



## Books to teach your children meaningful values

Gratitude	Honesty	Kindness	Individuality
<p><b>DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE</b>  <b>BY:</b> Dr. Seuss            Who better than Dr. Seuss to remind us how lucky we truly are, even when we're down in the dumps?  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Focus on what you have and don't dwell on the bad.</p>	<p><b>THE EMPTY POT</b>  <b>BY:</b> Demi            A Chinese emperor holds a contest where the child who grows the most beautiful flowers from his seeds will be his successor. On the final day, it appears many children have won the contest, but there is only one true winner.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Honesty is the best policy.</p>	<p><b>GOOD PEOPLE EVERYWHERE</b>  <b>By:</b> Lynea Gillen            This colorful picture book contains endearing examples and vibrant illustrations of people doing good to inspire children to be grateful, caring, and kind. Be it the people that build houses, deliver babies, or take care of others, the message is that people are good.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Kindness is always appreciated.</p>	<p><b>A BAD CASE OF STRIPES</b>  <b>BY:</b> David Shannon            Camilla Cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she's so worried that she refuses to eat her favorite food, lima beans, simply because the other kids don't like them. But things change when she breaks out in a bad case of the stripes.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Being different is nothing to be ashamed of.</p>
<p><b>AN AWESOME BOOK OF THANKS</b>  <b>BY:</b> Dallas Clayton            Filled with whimsical illustrations and quirky characters, this book notes all the things in life to be grateful for. The list spans from simple joys - tree, trains, a nice breeze and rain - to the extraordinary - skipping jungle cats and alligator acrobats.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> We have so many reasons to give thanks.</p>	<p><b>THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE TRUTH</b>  <b>BY:</b> Stan and Jan Berenstain            When Brother and Sister Bear accidentally break Mama's favorite lamp, their little lie about how it happened grows bigger and bigger. Thankfully, Papa Bear helps them find the words that set everything right again.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> You'll always feel proud about telling the truth when the time comes.</p>	<p><b>HEY LITTLE ANT</b>  <b>BY:</b> Phillip M. Hoose            This fun book explores life from an ant's perspective, when an ant strikes up a conversation with the boy who's about to step on him.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Kindness should extend to all living creatures.</p>	<p><b>STEPHANIE'S PONYTAIL</b>  <b>BY:</b> Robert Munsch            Stephanie's friends, and even her teacher, start copying how she wears her ponytail. She moves it to the side, to the top of her head, even right in front of her face, but they still keep copying her. Until one day she outsmarts them all.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Strive for non-conformity.</p>

<p><b>THE BLANKFUL HEART</b>  <b>BY:</b> Mr. Meus  Billy Babble is the richest Babble in Babbleland. He begins to feel like something is missing and sets out on a quest to fill his empty heart.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> A grateful heart is a happy heart.</p>	<p><b>SAM TELLS STORIES</b>  <b>BY:</b> Thierry Robberecht  Sam is so eager to make friends at his new school that he tells them a story that isn't true. But when the truth comes out, Sam realizes the difference between telling a story and spinning a tale.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Your true self is your best self.</p>	<p><b>EACH KINDNESS</b>  <b>BY:</b> Jacqueline Woodson  New girl, Maya, comes to school and tries to befriend Chloe, but Chloe continually rejects Maya's attempts at friendship. After Ms. Albert teaches a lesson about kindness, Chloe realizes she has been cruel to Maya. But Maya's family has moved away, and Chloe is left feeling that she will never have a chance to show Maya kindness.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> You never know how far even a little bit of kindness can go.</p>	<p><b>THE STORY OF FERDINAND</b>  <b>BY:</b> Munro Leaf  Ferdinand isn't like all the other bulls. While they snort, leap, and butt their heads, Ferdinand is content to just sit and smell the flowers under his favorite cork tree.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Always march to the beat of your own drum.</p>
<p><b>SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE</b>  <b>BY:</b> William Steig  Sylvester the donkey is thrilled to have found a magic pebble! But when he encounters a lion on his way home, he must make a decision that separates him from his family. When he's finally reunited with them, he learns a valuable lesson.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Always be grateful for family.</p>	<p><b>EDWURD FUDWUPPER FIBBED BIG</b>  <b>BY:</b> Berkeley Breathed  Fannie Fudwupper's big brother, Edwurd, spends his time cooking up giant lies. But one day, Edwurd tells such a whopping lie that the army, the air force, and the dogcatcher are called to reverse the damage.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Stick with the truth.</p>	<p><b>HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET TODAY?</b>  <b>BY:</b> Carol McCloud  This award-winning book is based on a beautiful metaphor - that everyone has an invisible bucket that be either be filled or dipped into. Helping others and being kind feels the bucket, while the opposite empties it out.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Helping others and being kind brings happiness to yourself and others.</p>	<p><b>ELMER</b>  <b>BY:</b> David McKee  Elmer is the multi-colored elephant, while all the other elephants are grey. He's different and not so sure he likes that. It takes some time for Elmer to accept who he is, but, when he does, he couldn't be happier.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Self-acceptance takes time, but comes with a big reward.</p>
<p><b>IT COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE</b>  <b>BY:</b> Margot Zemach  This Yiddish folktale depicts gratitude in an uproarious light. When an unfortunate man follows the advice from his Rabbi, his life seems to go from bad to worse - or does it?  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Things are not always as bad as they seem.</p>	<p><b>DAVID GETS IN TROUBLE</b>  <b>BY:</b> David Shannon  David always has a good excuse ready whenever he gets in trouble for his mischievous antics. Slowly, David realizes that making excuses makes him feel bad, and saying he's sorry makes him feel better.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> It's better to own up to your mistakes.</p>	<p><b>A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE</b>  <b>BY:</b> Philip C. Stead  Amos McGee, the zookeeper, makes sure to spend a little bit of time with each of his animal friends each day at the zoo. When Amos is too sick to go to work, his animal friends come to him to return the favor.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Be kind to others and they will be kind to you.</p>	<p><b>TACKY THE PENGUIN</b>  <b>BY:</b> Helen Lester  Tacky is an odd bird and his friends make fun of him for it all the time. But when hunters come, his odd behavior saves the day.  <b>THE MORAL OF THE STORY:</b> Being different has its perks.</p>

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