

for parents  
by parents

## Finding Good Books for Young People

books that encourage kindness, creativity, respect for  
differences, commitment to justice and nonviolence...

It can be a challenge for busy parents to find good children's books for use at home and for gifts. Most libraries are responsive to patron interests and suggestions; talk to your school or community librarian. Share this sheet if that might be helpful. Another place to look: libraries around the country specializing in such books – e.g. resource centers of Peace Studies programs at many universities, the PJRC library in Seattle, the San Antonio Peace Center, or the Peace Study Center in Baltimore (it shares its book list in searchable form: [www.librarything.com/catalog/PeaceStudyCenterInc](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/PeaceStudyCenterInc)). Catalogs of resource organizations like Syracuse Cultural Workers are also a helpful source.

### “Notable Book” Listings

A useful way to find good books are the best of the annual “Notable Book” lists – most are available online, e.g.:

**The Association for Library Service to Children** (Amer. Library Assoc.) shares its own list as well as award lists: [www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants) (other ALSC lists: software, web sites, DVDs, toys, recordings...)

Other awards listed on the ALSC site: **Newbery, Caldecott, Pura Belpre** (Latino authors), **Batchelder, Odyssey, Geisel, Sibert**. See also **Coretta Scott King** and **Jane Addams** awards; over a dozen state “Children’s Choice” awards; notable book lists of **Library Journal, Horn Book, Publisher’s Weekly, NY & LA Times, Guardian**, etc.

### Books on Books

**Great Books About Things Kids Love**, 750 Recommended Books for Children 3-14, by Kathleen Odean. She has produced similar books for girls, boys, and toddlers.

**Spirited Minds**, African American books for boys, and **Strong Souls Singing**, African American books for girls, both edited by Archie Givens

**What Stories Does My Son Need to Hear**, reviews 100 recommended character-building books (plus 100 films as well), by Michael Gurian and Terry Trueman;

Mem Fox, **Reading Magic**... textbooks like **Literature for Today’s Young Adults** by Alleen Nilsen & Kenneth Donelson....



### Other Media

**National Institute for Media and the Family** – offers many resources, notably free MediaWise guides on topics ranging from YouTube and MySpace, to online gaming and video game addiction: [www.mediawise.org](http://www.mediawise.org)

**Big Picture Small World** – a rich site of activities, unusual insight and resources, and extensive listings of computer games on peace, conflict, politics, environment, climate, energy, food, science...: [www.bigpicturesmallworld.com](http://www.bigpicturesmallworld.com)

**PBS Kids: It's My Life** – offers kids a place to share stories, play games and activities, take polls, read articles, get advice, watch video clips of other kids discussing their questions and concerns.... [www.pbskids.org/itsmylife](http://www.pbskids.org/itsmylife)

Books: **Video Games and Your Kids**, Hilarie Cash and Kim McDaniel; **Video Game Play and Addiction**, Kourosh Dini; **Who's Calling the Shots?** Nancy Carlsson-Paige and Diane E. Levin, on responding to kid's fascination with war play

By parents, teachers, & young people of **Lutheran Peace Fellowship** and the Peace & Justice Resource Center. Both offer libraries, workshops, resource guides, articles, computer activities, resource tables, and media interviews with a focus on parents and young people. [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org) [lpf@ecunet.org](mailto:lpf@ecunet.org) 206.720.0313, [www.pjrcbooks.org](http://www.pjrcbooks.org)