

CHARACTER COUNTS

Picture Books about Caring, Kindness and Respect

Boelts, Maribeth. *Those Shoes*

JE BOE

All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.

Cannon, Janell. *Pinduli*

JE CAN

Pinduli's mama has always told her that she's the most beautiful hyena ever. But Dog, Lion, and Zebra don't think so. Why else would they make her feel so rotten about her big ears, her fuzzy mane, and her wiggly stripes? Poor Pinduli just wants to disappear--and she tries everything she can think of to make that happen. Yet *nothing* goes her way. Nothing, that is, until a case of mistaken identity lets her show the creatures of the African savanna how a few tiny words--bad or good--can create something enormous.

Chamberlain, Margaret. *Please Don't Tease Tootsie.*

JE CHA

Do you ever want to tease your kitty? Or provoke a pooch? In this very silly cautionary book about caring for furry friends, kids receive helpful hints on what not to do to pets. Then come loving suggestions for how Tootsie, Dixie, and Bitsy Bunny *should* be treated. A playful rhyming text and wonderfully wacky illustrations exude the fun and warmth that kids can share with all their friends—furry or slimy, four legged or web toed, of any size or shape.

Cooper, Ilene. *The Golden Rule.*

PARENT JE COO

In this book, a grandfather explains to his grandson that the Golden Rule means you “treat people the way you would like to be treated. It's golden because it's so valuable, and a way of living your life that's so simple, it shines.” And though it may be a simple rule, it isn't easy to

follow. Fortunately, following the Golden Rule is something everyone can do, which means that every person—old or young, rich or poor—can be a part of making the world a better place.

Gal, Susan. *Day by Day*.

JE GAL

The industrious pigs of *Day by Day* build a home, plant a garden, help their neighbors, and then gather in a harvest grown with hard work and kindness.

Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*.

JE HEN

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it. "I'm named after my grandmother," said Victoria. "You're named after a flower." Chrysanthemum wilted. Life at school didn't improve. In fact, it got worse. Then the students were introduced to their music teacher, Mrs. Twinkle. Mrs. Delphinium Twinkle. And suddenly, Chrysanthemum blossomed.

Hoose, Phillip M. *Hey Little Ant*

JE HOO

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on looked up and started talking? Would you stop and listen? What if your friends saw you hesitate? That's what happens in this funny, thought-provoking book. This conversation between two creatures, large and small, is bound to inspire important discussions. It might even answer that classic childhood question: To squish or not to squish?

Pfister, Marcus. *The Rainbow Fish*.

JE PFI

The Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the ocean. But he is proud and vain and none of the other fish want to be his friend - until he learns to give away some of his most prized possessions.

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion and the Mouse*.

JE PIN

In this wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted. After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he'd planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher's trap.

Seuss, Dr. *Horton Hears a Who*.

JE SEU

A city of Whos on a speck of dust are threatened with destruction until the smallest Who of all helps convince Horton's friends that Whos really exist.

Spinelli, Eileen. *Somebody Loves You, Mr Hatch*

JE SPI

One wintry day, a postman delivers a mysterious package with a big pink bow to a lonely man named Mr. Hatch. "Somebody loves you," the note says. After some time, Mr. Hatch discovers just who his secret admirer is and, in doing so, enjoys the biggest surprise of his life!

Stead, Philip. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*

JE STE

Friends come in all shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and even reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it's time they returned the favor.

Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth. *The Kindness Quilt*.

JE WAL

When Minna's teacher, Mrs. Bloom, reads the Aesop's Fable about a mouse and lion being kind to each other, the class is inspired to create a Kindness Project. When Minna presents her project — a kindness quilt — the idea spreads to the entire school, until entire walls are taken up with examples of kindness.

Weninger, Brigitte. *A Ball for All*.

JE WEN

Max the mouse and his friends like to play ball—except when the local bully Rico takes it from them and storms off to his burrow. The friends can't believe it. All they can do now is sit around sulking about how mean he is. But when Rico's mother makes him give the ball back, Max decides to invite him to come play with them. The rest of the animals think he's crazy. Won't Rico just steal the ball again? Maybe not if they give him a chance to join in the fun. This delightful book offers a reminder that sharing is the best way for everyone to have fun.

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