Caring
We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Granpa
by John Burningham (Ages 2–4)

A young girl and her granpa share a special bond. They enjoy singing, dancing, eating ice cream and fishing. Using their imagination they go on adventures to the rainforest while in granpa’s greenhouse. As her beloved grandfather grows ill, the girl sits on his knee talking about new adventures. The book ends with the girl looking at her granpa’s empty armchair.

Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship
by Edward Hemmingway (Ages 3–5)

Mac, the Apple and Will, the worm become friends. A warm story about friendship.

The Dragon and the Turtle
by Donita K Paul (Ages 3–6)

Roger loves adventure, however when he plays pirate and the wind blows him off course he’s lost. When Padraig, a kitten-sized, bug-eating dragon, encounters the lost turtle, he offers to help Roger find his way home.

The Odd Egg
by Emily Gravett (Ages 3–6)

All the birds had an egg. All except Duck. Then Duck found an egg! He thought it was the most beautiful egg in the whole wide world! Duck shows great compassion and love for this unusual egg, despite negativity from the other birds.
**Dog Loves Books**  
by Louise Yates (Ages 3–6)

Dog loves books so much he opens a bookshop. While waiting for customers, he reads the books and uses his imagination to create friends and excitement. When a young customer asks for a book, Dog knows exactly which one to recommend.

**Ralf**  
by Jean Jullien (Ages 3–6)

Ralf is always getting under his family’s feet no matter what he does. One night he smells smoke and stretches his body all around the house trying to wake up the family. After being saved, the family accept Ralf for who he is.

**The Lumberjack’s Beard**  
by Duncan Beedie (Ages 3–6)

Jim Hickory is a lumberjack. Every day he chops down trees with no thought for the consequences. When a bird, a porcupine and a beaver lose their homes because of Jim’s actions they demand he makes amends. He lets them live in his enormous beard. Jim reflects on his actions and realizes the damage he has done to the forest. He sets out to plant saplings and recreate the forest.

**Love You Forever**  
by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Sheila McGraw (Ages 3–6)

A book about the love a parent feels for his or her child.

**Lost for Words**  
by Natalie Russell (Ages 3–6)

Tapir had some pencils and a nice new notebook. But he didn’t know what to write. He stared and stared at the blank page, but he couldn’t think of anything. His head was empty of ideas. His friends found it easy to come up with ideas that meant something to them, but not Tapir. Frustrated, he looked at the beautiful view and began to draw what he saw.
**Hugless Douglas**  
by David Melling (Ages 3–7)

Poor Douglas! All this bear wants is a hug, but every time he thinks he has found that special snuggle it turns out to be a disappointment. The big rock he hugs is too heavy. The tree is too splintery. And the prickly bush turns out to be a porcupine!

**Extra Yarn**  
by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Ages 4–6)

Annabelle finds a box containing yarn of every colour. She knits sweaters for her dog, classmates, bears, rabbits and cats. An evil archduke steals the box, but the magic of the yarn no longer works. The box finds its way back to Annabelle, and the magic continues.

**A Ball for Daisy**  
by Chris Raschka (Ages 4–6)

Daisy’s favorite ball is destroyed by a bigger dog.

**The Kissing Hand**  
by Audrey Penn (Ages 4–6)

This is the story of a little raccoon who confronts the first day of school and needs reassurance. School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs Raccoon shares a family secret called “the Kissing Hand” to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary.

**George and Martha**  
by James Marshall (Ages 4–6)

Here are five stories about two hippo friends who teach each other the importance of honesty, companionship, discretion, humility, and consolation.

**Square Cat**  
by Elizabeth Schoonmaker (Ages 4–6)
Eula is the only square cat in town and she doesn’t think there’s anything hip about it. Everything that normal cats do is hard for her: she can’t get her square paw into mouse holes, she can’t wear her favorite circle skirt, and all of her friends are round! Eula is sad until her two best friends show her just how well a square cat can fit into a round world.

**Extra Yarn**
by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Ages 4–7)

Annabelle knits for everyone and everything with yarn that never runs out.

**A Sick Day for Amos McGee**
by Philip C Stead, illustrated by Erin E Stead (Ages 4–7)

Amos McGee is a zookeeper who always makes time for his animal friends: spending time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and reading bedtime stories to the owl. One day, when his sniffles and sneezes prevent him from going to the zoo, he receives some unexpected guests.

**Big Al**
by Andrew Clements (Ages 4–7)

A story about a big fish who looks scary. Because of her scary looks, she loses a good friend. Later with her caring behaviour, she is able to make friends.

**An Extraordinary Egg**
by Leo Leonni (Ages 4–7)

A frog named Jessica finds a beautiful pebble that hatches into what everyone believes is a green, scaly chicken. They remain inseparable friends until a little bird leads the chicken back to its mother, who smiles and calls her “my sweet little alligator”.

**The Lion and the Mouse**
by Jerry Pinkney (Ages 4–7)

This wordless picture book is a retelling of the Aesop tale.
Hello, Mr Dodo!
By Nicholas John Frith (Ages 4–8)

Martha knew every bird in the woods, behind her house, that is until she saw a funny-looking bird she had never seen before. After much research, she discovered the bird was the extinct dodo!

Max’s Words
by Kate Banks, illustrated by Boris Kulikov (Ages 4–8)

Max’s brother Benjamin collects stamps and his other brother Karl collects coins. Feeling left out Max decides to collect words. He collects big and small words, words that make him happy, words he likes to eat, and words of his favourite colours. Max sorts the words to see if he can make a story with his huge collection. Karl and Benjamin give him a helping hand and they create story after story.

How to Heal a Broken Wing
by Bob Graham (Ages 4–8)

A wounded pigeon falls onto a pavement. A boy named Will feels sorry for the poor bird. He takes the pigeon home to care for, with the help of his parents.

Frog and Toad are Friends
by Arnold Lobel (Ages 4–8)

It’s April, and Frog is looking forward to a whole year of happy times with his best friend, Toad. If only Toad would agree to wake up from his long winter nap! In the first of five short stories, clever Frog finds a way to rouse his sleepy friend.

Yoko
by Rosemary Wells (Ages 4–8)

When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of what she eats—until one of them tries it for himself and shows a caring attitude.
The Story of Bluebonnet
by Tomie de Paola (Ages 4–8)

She-Who-Is-Alone’s people have seen no rain for ages. But when She-who-is-Alone decides to take matters into her own hands, the result surprises even her.

Before You Came
by Patricia Maclachlan, illustrated by David Diaz (Ages 4–8)

A book about the joy of sharing the world with someone new.

The Wednesday Surprise
by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Donald Carrick (Ages 4–8)

Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad’s birthday. Dad thinks he has received all his presents, Grandma stands up and gives him the best one of all: she reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.

Peace
by Wendy Anderson Halperin (Ages 4–8)

This picture book is based on the Tao Te Ching and ponders the question: how can we bring peace to the world? The text includes quotations from famous peacemakers and explores the true path to world peace.

A Chair for My Mother
by Vera B. Williams (Ages 4–8)

A young girl and her waitress mother save coins in a big jar in hopes that they can someday buy a big, new, comfortable chair for their apartment. There hasn’t been a comfortable place to sit in the apartment since a fire in their previous apartment burned everything to “charcoal and ashes”. Friends and neighbours brought furniture to their new apartment downstairs, but no one brought anything big or soft or comfortable. Finally, the jar is full and mother, daughter, and grandma try several chairs to find the chair they’ve been dreaming of at last.
**Koala Lou**  
by Mem Fox, illustrations by Pamela Lofts (Ages 4–8)

When Koala Lou’s mother becomes so busy that she forgets to tell her firstborn how much she loves her, Koala Lou enters the Bush Olympics, intending to win an event and her mother’s love all at one time.

**Beatrice’s Goat**  
by Page McBrier, illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter (Ages 4–)

In this story of an impoverished Ugandan family, Beatrice longs for school but must work in the fields with her mother. When the gift of a goat brings them milk and offspring, their lives flourish, and Beatrice's dream of school comes true.

**City Dog, Country Frog**  
by Mo Willems, illustrated by Jon J Muth (Ages 4–8)

In spring, when City Dog runs free in the country for the first time, he spots Country Frog sitting on a rock, waiting for a friend. “You'll do”, Frog says, and together they play Country Frog games. In summer, they meet again and play City Dog games. Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country, he runs straight for Country Frog’s rock. In winter, things change for City Dog and Country Frog. Come spring, friendship blooms again, a little different this time.

**Elizabeti’s Doll**  
by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, illustrated by Christy Hale (Ages 4–8)

Upon the arrival of her new baby brother, Elizabeti decides she needs a doll she can care for the way her mother cares for the new baby. After looking around, Elizabeti finds the perfect object to care for, and names it Eva. When Mama changes the new baby’s diaper, Elizabeti changes Eva. When Mama sings to the baby, Elizabeti sings to Eva. And one day when Eva turns up lost, Elizabeti realizes just how much she loves her Eva.

**Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace**  
by Shelley Thomas (Ages 4–8)
Children learn that they can promote peace through their own example.

**Mother to Tigers**  
by George Ella Lyon, illustrated by Peter Catalanotto (Ages 4–8)

This book tells the story of Helen Martini, founder of the Bronx Zoo's animal nursery in 1944 and its first woman zookeeper.

**Exclamation Mark**  
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Ages 4–8)

An exclamation mark lacks self-esteem because he doesn’t fit in. He stands out on pages filled with small punctuation. A question mark keeps grilling the exclamation mark until he exclaims “STOP!” He then finally understands his role in the punctuation family.

**The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps**  
by Jeanette Winter (Ages 4–8)

Follow Jane from her childhood in London watching a robin on her windowsill, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, invited by brilliant scientist Louis Leakey to observe chimps, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates who are now in danger of extinction, and their habitat.

**Our Daft Dog Danny**  
by Pamela Allen (Ages 4–9)

Going to the beach with Uncle Peter and his dog Millie should be such fun for the two children but their dog Danny gets over-excited and just wants to bite and hang on to Millie’s tail. And that is no fun for anyone. They try hot chilli sauce on Millie’s tail but that just makes Danny miserable. At last Toby has the brilliant idea of getting a long rope which Danny can bite and tug and soon everyone joins in this new game and they all have fun again at the beach.

**Guji Guji**  
by Chih-Yuan Chen (Ages 5–7)
Gugi Guji is an alligator baby who hatched in a duck's nest. But when alligators threaten his adoptive family, he protects them from harm.

**The legend of the Golden Snail**  
by Graeme Base (Ages 5–7)

A young boy’s favorite storybook tells of a Golden Snail that lived long ago in the mythical Spiral Isles. When it journeyed through its magical realm, it took on the shape of a fantastical golden sailing ship. One day the ship was captured by a Great Enchanter and put under his spell. After he became bored with the Snail, the Enchanter banished it to the Ends of the Earth so no one else could ever sail in it. There it remains until a new master comes to claim it. Could a young boy named Wilbur be the next master?

**Celia and Nonna**  
by Victoria Land, illustrated by Kayleen West (Ages 5–7)

Celia loves sleeping over at her Nonna’s house where they do special things together. Then Nonna starts to forget things and she has to move to a home so she can be taken care of. Celia can’t sleep over anymore. So every week she draws a picture, creating memories of the old house and the things they used to do together, and soon the walls of Nonna’s room are filled with happy memories.

**Rosie’s Garden**  
by Peter H Reynolds (Ages 5–8)

Rosie finds a neglected patch of earth in the middle of a bustling city where she can plant the flower seeds collected from her travels in her magical teapot.
Mum and Dad Glue
by Kes Grey, illustrated by Lee Wildish (Ages 5–8)

When a boy’s parents divorce, he searches for the right glue to stick them back together.

Each Kindness
by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E B Lewis (Ages 5–8)

Chloe and her friends won’t play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe’s teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she’d shown a little kindness toward Maya.

My Mei Mei
by Ed Young (Ages 5–8)

Antonia tells the story of her adoption from China and her formative years with her parents. As she gets older, Antonia asks her parents for a Mei Mei, a little sister. Her wish comes true when she flies to China with her parents to get her baby sister.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge
by Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas (Ages 5–8)

A young boy helps an old woman whose memory is fading to remember by gathering various objects which remind her of times in her youth.

Chrysanthemum
by Kevin Henkes (Ages 5–8)

Chrysanthemum loves her name—until she starts kindergarten where the other children have short names. Then the children meet their music teacher Mrs Twinkle who tells them she wants to name her baby the prettiest name she has ever heard, and that name is Chrysanthemum.
**The Dance Teacher**  
by Simon Milne, illustrated by Chantal Stewart (Ages 5–8)

Isabelle wanted to be a ballerina. Luckily, she had a wonderful teacher and she became a famous ballerina. When Isabelle comes back home she buys the old dance studio from her former teacher and loves teaching her young students.

**Miss Rumphius**  
by Barbara Cooney (Ages 5–10)

As a child great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful—and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.

**What Can I Do Today?**  
by Allison Stoutland (Ages 6–8)

A child’s lemonade stand sets off a chain reaction of kind deeds. It's the little things we do that have the biggest effects on others. What Can I Do Today? Reminds children and adults alike to look for opportunities each day to make this world a happier place, one kind deed at a time!

**The Colour of Home**  
by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Karin Littlewood (Ages 6–8)

Hassan is miserable at school in England where everything is grey, and where he can't talk to anyone since he doesn’t speak English. When he paints a picture of his far away home, he remembers the terrible time when the soldiers came. However, the next day he paints another picture in bright colours for his mother of their happier times, of the country which used to be their home.

**The Invisible Boy**  
by Trudy Ludwig, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Ages 6–9)

This story shows how small acts of kindness can help children feel included and allow them to flourish.
Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia
by Jeanette Winter (Ages 6–9)

Luis loves to read, but soon his house in Colombia is so full of books there's barely room for the family. What to do? Then he comes up with the perfect solution—a traveling library! He buys two donkeys and travels with them throughout the land, bringing books and reading to the children in faraway villages.
The Day of Ahmed’s Secret
by Florence Parry Heide, illustrated by Ted Lewin (Ages 6–9)

Ahmed goes about Cairo’s bustling streets delivering gas bottles to his many customers who call out his name and greet him. He is proud that he is helping earn money to support his family. His secret is that he has learned to write his name.

The Wakame Gatherers
by Holly Thompson, illustrated by Kazumi Wilds (Ages 6–10)

Nanami has two grandmothers: Baachan who lives in Japan with Nanami’s family and Gram from Maine in the US. When Gram comes to visit her granddaughter in Japan Nanami is the translator between the two grandmothers who discover they have much in common since they both live near the sea and have a love of sea life and things to do with the sea.

The Wicked Stepmother Helps Out
by Tony Bradman, illustrated by Sarah Warburton (Ages 6–11)

The Wicked Stepmother wants to do something to help people—and make amends for her past. But trying to find the right job proves tricky—until the Bad Fairy gives her an idea ...

Violet Mackerel’s Brilliant Plot
by Anna Branford, illustrated by Sarah Davis (Ages 7–9)

Violet has fallen in love with a beautiful blue china bird she saw at the Saturday markets, but how to make it hers? A thoughtful story about a creative, resourceful little girl with lots of big ideas.

Abdullah’s Butterfly
Janine Fraser and Kim Gamble (Ages 7–9)

Abdullah’s village in Malaysia is high on the edge of a mountain. He lives with his mother and grandfather, who is the best weaver in the village. Abdullah’s grandfather likes to eat porridge because his teeth have gone, but there is no money for porridge unless Abdullah
can catch and sell a beautiful butterfly to the Craft Centre. A tourist sees Abdullah trying to catch the butterfly and stops him, saying it’s cruel to sell them to the Craft Shop. But when she hears Abdullah’s story she is filled with humility as she sees the simplicity of Abdullah’s life. She respects it for what it is.

**Bear**  
by Ellen Miles (Ages 7–10)

Ten-year-old Lizzie Peterson and her family are on an adventurous winter vacation in snowy Vermont when she meets Bear, an adorable husky called lazy and then abandoned by his sled-dog racing team. Lizzie falls in love with Bear and rescues him when he gets lost during a big snowstorm. Will Lizzie be able to find Bear a home where he is appreciated? When she meets Fern, a young musher, Lizzie goes on the ride of her life, and thinks she may have found the answer.

**Four Feet, Two Sandals**  
by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed (Ages 7–10)

When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly—until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. The girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice.

**Chicken Sunday**  
by Patricia Polacco (Ages 7–10)

After being initiated into a neighbour’s family by a solemn backyard ceremony, a young Russian American girl and her African American brothers’ determine to buy their gramma Eula a beautiful Easter hat. But their good intentions are misunderstood, until they discover just the right way to pay for the hat that Eula’s had her eye on.

**Onion Tears**  
by Diana Kidd (Ages 7–12)

The story of a Vietnamese boat girl in Australia who gradually gains friends and
confidence in her new country until she is finally able to cry real tears, not just the tears that come when she peels onions.

**When Jessie Came Across the Sea**  
by Amy Hest, illustrated by P J Lynch (Ages 7–13)

This book describes a young girl’s journey from Eastern Europe when she migrates to a new life in America at the turn of the 19th century. Jessie has left behind her beloved grandmother and is determined to work out a way that they can be together again.

**Bungawitta**  
by Emily Rodda, illustrated by Craig Smith (Ages 8–10)

The small country town of Bungawitta is stricken by drought. Jay comes up with a plan to hold an earth sculpture festival. The town swings into action, baking scones and cakes, making jams, and setting up a big barbecue. After an anxious wait, the tourists arrive, followed shortly afterwards by the pouring rain. Despite or because of the rain, a wonderful time is had by all.

**Old Thomas and the Little Fairy**  
by Dominique Demers (Ages 8–11)

Angry Thomas, a lonely retired fisherman, discovers a miniature girl who may be a fairy on the beach one day, and as he nurses her back to health, he begins to lose his crusty attitude.

**Thank You, Mr Falker**  
by Patricia Polacco (Ages 8–11)

In this autobiographical story, Little Trisha, overjoyed at the thought of learning how to read, struggles when she finds that all the letters and numbers get jumbled up. Her classmates make matters worse by calling her “dummy”. Finally, in fifth grade, she is lucky enough to have a teacher who recognizes Trisha’s incredible artistic ability, understands her problem and takes the time to lead her to the magic of reading.
Mrs Katz and Tush
by Patricia Polacco (Ages 8–11)

Larnel Moore, a young African American boy, and Mrs Katz, an elderly Jewish woman, develop an unusual friendship through their mutual concern for an abandoned cat named Tush. Together they explore the common themes of suffering and triumph in each of their cultures.

The Wump World
by Bill Peet (Ages 8–11)

The Wump World is an unspoiled place until huge monsters bring hordes of tiny creatures from the planet Pollutus. A clever parable built on the subject of pollution and the waste of natural resources.
Ryan and Jimmy: and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together
by Herb Shoveller (Ages 8–12)

It costs a lot of money to build a well in Africa, a lot more than Ryan Hreljac had thought. Still, the 6-year-old kept doing chores around his parents’ house, even after he learned it could take him years to earn enough money. Then a friend of the family wrote an article in the local newspaper about Ryan's wish to build a well to supply people with safe, clean water. Before long, ripples of goodwill began spreading. People started sending money to help pay for Ryan's well. Ryan was interviewed on television. His dream of a well became an international news story.

Boss of the Pool
by Robin Klein (Ages 8–13)

Shelley is at first reluctant but feels great satisfaction when she succeeds in teaching a mentally handicapped boy to swim.

Sarah, Plain and Tall
by Patricia MacLachlan (Ages 8–14)

A woman answers an advertisement to come to be the wife of a farmer living on the prairie. She is a wonderfully caring mother to his children but she misses the sea and the younger boy especially is fearful that she will leave.

Wonder
by R J Palacio (Ages 9–11)

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he’s being sent to a real school—and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted—but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

Noodle Pie
by Ruth Starke (Ages 9–12)
Andy and his father make a trip to Vietnam to visit relatives. It is Andy’s father’s first trip back since he escaped from the country in a rusty fishing boat when he was 15 years old. For Andy, who is 11 years old and was born in Australia, it is his first visit to Hanoi and the first time he has met any of his many relatives in Vietnam. The book is written mainly from Andy’s point of view and at first much seems very strange to him. Gradually as Andy comes to understand more about this family, we also understand so much more about Vietnam, its recent history and its people.

**On the Blue Comet**
by Rosemary Wells, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Ages 9–13)

This is the story of Oscar Ogilvie, at the time of the Great Depression in 1931 in the US. It is a mixture of fantasy and dramatic real life. Oscar is witness to a terrible crime which somehow catapults him onto an incredible train journey from coast to coast and from one decade to the next.

**Dustbin Baby**
by Jacqueline Wilson (Ages 9–11)

April knows she was abandoned in a rubbish bin as a newborn baby, fourteen years ago. Now she’s happily settled with her foster mother, Marion—but there’s a part of April that’s desperate to know where she really came from, and who she really is. If only she could remember her real mother—or even find her.

**Rose Blanche**
by Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti (Ages 9–12)

This is a portrayal of the horrors of war seen through the eyes of a young German girl who, when she discovers children in a concentration camp in the woods, secretly takes food to them.

**Erika’s Story**
by Ruth Vander Zee, illustrated by Roberto Innocenti (Ages 9–12)

It is the winter of 1944. In Nazi-occupied Europe, a Jewish couple realize their fate is
sealed and make a heart-rending decision so that their infant daughter might live.

**Number the Stars**  
by Lois Lowry (Ages 9–13)

Set in the time of the Second World War, this is the moving story of a young girl and her family who with thousands of other Jews in Denmark were taken secretly at night in boats across the sea to safety by the Danish people.

**Bridge to Terabithia**  
by Katherine Paterson (Ages 9–14)

This is the story of a very close friendship between Jess Aarons and a new girl at the school. Together they develop a secret world which is hidden in the woods.

When Leslie drowns, it takes Jess a long time to accept her death and to try to give back some of the beauty and caring that she had given him.

**Kensuke’s Kingdom**  
by Michael Morpurgo (Ages 9–15)

When Michael is washed up on an island he struggles to survive on his own. He is about to give up when food appears. He is not alone. This is a wonderful story of survival and about Kensuke, an elderly Japanese man who lives on the island and has survived for many years using traditional Japanese skills and crafts.

**The Secret Hen House Theatre**  
by Helen Peters (Ages 10–13)

Hannah has written a play, and with the help of her best friend Lottie, is determined to enter it into the local arts festival competition. Their theatre is a forgotten hen house on the farm where Hannah, her siblings and their widowed father live—and their plan must be kept top secret. The book deals with issues of loss, bullying, loneliness and friendship.

**Beyond the Mango Tree**  
by Amy Browen Zemser (Ages 11–14)
Twelve-year-old Sarina's life in Liberia is made difficult by her mother's sudden and erratic diabetic reactions and her father's frequent, extended work absences.

**Pictures of Hollis Woods**  
by Patricia Reilly Giff (Ages 11–14)

Hollis Woods was an infant when she was abandoned and for 12 years she has been transferred from one foster home to another. To the social agency, she is a "mountain of trouble" because she skips school and runs away, even from the Regans, a family willing to give her a real home. When she is placed with Josie, an elderly artist who is becoming very forgetful, Hollis begins to feel needed and doesn't ever want to leave this eccentric old woman who knows a lot about friendship and love.

**Silver Packages**  
by Cynthia Rylant, illustrations by Chris K Soentpriet (Ages 11–14)

In Appalachia each Christmas, a boy named Frankie waits beside the tracks for the Christmas Train, which will bring presents to the children who live in coal towns and hollows. Year after year, Frankie hopes that one particular gift—a very special gift—will be tossed to him from that train. It is this enduring hope that will guide him to the true meaning of the season.

You can find these books on the [Titlewave store](#), on Amazon or through your local bookseller.
I simply cannot say enough good things about Bad Apple, A Tale of Friendship, written by the oh-so-talented Edward Hemingway. Hemingway is a rare children's book author, in that his wit and talent really take his work to levels not seen in children's books for many years. The story is a wonderful lesson for young readers and sets a good tone for a beginning talk about tolerance, bullying, and accepting our friends for who they are.