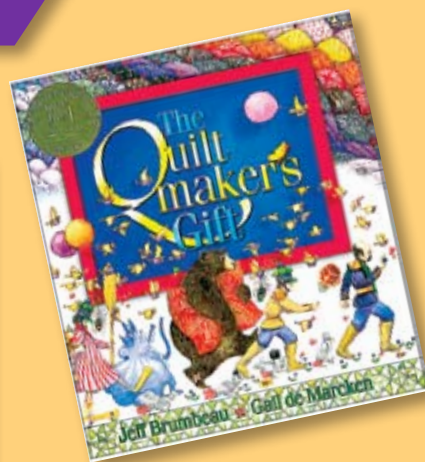


Books that delight and enlighten

With the holidays approaching, many of us have begun thinking about stocking stuffers. We asked AFSC staff members to recommend children's books that have enchanted the young people in their lives, while gently illustrating good values. The response was passionate and plentiful.



Title	Author	Comments	Recommender	Age
Brother Eagle Sister Sky	Susan Jeffers	An illustrated version of Chief Seattle’s speech; “How can you buy the sky? How can you own the rain and the wind?”	Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA	1-3
The Elephant and the Bad Baby	Elfrida Vipont and Raymond Briggs	This book was written by a very wise and wonderful British Friend (she clerked London Meeting for Sufferings for a while, and lived in the “1652 country” leading groups of Friends on pilgrimages for many years). She died in 1992, having written many books for adults. However, <i>The Elephant and the Bad Baby</i> seems to have stayed around for new generations to enjoy. It is a repetitive story which children can join in--not heavy on the social values but with a nice twist in the traditional moral ending.	Ruth Seeley, Philadelphia, PA	2-5
As Good As Anybody	Richard Michelson	“Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Amazing March Toward Freedom”	Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA	4-8
Butter Battle Book	Dr. Seuss	This was one of my children’s favorites. It’s about two groups of creatures—one who eat their bread butter-side up, and the other who eat their bread butter-side down. It explains how they fight with bigger and more formidable weapons, until they finally realize how ridiculous their war is.	Ann Naffier, Des Moines, IA	4-8
Click, Clack, Moo—Cows That Type	Doreen Cronin	<p>My kids love this book about barnyard animals who get organized and demand better living conditions.</p> <p>A great book about the power of organizing!</p> <p>Also recommended... the sequel: <i>Giggle, Giggle, Quack</i></p>	<p>Margaret Fogarty, Concord, NH</p> <hr/> <p>Jessica Roach, Washington, DC</p> <hr/> <p>Kristen Richardson, Philadelphia, PA</p>	4-8
Enchanted Hair Tale	Alexis De Veaux	<p>One of the books that my children continue to share with others in our family –expressly used to show how to have pride in being different.</p> <p>Other favorites on similar themes include: <i>Green Lion of Zion Street</i> by Julia Fields; <i>Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?</i> by Sandy Lynne Holman, <i>Aunt Harriet’s Underground Railroad in the Sky</i> by Faith Ringgold, <i>Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale</i> by John Steptoe, <i>In Daddy’s Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers</i>, and <i>Soul Looks Back in Wonder</i> by Tom Feelings.</p>	Twiggy Billue, Syracuse, NY	4-8

For Every Child	Caroline Castle and John Burningham	My grandchildren enjoy this version of the <i>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> in words and pictures, published by UNICEF. The illustrations from artists around the world are particularly wonderful.	Bonnie Kerness, Newark, NJ	4-8
Four Feet, Two Sandals	Karen Williams, Khadra Mohamed and Doug Chayka	I sent this book to my godson last year. It's about two girls in an Afghan refugee camp, who come to share one pair of sandals rather than fight over them.	Kristen Richardson, Philadelphia, PA	4-8
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses	Paul Goble	Goble's books are wonderful and beautifully illustrated stories about the Plains/Lakota Indians.	M'Annette Ruddell, Philadelphia, PA	4-8
Green Eggs and Ham	Dr. Seuss	... required reading if you want to instill a sense of tolerance and open mindedness in your kids. HOWEVER, DO NOT EXPOSE YOUR CHILDREN TO "FOX IN SOCKS"! That borders on child abuse and they will hate you forever, just ask my estranged parents (kidding).	Marko Matillano, San Francisco, CA	4-8
Hawaii Queen: Liliuokalani	Adrienne Stone	...gives the true story of Hawaii's last queen. (Out of print)	Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM	4-8
Horton Hears a Who	Dr. Seuss		Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA	4-8
Knots on a Counting Rope	John Archambault, Ted Rand, and Bill Martin Jr.	"A rich tale of intergenerational love and respect.... It is a moving collaborative effort that reverberates long after the book is closed." -- <i>Publishers Weekly</i>	Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA	4-8
The Lorax	Dr. Seuss	...one of my all time favorites ... it speaks to construction/using natural resources and pollution. It is a classic book to introduce children to the concept of caring for the environment vs. OVER-building.	Marissa Perrone, Philadelphia, PA	4-8
Loudmouse	Richard Wilbur	Our children grew up with this book and they loved the fact that reading it absolutely requires shouting at the top of one's lungs, which children sometimes need encouragement to do. I got to read the book aloud to the kindergarten class at San Francisco Friends School, thus establishing that being both old and Quaker does not require one to be very quiet.	Paul Lacey, Richmond, VA	4-8

Mrs. Katz and Tush	Patricia Polacco	<p>This is the story of an elderly Jewish widow's friendship with a young African-American neighbor. They connect initially through Mrs. Katz's new cat, Tush, though their bond goes much deeper. I almost always cry at the last page.</p> <p>I love Patricia Polacco - her books challenge stereotypes and celebrate unlikely friendships; we also liked "Babushka Baba Yaga," "Pink and Say" - a true story and the "Trees of the Dancing Goats" - about religious tolerance and friendship.</p>	<p>Seth Horwitz, Philadelphia, PA</p> <hr/> <p>Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA</p>	4-8
Nina Bonita	Ana Maria Machado and Rosana Faria	This is a delightful tale of a white rabbit who wishes: "When I get married I would like to have a daughter as black and pretty as she." It is a lovely story about the richness of diversity. I've given a copy to all my grandchildren and they love it because it reflects our family.	Nina Laboy, Seattle, WA	4-8
No One Can Ever Steal Your Rainbow	Barbara Meislin and Helen Webber	... highly recommended (also published in Arabic/Hebrew)	Allan Solomonow, San Francisco, CA	4-8
Old Turtle	Douglas Wood and Cheng-Khee Chee	<p>My all time favorite...</p> <p>...a beautiful book about the earth and peace</p>	<p>Anne Jenny, Fresno, CA</p> <hr/> <p>Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA</p>	4-8
Our Granny	Margaret Wild	<p>My two granddaughters love this book. It celebrates the diversity of grannies—</p> <p>who may live at a farm or in the city, who work as carpenters or nurses; who like to dance or exercise or march in demonstrations or who may even be homeless. The book is funny, interesting and wonderfully illustrated.</p>	Barb Roberts, Dayton, OH	4-8
The Paper Bag Princess	Robert N. Munsch and Michael Martchenko	<p>...a feminist fairy tale that my daughter loves.</p> <p>...a great book for girls. It involves a sleazy prince and a fearless princess who discovers that she doesn't want to marry the prince after all.</p>	<p>Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM</p> <hr/> <p>Barb Roberts, Dayton, OH</p>	4-8
Priscilla and the Hollyhocks	Anne Broyles and Anna Alter	When her mother is sold to a new master, 4-year-old Priscilla remembers her by the hollyhocks she planted near the cow pond. Priscilla keeps her hope alive by planting hollyhocks wherever she goes until a chance encounter leads to her freedom.	Patty McCann, Chicago, IL	4-8

The Sneetches and Other Stories	Dr. Seuss	<p>The stories in the book are about unfair discrimination and the good that comes from acceptance and diversity.</p> <p>...clearly introduces the concept of discrimination, inclusion, equality. I love this book – it is an outstanding piece of work.</p>	<p>Ann Naffier, Des Moines, IA</p> <hr/> <p>Marissa Perrone, Philadelphia, PA</p>	4-8
Stellaluna	Janelle Cannon	<p>This is the story of a baby bat that is separated from its mother and ends up being raised with three baby birds. It quite beautifully deals with the strength of love and friendship despite fundamental differences.</p>	<p>Seth Horwitz Philadelphia, PA</p>	4-8
Stone Soup	Heather Forest and Susan Gaber	<p>This was a favorite with my daughter and grands when they were younger. I also enjoyed this story. It's about what can happen when communities come together.</p> <p>Oh, this is a great one!</p>	<p>Linda Watson, Philadelphia, PA</p> <hr/> <p>Laurie Creasy, Philadelphia, PA</p>	4-8
The Story of Ruby Bridges	Robert Coles and George Ford	<p>My 7 year old daughter loves this book, which tells the true story of a 5 year old girl who integrated an all white school in the South. Her bravery shows children that everyone can contribute to social justice, no matter how old.</p>	<p>Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM</p>	4-8
The Streets Are Free	Kurusa and Monica Doppert	<p>I like this book about kids in a slum in Colombia who organize for a new playground.</p> <p>I had this book as a kid. My favorite illustration was the one of the community building the playground (I would look at it for hours and still manage to find new things). I didn't know it was set in Colombia.</p>	<p>Kyle Kajihiro, Hawaii, HI</p> <hr/> <p>Marko Matillano, San Francisco, CA</p>	4-8
Swimmy	Leo Lionni	<p>This book is about learning cooperation, non-violence and about the pain caused by bigotry - a complete treasure.</p> <p>Other highly, highly recommended books on the same themes: Arnold of the Ducks by Mordecai Gerstein, The Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat, Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey, and Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile by Bernard Waber.</p>	<p>Deborah Mellicker, Kansas City, MO</p>	4-8

The Three Questions	Jon J.Muth (based on a story by Leo Tolstoy)	Nikolai wants to be a good person so he seeks answers to three important questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? ...a good story, beautifully told and beautifully illustrated.	Jonis Davis, Seattle, WA	4-8
The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves	Gwendolyn Brooks	Another of my favorites and my daughter Quilana's, too. It's about acceptance of yourself and others.	Natalia Cardona, Philadelphia, PA	4-8
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith	This is a good book to start discussions about injustice/justice, racial profiling and stereotypes. I also use it with adults in the prison setting, and it always goes over really well. After reading it we challenge participants to re-think and then re-tell childhood stories and fairy tales.	Dominique Stevenson, Baltimore, MD	4-8
Twenty-three Tales	Leo Tolstoy	I like a number of Leo Tolstoy's tales, written originally as teaching aids for the school he created for peasant children on his estate. I first read <i>Where Love Is, God Is</i> when I was in second grade, and it remains a wonderful story for me.	Paul Lacey, Richmond, VA	4-8
The Water Hole	Graeme Base	The exquisite, expressive drawings of animals in the wild make this one of the most beautiful books in existence. An understated message about the environment...	Ann Morrell, NY, NY	4-8
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson	Pam Munoz Ryan and Brian Selznick	... about Marian Anderson the singer who faced racism and sexism.	Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM	4-8
Whoever You Are	Mem Fox and Leslie Staub	My grandchildren have enjoyed reading this book (particularly aloud), which talks about how all children are "just like you" inside.	Bonnie Kerness, Newark, NJ	4-8
Why the Sky Is Far Away	Mary-Joan Gerson	This Nigerian folktale is a cautionary tale about consumption. It's wonderful, even if the villain is a woman.	Sarah Gill, Denver, CO	4-8
Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge	Mem Fox	...a funny little story about a little boy who befriends an old woman.	Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, CA	4-8
Yertle, the Turtle	Dr. Suess	"...teaches some valuable lessons in humility-- thanks to a sharp-eyed worm, a bragging bear and rabbit, a fuzzy-tailed bird, and a couple hundred turtles led by their foolish King Yertle." –Amazon.com	Dick Erstad, Philadelphia, PA	4-8

Stand Up! Speak Out!	Susan Goodman Jackson	This music CD, produced by AFSC staffer Susan Goodman Jackson, is used as a tool in teaching prejudice reduction and in anti-bullying workshops. http://soozaroo.com/		4-12
Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About	Margaret Read Macdonald	"The importance of patience, understanding and working together is the common theme connecting these selections..." – <i>Publishers Weekly</i>	Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA	9-12
Pocahontas: Powhatan Peacemaker	Anne Holler	... true princess of the Americas	Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM	9-12
The Pushcart War	Jean Merrill	Pushcarts in NYC battle the trucks and the corrupt government.	Arnie Alpert, Concord, NH	9-12
Racism Explained to My Daughter	Tahar Ben Jelloun	This is not exactly a children's book but it is directed toward children.	Bill Pierre, Philadelphia, PA	9-12
Remember: The Journey to School Integration	Toni Morrison	Great book. Formatted for children. A blend of archival photographs, historical background, and fictional narrative brings to life the experiences of the African-American students who made the journey to school integration.	Patty McCann, Chicago, IL	9-12
Si Se Puede! Yes We Can!	Diana Cohn	My children also like this book about a janitors' strike in LA. It's told from the viewpoint of a little boy whose mother is taking the risk of joining a union to improve their lives.	Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM	9-12
The Story of Colors	Subcomandante Marcos and Domitila Dominguez	In Spanish and English, this book is wonderfully illustrated by the Mazatecan artist Domitila Dominguez. It is structured like many indigenous creation stories and reminds me of the non-Western logic of the "folk tales" my father told me when I was a child. (Its author is none other than the EZLN Subcomandante Marcos.)	Gabriel Camacho, Cambridge, MA	9-12
The Story of Ferdinand	Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson	This is my personal favorite -- for the storyline, and for the simply drawn illustrations. Ferdinand is a bull who would rather smell flowers than fight in bullfights. Released at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, it was seen by many as a pacifist book.	Nancy Weissberg, Philadelphia, PA	9-12
Strawberry Girl	Lois Lenski	There are heat, droughts, and cold snaps, as well as a lot of hard work in this true to life story of a Florida farming family. Lenski also wrote about migrant labor and other social issues. AFSC receives \$\$ from her trust.	M'Annette Ruddell, Philadelphia, PA	9-12

We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin	Larry Dane Brimner	... an exciting story of a civil rights leader that talks about race and sexual orientation. (Winner of the 2008 Jane Addams Children's Book Award.)	Sayrah Namaste, Albuquerque, NM	9-12
Winnie the Pooh	A.A. Milne	...a classic lesson in friendship. These gentle books quietly encourage peace, equality, simplicity and integrity. (The original versions with the original drawings are best.)	Sara Ibrahim, Washington, DC <hr/> Maura Tobias, NY, NY	9-12
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Elizabeth George Speare and Barry Moser	... about a Quaker woman in colonial times.	M'Annette Ruddell, Philadelphia, PA	9-12
Witness to Freedom: Young People Who Fought for Civil Rights	Belina Rochelle	Excellent!!!	Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA	9-12
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.	Patty McCann, Chicago, IL	Young Adult
Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood	Ibtisam Barakat	A moving memoir of a Palestinian woman's childhood experiences during the Six-Day War and its aftermath is presented in beautifully crafted vignettes.	Patty McCann, Chicago, IL	Young Adult
To Kill A Mockingbird	Harper Lee	My young adult children unanimously picked this as their favorite book from childhood. It's also a favorite of mine. My father gave me a first edition hard back when I was a child and my children read from that same copy when they were younger. I still have that treasured copy. It's a fantastic read about racial inequality, classism, and the loss of innocence –as well as courage and compassion, as seen through the eyes of a six-year old girl. Having grown up in the South (Virginia), this book made a big impression on me. As a kid, I was just gripped by the story, but as an adult, I reread it every summer for several reasons: its gripping portrayal of racial injustice; its heroic girl narrator; her father's example of a lawyer fighting for social justice; and its portrait of an African American community fighting insurmountable odds with courage and strength.	Adrienne Marie Hall, Los Angeles, CA <hr/> Roberta Spivek, Philadelphia, PA	Young Adult

Two Dogs and Freedom	Open School Soweto	This is a series of essays and illustrations by South African may be a bit too intense for young children; it includes drawings of kids being brutalized by security forces. But I read it when I was 4 and I turned out ok-ish). (Out of Print)	Marko Matillano, San Francisco, CA	Young Adult
Young People From Bosnia Talk About War	Harvey and Bryna Fireside	“Young Bosnian Muslims tell their stories of living through agonizing conflicts that left them mostly homeless and helpless in a world they never made....: - <i>Kirkus</i>	Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA	Young Adult
New Games for the Whole Family	Dale LeFevre	“...a great resource for anyone involved with groups—at any level and in any setting. Use New Games to create opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to have fun together while being physically and mentally active.” – <i>Amazon.com</i>	Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, San Francisco, CA	All ages

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www.afscbooks.org

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www.janeaddamspeace.org