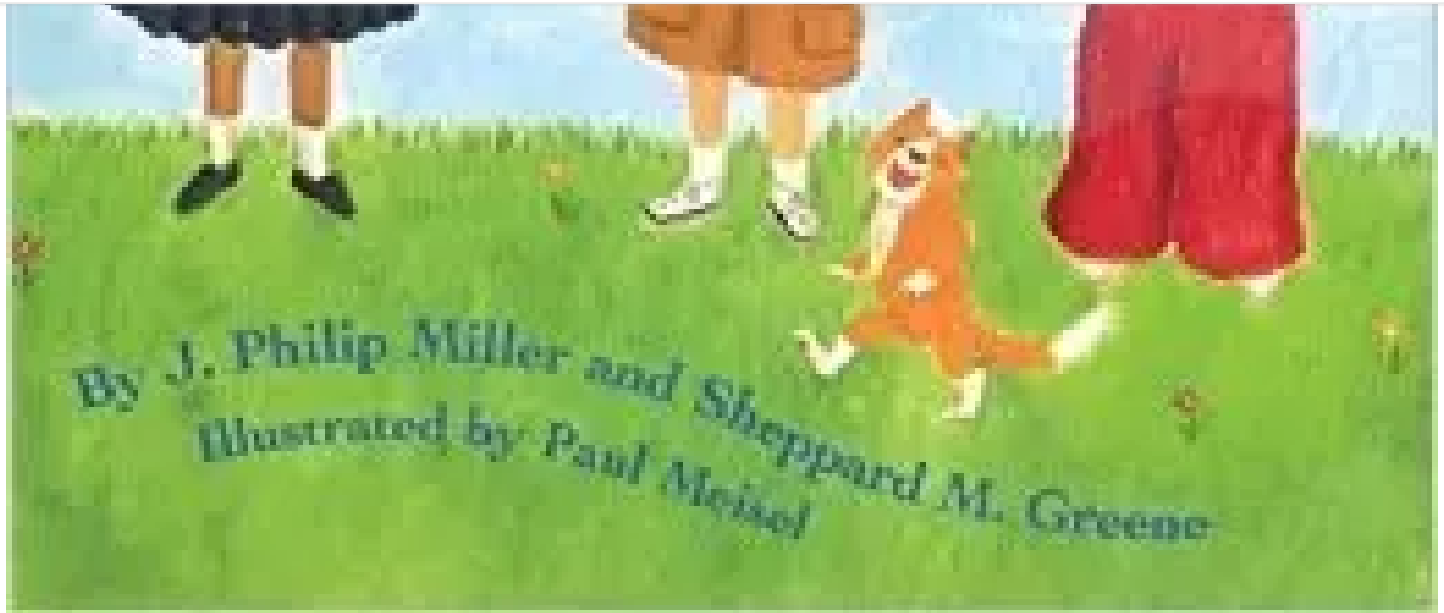
emeynardie

Community Contributor

1. *We All Sing With the Same Voice* by J. Philip Miller and Sheppard M. Greene

Share

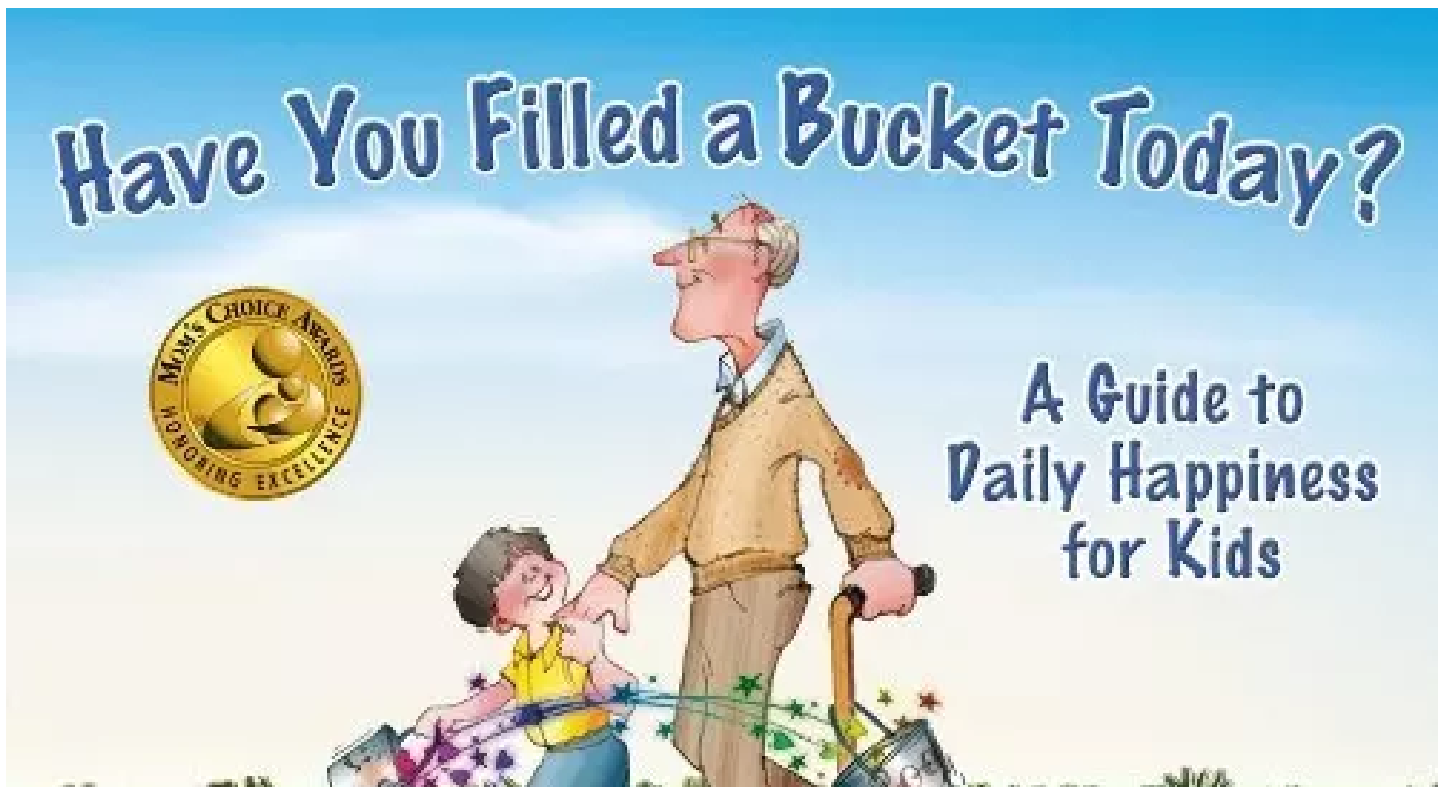
Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)[f Share](#) [p Pin](#)

What It's About: This is a song book that connects kids around the world. The verses highlight differences between kids, illustrated on the pages of the book. The chorus brings all of these kids with many differences together, singing "We all sing with the same voice. The same song. The same voice. We all sing with the same voice and we sing in harmony."

Why It's Important: Not only will the music engage kids as young as three, but it also encourages global awareness and connection at a young age. Everyone is different and unique, and this book celebrates those differences while singing together as friends.

2. *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* by Carol McCloud

[Share](#)[Share](#)

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)

By Carol McCloud . . . Illustrated by David Messing



What It's About: This book introduces an idea that everyone has an "invisible bucket." These buckets are used to hold your good thoughts and feelings about yourself. When you do something kind, you help fill someone else's bucket.

Why It's Important: This provides kids with a visual representation of the importance of kindness. It focuses on social interactions and how our actions positively or negatively affect other people. This book would be especially beneficial as kids begin to develop empathy towards others.

3. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead

[Share](#)[Share](#)

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)

Why It's Important: This sweet story shows how kind actions towards others are repaid. The animals all take care of Amos when he needs a friend, which shows children how important continual kindness towards others is.

4. *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: This story is about a new girl at school, named Maya and how Chloe, who has gone to the school for a while, reacts when she arrives. Chloe is not welcoming towards Maya and excludes her from the group games. Maya leaves and Chloe is left feeling full of regret.

Why It's Important: This story does not have the happy ending that so many books do, but teaches a critical lesson. Every choice we makes affects others in either a positive or negative way, and we do not always have an opportunity to fix our negative actions.

ADVERTISEMENT

5. *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: This 2016 winner of the Newbery Medal follows a young boy, CJ, and his grandmother on their way home one day. CJ spends most of the journey asking "How come...?" questions about everyone and everything. His grandmother answers each question with patience and eventually they leave the bus to volunteer at a soup kitchen.

Why It's Important: CJ is asking seemingly simple questions throughout the book, but his grandmother's responses always elicit empathy toward the other characters throughout the book. It serves as a reminder that everyone we encounter has skills and a story, but we must be kind and open-hearted in order to hear it.

6. *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: In this book, we see a young boy dreaming about getting a pair of really cool shoes. Unfortunately, his family does not have the money for this dream to become a reality. He eventually finds the shoes in a thrift shop in near perfect condition and buys them even though they are too tight. Another kid in his class can't afford new shoes either, and his feet would fit in the cool shoes when the narrator's would not. So, the narrator decides to give his shoes away.

Why It's Important: This book highlights the importance of giving and making difficult decisions. We see the narrator struggle to decide if he can really give his shoes away, but when he decides to, both he and the boy who receive his shoes end up happier than they were before.

7. *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: This book is about an elephant who discovers an entire community living on a speck of dust. With his big ears, Horton is the only animal in the jungle who is able to hear the Whos. Despite being made fun of by the other animals, Horton stands by Whoville because he knows it is the right thing to do.

Why It's Important: Not only is Horton doing the right thing, he is doing the right thing while everyone around him is bullying him to give up. This teaches an important lesson about standing by what you believe in, no matter what you face. With older children, you can also use this book to discuss the importance of advocating for those who do not have a voice

8. *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: This is about a boy who is having a great summer until Jeremy Ross moves in down the street. Jeremy excludes people from birthday parties and laughs when they strike out in baseball. The narrator's father makes enemy pie to help defeat Jeremy Ross. In order for enemy pie to work, the boys have to play together all day. By the end of the day they are good friends and enjoy the pie together.

Why It's Important: This tells a classic story of judging a book by its cover or making judgements about people based on insignificant details. After spending quality time together the two enemies learned that they actually got along quite well.

9. *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson and Fumi Kosaka

Share

Share

News Quizzes Tasty As/Is More



What It's About: This story is about an average girl who decides to pick some blueberries for her neighbor. The neighbor bakes blueberry muffins and gives plates of them to five other people. This good deed turns into a chain of strangers doing kind things for other strangers. Eventually, Mary has someone do something nice for her whose kind actions can be traced back to Mary's blueberry picking.

Why It's Important: This is another book that shows the important your actions can have on others, but it also shows the ways your

Share

Share

-
- [News](#)
- [Quizzes](#)
- [Tasty](#)
- [As/Is](#)
- [More](#)

 Share

 Pin

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)

teaching the importance of welcoming all types of kids to play and participate.

11. *The Three Questions* by Jon J Muth



What It's About: This book is about a boy named Nikolai who wants to be a good person, but is not always sure how. He wants to discover the answer to the three questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? His three animal friends help him answer these questions, but they all have slightly different approaches. He eventually learns that the right time is now, the important one is the one you are with, and the right thing to do is good.

Why It's Important: This book takes a more conceptual approach to helping others, but would serve as an extremely useful tool for starting a discussion with older children about why kindness is an important character trait.

12. *Rude Cakes* by Rowboat Watkins

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



What It's About: This book is about a cake, who is, very rude. He never says please or thank you, never listens, and doesn't share well. One day a giant cyclops takes the rude cake and wears him as a hat. The cyclops has great manners, but the cake hates being a hat. After finally getting away from the cyclops, the cake becomes much more polite.

Why It's Important: Although this book is quite *out there*, it teaches how far good manners and behavior can go toward getting what you want.

13. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)

What It's About: A familiar book to many, this book tells the heartfelt story of a boy and a tree who loved each other very much, but the boy ends up taking parts of the tree until the tree is worn down into a stump. At the end of the book, the boy (now an old man) just needs a place to sit, so he and the stump sit together.

Why It's Important: This book shows the continual generosity and kindness of the tree, and how much the actions of the boy affected the tree. It can be used to teach children that kindness is important, but you should never give up so much that you suffer. You can also use it to teach give and take, the importance of a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship.

Did you know you can [sign up](#) for a [BuzzFeed Community](#) account and create your own BuzzFeed posts? Here's a [handy guide](#) to help you start [posting today!](#)

This post was created by a member of BuzzFeed Community, where anyone can post awesome lists and creations. [Learn more](#) or [post your buzz!](#)

[Share](#)[Share](#)

BuzzFeedNEWS

Believe it or not, it's an amazing time to look for a job due to "a historically long stretch of job growth" 🤖 >

Trump belittled Russia's invasion of Ukraine saying only "something happened" in a call to readmit Russia to the G7. >

The food critic whose Olive Garden review went viral said she's grateful to Anthony Bourdain for speaking up for her. >

ADVERTISEMENT



Connect With BuzzFeed Community

Like Us On Facebook

Follow Us On Twitter

Now Buzzing

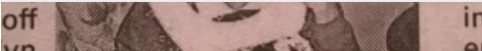


11 Husbands Who Are Truly The Worst And 11 Who Are Absolutely The Best

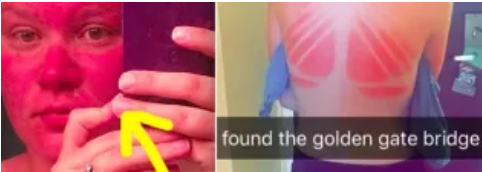
Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



15 Obituaries That Are Soooooo Fuckin' Funny You'll Feel Bad For Laughing



26 Reasons You Should Probably Just Stay Inside Forever

ADVERTISEMENT



20 Hilarious Jokes That Turn Right, Then Left, Then Right

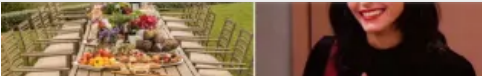


Design A Garden And We'll Give You An Uncommon Name To Name Your Child

Share

Share

[News](#) [Quizzes](#) [Tasty](#) [As/Is](#) [More](#)



Throw A Dinner Party And We'll Tell You What People Like Most About You

[BuzzFeed Home](#)
[Sitemap](#)
© 2018 BuzzFeed, Inc.

Share

Share