

Second Step Recommended Books for Children: Grades 1–3

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst. Illustrated by Ray Cruz. Some days, nothing goes right for Alexander, and he thinks about going to Australia. (identifying feelings, feelings change, calming down, anger buttons) Available in Spanish: *Alexander y el día terrible, horrible, espantoso, horroroso*.

Amanda Pig on Her Own by Jean Van Leeuwen. Illustrated by Ann Schweninger. Amanda discovers the troubles and joys of being by herself. (reflection, cause and effect, communicating feelings, problem solving, expressing concern, anger buttons)

Amelia's Notebook by Marissa Moss. Amelia records her feelings about moving to a new town and leaving her best friend behind. (identifying feelings, reflection, joining in at the right time, feelings change)

Angel Child, Dragon Child by Michele Maria Surat. Illustrated by Vo-Dinh Mai. Going to a new school in America is difficult for Ut, a Vietnamese girl who misses her mother back in Vietnam. (accepting differences, reflection, dealing with criticism)

The Ant Bully by John Nickle. After being bullied by a big kid named Sid, Lucas starts to bully ants. He learns some important lessons when he is shrunk by an ant wizard and put to work within the ant colony. (identifying feelings, feelings change, reflection)

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon. Camilla is so concerned about what others think that she is untrue to herself and comes down with a bizarre illness. (dealing with peer pressure, identifying feelings, feelings change, problem solving) Available in Spanish: *Un caso grave de rayas*.

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki. Illustrated by Dom Lee. A Japanese-American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp; his ability to play helps him after the war is over. (identifying feelings, dealing with name-calling and teasing, joining in at the right time, problem solving) Available in Spanish: *El béisbol nos salvo*.

Be Good to Eddie Lee by Virginia Fleming. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Although Christy considered him a pest, Eddie Lee, a boy with Down's syndrome, shares several special discoveries with her. (identifying feelings, feelings change, similarities and differences, accepting differences, dealing with being left out)

Believing Sophie by Hazel Hutchins. Illustrated by Dorothy Donohue. After she is wrongly accused of shoplifting, Sophie must explain her side of the story to a shopowner. (identifying feelings, reflection, problem solving, fairness, communicating feelings, perspectives, dealing with an accusation)

Black, White, Just Right! by Marguerite W. Davol. Illustrated by Irene Trivas. A girl explains how her parents are different in color and have different tastes in art and food, and how she herself is also different but just right. (accepting differences, similarities and differences, reflection)

The Blushful Hippopotamus by Chris Raschka. Roosevelt's self-image improves as he begins to listen to his friend instead of his negative older sister. (identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with criticism)

The Brand New Kid by Katie Couric. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. When Lazlo transfers to a new school, he is teased by his classmates until two girls find the compassion to befriend him. (reflection, dealing with name-calling and teasing, dealing with peer pressure, identifying feelings, feelings change, accepting differences) Available in Spanish: *El niño nuevo*.

Crickwing by Janell Cannon. A lonely cockroach named Crickwing has a creative idea that saves the day for the leaf-cutting ants when their fierce forest enemies attack them. (dealing with being left out, dealing with name-calling and teasing, identifying feelings, feelings change, fairness, problem solving) Available in Spanish: *Alatorcida*.

A Day's Work by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Francisco, a young Mexican-American boy, tries to help his grandfather find work and discovers that even though his grandfather can't speak English, he has much to teach Francisco. (reflection, apologizing, identifying feelings, asking for help in a positive way, fairness)

Eagle Song by Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by Dan Andreasen. After moving from a Mohawk reservation to Brooklyn, fourth grader Danny Bigtree encounters stereotypes about his Native American heritage. Advanced reading.* (making conversation, joining in at the right time, anger buttons, problem solving, dealing with being left out, identifying feelings)

Elizabeth Imagined an Iceberg by Chris Raschka. Elizabeth encounters Madame Uff Da when out riding her bicycle. Madame Uff Da intimidates Elizabeth, but she is able to draw on her inner resources and model the assertiveness skills that bring her to safety. (problem solving, self-talk)

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson. Illustrated by Tara Calahan King. When Jeremy Ross moves into the neighborhood and becomes enemy number one, a boy's father helps him by making his famous enemy pie. (identifying feelings, feelings change, problem solving, fairness) Available in Spanish: *Pastel para enemigos*.

Finding the Green Stone by Alice Walker. Illustrated by Catherine Deeter. After saying unkind things to family and friends, Johnny loses both his green stone and his interest in life, and he only recovers them when he discovers love within his heart. (reflection, identifying feelings, cause and effect, active listening, expressing concern, problem solving, dealing with wanting something that isn't yours, asking for help in a positive way, apologizing, resisting the temptation to steal, making a complaint)

Freedom School, Yes! by Amy LittleSugar. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. When her house is attacked because her mother volunteered to take in a young white woman who has come to teach black children at the Freedom School, Jolie is afraid, but she overcomes her fear after learning the value of education. (identifying feelings, feelings change, problem solving, accepting differences, fairness)

A Friend Like Ed by Karen Wagner. Illustrated by Janet Pedersen. Mildred accepts her best friend, Ed, even though he is eccentric sometimes. (reflection, accepting differences, similarities and differences)

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart. Illustrated by David Small. A series of letters relate what happens when, after her father loses his job, Lydia Grace goes to live with her Uncle Jim in the city and takes her love for gardening with her. (identifying feelings, reflection)

Going Home by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by David Diaz. Carlos's parents moved to the United States for their children's sake; on a visit back to Mexico, Carlos realizes his parents still consider Mexico home. (reflection, identifying feelings)

Hey, Little Ant by Phillip Hoose and Hannah Hoose. Illustrated by Debbie Tilly. An ant pleads with a boy not to squash him. Can be read as a story; comes with musical notation. (reflection, identifying feelings, dealing with peer pressure, perspectives, fairness)

The Honest-to-Goodness Truth by Patricia C. McKissack. Illustrated by Giselle Potter. After Libby is caught in a lie, she makes the decision always to tell the truth. After alienating all of her friends, she learns how to tell the truth without hurting other people's feelings. (identifying feelings, problem solving, cause and effect, intentions, resisting the impulse to lie)

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Rodney's speech impediment initially makes him the target of the class bully; later, it makes

him a hero. (dealing with name-calling and teasing, identifying feelings)

How to Lose All Your Friends by Nancy Carlson. Making its point through opposition, this humorous book shows children the importance of friendship. (fairness, dealing with wanting something that isn't yours, cause and effect)

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes. Illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. When Wanda, a shy girl from Poland, claims to have a hundred dresses at home, the other girls begin to tease her every day. It is only after Wanda moves away that the girls start to understand those hundred dresses, and about the effects of their teasing. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, predicting feelings, cause and effect, intentions, taking responsibility for your actions, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with being left out) Available in Spanish: *Los cien vestidos*.

I, Amber Brown by Paula Danziger. Illustrated by Tony Ross. After Amber's parents decide to share custody of her, she struggles to understand how to live in two homes with two different sets of rules. (identifying feelings, apologizing, anger buttons, self-talk, feelings change)

I Speak English for My Mom by Muriel Stanek. Illustrated by Judith Friedman. Mexican-American Lupe has mixed feelings about helping her mom with English. (conflicting feelings, predicting feelings, expressing concern, problem solving, feelings change)

The In-Between Days by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by Alexander Pertzoff. Reluctant to see any changes in his life on Dove Island, George tries to get rid of his father's girlfriend. Advanced reading.* (anger buttons, dealing with disappointment, making conversation, identifying feelings, feelings change)

Ira Says Goodbye by Bernard Waber. Ira's best friend is moving to a neighboring town. Both Ira and Reggie struggle to process what it means to lose a best friend. (problem solving, dealing with name-calling and teasing, reflection, communicating feelings)

It's Mine! by Leo Lionni. Three selfish frogs fight until a toad helps them realize that getting along and sharing is more fun. (identifying feelings, feelings change, problem solving, fairness)

Jake Drake, Bully Buster by Andrew Clements. Illustrated by Amanda Harvey. When Link Baxter moves into his neighborhood, Jake becomes the target of bullying until he finds a way to relate to Link. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with name-calling and teasing, problem solving)

Jeremiah Learns to Read by JoEllen Bogart. Illustrated by Laura Fernandez and Rich Jacobson. Although Jeremiah is talented at many things, he doesn't know how to read. When he decides to learn, he not only excels, but teaches his teacher and students to do many new things. (reflection, self-talk) Available in Spanish: *Tomás aprende a leer*.

Judy Moody by Megan McDonald. Illustrated by Peter Reynolds. Judy is prone to grouchiness, but the process of working on her "Me" collage helps her focus on the positive aspects of her life. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, accepting differences, feelings change, anger buttons, calming down)

Julian's Glorious Summer by Ann Cameron. Illustrated by Dora Leder. When his best friend, Gloria, receives a new bike, Julian spends the summer avoiding her because of his fear of bikes. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, resisting the impulse to lie, feelings change, preferences, conflicting feelings, problem solving, accepting consequences)

The Kid in the Red Jacket by Barbara Park. When Howard moves across the country, he is befriended by a six-year-old neighbor, and he worries that the friendship might interfere with his making friends his own age. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, feelings change, reflection, fairness, accepting differences)

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus. Illustrated by Jose Aruego. New York: HarperCollins, 1971. Leo the lion can't seem to do anything right, but with time, and his mother's understanding, he blooms. (identifying feelings) Available in Spanish: *Leo el capullo tardío*.

A Letter to Amy by Ezra Jack Keats. Peter accidentally bumps into Amy when he rushes out to mail an invitation to her. (identifying feelings, intentions)

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes. Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her to wait a while before showing her purse, she does something for which she is very sorry later. (anger buttons, calming down, identifying feelings, problem solving, apologizing) Available in Spanish: *Lily y su bolso de plástico morado*.

The Magic Fan by Keith Baker. Despite being laughed at by fellow villagers, Yoshi uses his building skills to make a boat to catch the moon, a kite to reach the clouds, and a bridge that mimics the rainbow. (identifying feelings, dealing with name-calling and teasing, feelings change, dealing with peer pressure)

Max by Bob Graham. Max, the son of superheroes, is late in learning how to fly. (accepting differences, dealing with name-calling and teasing, dealing with criticism)

The Meanest Thing to Say by Bill Cosby. Illustrated by Varnette P. Honeywood. When a new kid at school tries to get other students to put each other down, Little Bill turns to his father and learns a way to stop the situation. (dealing with name-calling and teasing, identifying feelings, fairness, problem solving)

Nadia's Hands by Karen English. Illustrated by Jonathan Weiner. When her hands are painted with henna for her aunt's wedding, Nadia worries about how her classmates will respond. (identifying feelings, accepting differences, feelings change)

Odd Velvet by Mary E. Whitcomb. Illustrated by Tara Calahan King. Although she dresses differently from the other girls and does unusual things, Velvet eventually teaches her classmates that even an outsider has something to offer. (similarities and differences, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with being left out, identifying feelings, feelings change)

Oliver Button Is a Sissy by Tomie dePaola. Oliver doesn't let teasing at school stop him from what he likes to do. (accepting differences, similarities and differences, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with name-calling and teasing, dealing with disappointment) Available in Spanish: *Oliver Button es un nena*.

The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo by Judy Blume. Illustrated by Amy Aitken. Freddy hates being the middle one in the family until he gets a part in the school play. (identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with being left out, reflection)

Onion Tears by Diana Kidd. Illustrated by Lucy Montgomery. A Vietnamese girl tries to come to terms with her grief over the loss of her family and her new life with an American family. (reflection, similarities and differences, identifying feelings, feelings change, emotions, active listening, expressing concern, accepting differences, joining in at the right time, dealing with name-calling and teasing)

The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume. Illustrated by Irene Trivas. Written from the perspectives of a brother and sister, two siblings describe each other and explain why the other gets preferential treatment. (identifying feelings, dealing with being left out, anger buttons, fairness)

Peach and Blue by Sarah S. Kilborne. Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. A frog helps Peach see the world, while Peach helps the frog see things he hasn't noticed. (problem solving, reflection)

Ramona Forever by Beverly Cleary. Illustrated by Alan Tierngreen. Third-grader Ramona has to deal with being a latchkey kid, fighting with a sibling, waiting for a new baby, and more. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, fairness, making a complaint, problem solving, interrupting politely, dealing with name-calling and teasing,

intentions, apologizing) Available in Spanish: *Viva Ramona*.

Ronald Morgan Goes to Bat by Patricia Reilly Giff. Illustrated by Susanna Natti. Although he can't hit or catch, Ronald loves to play baseball, and he's got a lot of spirit. (self-talk, joining in at the right time, reflection, dealing with criticism, dealing with name-calling and teasing)

The Rooster's Gift by Pam Conrad. Illustrated by Eric Beddows. A rooster thinks his "gift" of crowing in the morning makes the sun rise until one morning when he accidentally oversleeps and the sun rises without him. (similarities and differences, feelings change, reflection, identifying feelings)

A Sister's Wish by Kate Jacobs. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. A girl with six brothers wishes for a sister, then discovers that brothers will do in the meantime. (problem solving, feelings change, identifying feelings)

Staying Nine by Pam Conrad. Illustrated by Mike Wimmer. Nine-year-old Heather doesn't want to turn ten until wacky Rosa Rita shows her that growing up isn't so bad. Advanced reading.* (reflection, identifying feelings, similarities and differences, feelings change, preferences, conflicting feelings, expressing concern)

The Stories Huey Tells by Ann Cameron. Illustrated by Roberta Smith. Huey problem solves his fear of the dark, tries new foods, and earns his brother's respect in this collection of humorous stories. Advanced reading.* (problem solving, identifying feelings, reflection, feelings change)

Stranger in the Mirror by Allen Say. When a boy wakes up looking like his grandfather, he must come to terms with his stereotypes. (identifying feelings, feelings change, reflection)

The Summer My Father Was Ten by Pat Brisson. Illustrated by Andrea Shine. A father tells the story of how he damaged a neighbor's tomato garden when he was a boy and what he did to make amends. (identifying feelings, reflection, cause and effect, dealing with peer pressure, problem solving, accepting consequences, apologizing)

Sunshine Home by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by Diane DeGroat. When Tim and his parents visit his grandmother in the nursing home, where she is recovering from a broken hip, everyone pretends to be happy until Tim helps them express their true feelings. (identifying feelings, reflection, expressing concern, problem solving)

Surviving Brick Johnson by Laurie Myers. Illustrated by Dan Yaccarino. When Brick, the big new kid at school, catches Alex imitating him, Alex is sure he will be bullied. Advanced reading.* (identifying feelings, feelings change, reflection, accepting differences, problem solving, making conversation)

The Table Where Rich People Sit by Byrd Baylor. Illustrated by Peter Parnall. A girl discovers her impoverished family is rich in things that matter in life. (identifying feelings, reflection, feelings change)

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. Illustrated by Roy Doty. Peter tells about school, his family, and his troubles with his two-year-old brother Fudge. Advanced reading.* (reflection, identifying feelings, problem solving, anger buttons)

Three Cheers for Catherine the Great! by Cari Best. Illustrated by Giselle Potter. When her grandmother announces she doesn't want gifts for her birthday, Sara struggles to figure out what she has of herself to give. (reflection, identifying feelings, preferences)

Verdi by Janell Cannon. A young python does not want to grow slow and boring like the older snakes he sees in the tropical jungle where he lives. (identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with being left out, reflection) Available in Spanish: *Verdi*.

Weslandia by Paul Fleischman. Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. Cambridge, MA: When Wesley plants a garden, he is transformed from an outcast to a leader in his community. (identifying feelings, dealing with being left out, problem solving)

What Newt Could Do for Turtle by Jonathan London. Illustrated by Louise Voce. After Turtle saves his life several times, Newt wonders how he can repay him. (problem solving, identifying feelings)

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox. Illustrated by Julie Vivas. A small boy tries to discover the meaning of "memory" so that he can restore the memory of an elderly friend. (reflection, problem solving, perspectives, friendship) Available in Spanish: *Guillermo Jorge Manuel Jose*.

Yoko by Rosemary Wells. When her teacher realizes that the handmade sushi Yoko's mother packs for her lunch sets her apart from other students, she organizes an international potluck. (similarities and differences, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with being left out, problem solving) Available in Spanish: *Yoko*.