



Friendship and Kindness

E Picture Books about Friendship and Kindness

The Fairest Fairy

by Anne Booth — E Boo

A young fairy girl helps her animal friends, and they help her in return.

Milk Goes to School

by Terry Border — E Bor

A carton of milk has a hard time at school. Other foods think Milk is “spoiled.” Full of puns and funky photographic illustrations, but there’s still plenty about fitting in, being mean, and friendships.

The Most Perfect Snowman

by Chris Britt — E Bri

Drift dreams of becoming a perfect snowman and finally gets his wish, but later when a friend is in need he makes the choice to be kind.

Shelter

by Celine Claire — E Cla

A storm is coming in and all of the animals are preparing. When one family finds itself stranded without food or shelter and turned away at every door, hope is almost lost. At last, a young fox extends a small kindness and later his family is saved.

I’m the Best

by Lucy Cousins — E Cou

Dog’s friends suffer through his boasting until the tables get turned. Dog apologizes for being a show-off, but his personality still shines through, for better or worse.

Rita & Ralph’s Rotten Day

by Carmen Agra Deedy — E Dee

Two best friends have a very bad argument. Even though they both feel very sad, they both also feel very, very mad. It turns out, a little time and space before the apology is what they need to get their friendship back on track!

Llama Llama and the Bully Goat

by Anna Dewdney — E Dew

When Llama Llama and his friends encounter a goat with mean behavior, they seek help from their teacher who talks to them about the importance of being kind and making friends.

Llama Llama Time to Share

by Anna Dewdney — E Dew

Llama is having a hard time sharing his toys and something terrible happens as a result. After guidance from wise Mama Llama, he learns what it means to share and be a good friend.

The Lion and the Bird

by Marianne Dubuc — E Dub

A kind lion finds an injured bird and helps him, keeping him safe and warm throughout winter.

Hank Finds an Egg

by Rebecca Dudley — E Dud

Hank returns a bird egg safely to its nest in this beautiful wordless picture book.

The One Day House

by Julia Durango — E Dur

Young Wilson makes many promises to Gigi to one day fix up her house. One day, he is able to make those promises come true with the help of a kind community.

Horrible Bear!

by Ame Dyckman — E Dyc

A misunderstanding leads to angry feelings for both the little girl and for bear. Friendship is restored when they take time for understanding and kindness.

The Two Tims

by David Elliott — E Ell

Here's a look at how friendship can always make room for one more friend.

Melena's Jubilee: The Story of a Fresh Start

by Zetta Elliott — E Ell

Melena has a tough day and decides the next day will be a better one as she shows readers the power of forgiveness and moving on.



Say Hello

by Jack Foreman — E For

Simple text and soft illustrations tell a story of making friends. When someone is feeling left out, it's very easy to say hello and ask them to join in the fun!

I Love You Just Enough

by Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen — E Fra

When Heather finds a helpless duckling, her father teaches her to love him just enough to raise him to be a strong, healthy adult and then she must let him go back to the wild.

The Day Saida Arrived

by Susana Gómez Redondo — E Gom

An incredible story of friendship and kindness. Through powerful words and beautiful illustrations, a story is told about sharing different languages to help someone feel understood, included and important.

A Rainbow of Friends

by P.K. Hallinan — E Hal

Through catchy rhyming text you'll get a clear message about universal acceptance and world harmony, starting with friendship.

My Friend Maggie

by Hannah Harrison — E Har

Paula and Maggie have been best friends forever. When Paula starts hanging out with some mean girls, guess who comes to the rescue? A true friend.

Paper Planes

by Jim Helmore — E Hel

When a best friend moves away, it can feel heartbreaking. This beautiful book shares the story of two friends who hold onto their friendship in a very special way, despite the distance apart.

Pass it On

by Sophy Henn — E Hen

Sometimes seeing all of the good that exists in the world can be a challenge. If you notice something good, pass it along to spread the joy!

Two So Small

by H.J. Hutchins — E Hut

A boy and his goat travel through a mysterious land finding interesting items and extending help to a very surprising and enormous creature!



Flora and the Penguin

by Molly Schaar Idle — E Idl

A wordless picture book featuring fun fold-out and lift-the-flap pages, depicting a day between Flora and her penguin friend as they experience fun, a disagreement, and finally a return to friendship.

Tiger and Badger

by Emily Jenkins — E Jen

These two best friends can “badger” and even get in a physical fight about a last popsicle, a favorite chair, and other scenarios that young kids can relate to. The illustrations are half the fun.

The Cool Bean

by Jory John — E Joh

Those cool beans are so cool. Too cool for their old friend, it seems. When the left-out bean tries to fit in, it just makes things worse. Until one day, the cool beans realize what being a cool bean and a good friend really means.

Friends (Mostly)

by Barbara M. Joosse — E Joo

These two best friends can “badger” and even get in a physical fight about a last popsicle, a favorite chair, and other scenarios that young kids can relate to. The illustrations are half the fun.

Can You Say Peace?

by Karen Katz — E Katz

In celebration of Peace Day, children from all around the world share the way they say “peace.”

Can I Join Your Club?

by John Kelly — E Kel

After Duck can't find a club that will accept him for who he is, he decides to start his own club where everyone is accepted!

Paul & Antoinette

by Kerascoët — E Ker

Paul and Antoinette are as different as two pigs could possibly be! Still, they are the best of friends!



A Little Peace

by Barbara Kerley — E Ker

Wherever you are and whatever you're doing, it's easy to spread peace!

Marvelous Manners (series)

by Timothy Knapman — E Kna

A picture book series featuring favorite characters, such as cowboys, ballerinas, pirates and princesses showing kindness.

I Like Your Buttons

by Sarah Lamstein — E Lam

Cassandra gives a compliment to her teacher which sets off a chain reaction of happy moods, happy moments and a great day for so many!

Papa Gave me a Stick

by Janice Levy — E Lev

Antonio dreams of owning a guitar. His father, unable to afford a guitar, gives him a stick instead. Find out how this stick and Antonio's kindness lead him to a guitar of his very own!

Albert the Fix-It-Man

by Janet Lord — E Lor

Albert is always there to fix everything. When he suddenly falls ill, friends rush over to help him.

Princesses are Not Just Pretty

by Kate Lum — E Lum

Every princess is sure she'll win the prettiest princess contest! When a series of disasters occurs before the contest and each princess jumps in to help, they end up winning in a different way than they'd planned.

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey — E McC

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard must move their growing family of ducklings across a busy street. A group of friendly police officers helps the little family safely to their new home.

A Perfect Snowman

by Preston McDaniels — E McD

A snowman who thinks of himself as perfect, begrudgingly helps others in need, though it has a negative impact on him. In the end, his kindness ends up changing his life.



Wanted: Best Friend

by A.M. Monson — E Mon

Cat needs a new friend, because Mouse doesn't want to play (and lose) at checkers—again. But the “friends” who show up are not what Cat had in mind. Will Mouse come back, if asked?

Enemy Pie

by Derek Munson — E Mun

A young boy's summer is ruined when “the enemy” moves in nearby. But Dad's Enemy Pie will do the trick, as long as the son does his fair share for the recipe. A sly look at how to handle a tough social situation.

The Jellybeans (series)

by Laura Numeroff — E Num

Four different Jellybeans titles offer up how friendships are formed and maintained. Kids in school or summer camps will appreciate these stories the most.

Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always

by Tao Nyeu — E Nye

Four sweet stories in one book showing how two friends can argue over silly things, but will always cheer each other up when needed.

Someone New

by Anne Sibley O'Brien — E OBr

Children from different countries meet each other, initially with anxiety and difficulty in making social connections. Later they learn many things about their new friends including the many things they have in common.

We're All Wonders

by R.J. Palacio — E Pal

Auggie is a boy like many other boys, but his peers don't always treat him kindly, because his face looks different from their faces. A picture book version of the chapter book Wonder encourages kindness.

It's Okay to Be Different

by Todd Parr — E Par

We all have something special, we're all unique and that's okay!



The Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister — E Pfi

Rainbow Fish is beautiful. When a friend asks him to give up his most precious possession, he at first refuses but later learns about the gift of giving and friendship.

The Cardboard Piano

by Lynne Rae Perkins — E Per

Even best friendships can be tricky. Debbie means well when she gives a cardboard piano to Tina to practice on, since Tina doesn't have a real one like Debbie does. An excellent longer story about perspective, empathy, and understanding.

You're Not My Best Friend Anymore

by Charlotte Pomerantz — E Pom

Molly and Ben are best friends and neighbors until they have a falling out. Intensity of emotion will be most appreciated by older children, as will the reconciliation. (Don't judge this older book just by its cover.)

Penny and Penelope

by Dan Richards — E Ric

Penny and Penelope are dolls. Similar in name, but with one in a fancy blue dress and glass slippers and the other in a motorcycle outfit, the similarities end there. Or do they? A fun and action-packed story that teaches a great lesson!

The New Girl... and Me

by Jacqui Robbins — E Rob

Two excellent stories of school friendships – the new kid, the shy kid, the outcast, and the best friend.

Bully

by Jennifer Gordon Sattler — E Sat

Bully the bullfrog acts selfishly and will not share the beautiful lilies in his pond. Before long, the other pond creatures demand he share the flowers, and the bullfrog realizes that it's lonely to be a bully.

Here Comes Darrell

by Leda Schubert — E Sch

Darrell always looks after his neighbors no matter the cost. His neighbors realize the trouble he's in and jump in to help the one who has done so much.



Friends!

by Elaine Scott — E Sco

With photographs of children and thought-provoking questions to prompt discussion, here's an introduction to the delights and difficulties of childhood friendships.

Make New Friends

by Barbie Schwaeber — E Sch

This classic song about friendship, both new and old, has been sung by children for many generations and this book expands the nostalgic song into story form.

Kindness Makes the World Go Round

by Craig Manning — E Ses

Elmo talks with all of his friends on Sesame Street to find out what it actually means to be kind!

All Kinds of Friends

by Norma Simon — E Sim

Everyone wants a friend. Friends make you feel good. They share, play together, listen to each other. You meet new friends, and say good-bye to old ones. Friends are important!

City Angel

by Eileen Spinelli — E Spi

A wonderful angel watches over everyone and everything in the city she loves, spreading love and kindness all around.

Flabbersmashed about You

by Rachel Vail — E Vai

When Katie's best friend Jennifer plays with Roy at recess, lots of emotions get expressed. But friendships can grow in many new ways.

Hattie & Hudson

by Chris Van Dusen — E Van

Hattie extends her friendship to a giant, lonely water beast and convinces her fellow townspeople to do the same.

How to Be a Lion

by Ed Vere — E Ver

Ed is a lion and his best friend Marianne is a duck. Some of the other lions don't think a lion and a duck should be friends. Ed and Marianne know they have a wonderful friendship and let the other lions know why they're wrong!



The Kindness Quilt

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace — E Wal

Minna the bunny takes a class project and turns it into a wonderful school art collaboration around kindness.

Bear Snores On

by Karma Wilson — E Wil

Bear is very sad when he wakes up to find that all of his friends have enjoyed a lovely gathering while he slept. Find out how his friends make it up to him!

How Do Dinosaurs Stay Friends?

by Jane Yolen — E Yol

Is a friend someone who does mean things? No, say many different dinosaurs, who first appear brash and loud, but later become polite and pleasant. Another addition to the “How Do Dinosaurs” series.

