

Second Step Recommended Books for Children in Grades 4–5

All in a Day by Mitsumasa Anno. Brief text and illustrations by ten internationally known artists reveal a day in the lives of children in eight different countries showing similarities and differences and emphasizing the commonality of humankind. (similarities and differences)

All the Blue Moons at the Wallace Hotel by Phoebe Stone. Sisters Fiona and Wallace live in the shadow of their former lives; years after their father's death, their mother has still not processed her feelings. (dealing with put-downs, identifying feelings, problem solving, reflections, dealing with peer pressure)

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 put-downs)

Bat 6 by Virginia Euwer Wolff. Told from a variety of perspectives, this story examines the effects and aftermath of WWII on a group of girls from Oregon. (reflection, identifying feelings, perspectives, anger buttons, perceptions, dealing with consequences, problem solving, giving emotional support)

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. Opal adopts a stray dog, and through her, forms many new friendships. (identifying feelings, feelings change, perceptions, active listening, reflection, empathy) (Newbery Honor) Available in Spanish: *Gracias a Winn-Dixie*.

Belle Prater's Boy by Ruth White. Woodrow comes to live with his grandparents after his mother disappears; his arrival triggers his cousin Gypsy's hidden feelings and questions about her own family. (identifying feelings, feelings change, perspectives, reflections)

Blubber by Judy Blume. Jill joins her classmates in harassing Linda until she herself finds out what it feels like to be a victim. (reflection, feelings change, dealing with being left out, dealing with gossip, dealing with put-downs, perceptions, identifying feelings, cause and effect, taking responsibility for your actions, dealing with consequences) Available in Spanish: *La ballena*.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson. Illustrated by Donna Diamond. Two misfit children form a special friendship and create their own magical kingdom. (identifying feelings, accepting differences, perceptions, feelings change, dealing with peer pressure, reflection) Available in Spanish: *Un puente hasta Terabithia*.

Cages by Peg Kehret. Upset about problems at home and at school, Kit impulsively steals a gold bracelet from a department store—and gets caught. Through her sentence—volunteer work at the humane society—Kit finds new solutions to her problems. (problem solving, keeping a promise, taking responsibility for your actions, feelings change, reflection)

Circle of Gold by Candy Dawson Boyd. Mattie is sure that if she finds a way to buy a beautiful pin for her mother, everything in the family will be all right again. (accepting consequences, resisting the impulse to lie, resisting the temptation to cheat, problem solving, keeping out of a fight, dealing with an accusation)

Cousins by Virginia Hamilton. Cammie can't stand her too-perfect cousin Patty Ann until a tragedy teaches her about love and forgiveness. (reflection, identifying feelings, feelings change, accepting differences) Available in Spanish: *Primos*.

Crash by Jerry Spinelli. Crash has bullied his neighbors and classmates his whole life. When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Crash suddenly finds that friends and family have a new meaning for him. (reflection, identifying feelings, accepting differences, perceptions)

Darnell Rock Reporting by Walter Dean Myers. Darnell's perspectives are broadened when he interviews a homeless man for the school newspaper. (reflection, accepting differences, problem solving, dealing with criticism, dealing with fear, similarities and differences, dealing with peer pressure)

The Daydreamer by Ian McEwan. Illustrated by Anthony Browne. Peter's vivid imagination leads him on many adventures and gets him in and out of trouble. (reflection, keeping out of a fight)

Dear Mom, You're Ruining My Life by Jean Van Leeuwen. Sam's eleventh year includes losing her last baby teeth, towering over every boy in dance school, and being mortified by everything her mother does. (problem solving, identifying feelings, conflicting feelings, accepting differences, dealing with peer pressure, making and responding to a complaint)

Eagle Song by Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by Dan Andreasen. After moving from a Mohawk reservation to Brooklyn, NY, fourth-grader Danny Bigtree encounters stereotypes about his Native American heritage. (anger buttons, problem solving, dealing with being left out, identifying feelings, similarities and differences)

Fourth Grade Weirdo by Martha Freeman. Dexter's well-ordered life is disrupted by his uneasy interactions with his spontaneous teacher and his mother's re-election to the town's school board. (identifying feelings, problem solving, accepting consequences, dealing with gossip, conflicting feelings, feelings change)

Gaffer Samson's Luck by Jill Paton Walsh. Illustrated by Brock Cole. After moving to a strange new place, James seeks acceptance from the established groups of friends and finds a friend in the old man next door. (similarities and differences, perceptions, expressing concern, accepting differences, problem solving, keeping a promise, dealing with fear, taking responsibility for your actions, dealing with peer pressure, self-talk, dealing with being left out, anger buttons, keeping out of a fight)

Getting Near to Baby by Audrey Coulombis. Two sisters are sent to stay with a well-intentioned but difficult aunt after their baby sister dies. (reflection, preferences, identifying feelings, feelings change, perceptions, accepting differences)

The Giver by Lois Lowry. Set in a futuristic society that has eliminated feelings and personal choices, the book tells of difficult decisions Jonas must make that will affect his whole community. (reflection, feelings change, problem solving, perceptions, taking responsibility for your actions)

Guests by Michael Dorris. Moss and Trouble, an Algonquin boy and girl, struggle with the problems of growing up in the Massachusetts area during the time of the first Thanksgiving. (perceptions, reflection, similarities and differences, problem solving)

How to Fight a Girl by Thomas Rockwell. Illustrated by Gioia Fiammenghi. Joe and Alan's plan to get revenge on Billy backfires when their secret weapon, the prettiest girl in their class, becomes Billy's friend instead. (keeping out of a fight, making conversation, conflicting feelings, problem solving, resisting the impulse to lie, dealing with gossip, anger buttons, dealing with an accusation, accepting consequences)

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 about those hundred dresses and the effects of their teasing. (reflection, identifying feelings, predicting feelings, cause and effect, intentions, taking responsibility for your actions, dealing with peer pressure) Available in Spanish: *Los cien vestidos*.

In the Shade of the Nispero Tree by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand. Set in the 1960s in Puerto Rico, the story depicts Teresa's attempt to please her mother, who aspires to become part of an elite class, and her father, who has no need to define himself through others. (feelings change, problem solving, dealing with peer pressure, dealing

with gossip, dealing with being left out, similarities and differences, reflection, conflicting feelings, fairness)

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord. Illustrated by Marc Simont. Ten-year-old Shirley Temple Wong arrives from China and struggles to fit in until she discovers Jackie Robinson and is inspired by how he overcame tremendous odds. (goal setting, dealing with being left out, accepting differences)

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. (anger buttons, identifying feelings, making conversation, reflections, perceptions, feelings change)

It Doesn't Have to Be This Way/No Tiene Que Ser Asi by Luis J. Rodriguez. Illustrated by Daniel Galvez. Ramon becomes involved with a gang; when his cousin is injured, he must decide whether or not he will continue to be part of the gang. Written in both English and Spanish. (identifying feelings, feelings change, cause and effect, dealing with consequences, expressing concern, dealing with peer pressure)

Janey's Girl by Gayle Friesen. On a trip to Vancouver to visit her grandmother, Janey learns much about herself and her mother's family. (reflection, identifying feelings, perceptions, expressing concern, accepting differences)

The Janitor's Boy by Andrew Clements. Embarrassed that his father is the school janitor, Jack takes out his anger on his father. Throughout the course of the novel, Jack's perceptions of his father are broadened as the two develop a new closeness. (reflection, feelings change, perceptions, similarities and differences, dealing with gossip, identifying feelings)

Joey Pigza Loses Control by Jack Gantos. Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too hyper, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known. (identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with frustration, anger buttons, problem solving, conflicting feelings, similarities and differences)

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. Joey's complicated life is further challenged by ADD; Joey, his mother, teachers, and doctors all work together to help Joey get himself under control. (problem solving, dealing with frustration, identifying feelings, taking responsibility for your actions, calming down, reflection, self-talk)

Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge by Susan Richards Shreve. Illustrated by Dan Andreasen. Joshua, worried about fitting in at school, feels awkward when the new student he is supposed to be helping becomes the target of the fifth grade's biggest bully. (conflicting feelings, expressing concern, keeping a promise, making conversation, dealing with fear, dealing with peer pressure, self-talk, keeping out of a fight)

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. (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. (resisting the impulse to lie, feelings change, preferences, conflicting feelings, identifying feelings, problem solving, accepting consequences, dealing with fear)

Junebug by Alice Mead. In the projects where Junebug lives, turning ten means joining a gang; Junebug tries to ignore his upcoming birthday. (keeping out of a fight, dealing with fear, feelings change, identifying feelings, dealing with peer pressure, reflection)

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse. When Rifka and her family flee Russia during the 1917 Revolution, Rifka is denied passage on the boat to America for medical reasons and must spend the year alone. (reflection, problem solving, identifying feelings, conflicting feelings, feelings change)

The Lilith Summer by Hadley Irwin. Ellen reluctantly agrees to spend the summer "ladsitting" her elderly neighbor in exchange for a bicycle. Through the course of the summer, she overcomes her perceptions of the elderly and forms a deep bond with her neighbor. (reflection, feelings change, perceptions, identifying feelings, active listening)

Losers, Inc. by Claudia Mills. Although he knows that his efforts to impress a beautiful student teacher and outdo his perfect older brother will jeopardize his status in the losers' club that he and his best friend have started, Ethan realizes that he no longer wants to be a loser. (cause and effect, problem solving, bullying, empathy, reflection, perceptions, taking responsibility for your actions)

Marisol and Magdalena: The Sound of Our Sisterhood by Veronica Chambers. Marisol faces the challenges of leaving her friends and family and adjusting to a new culture when she moves to Panama to spend a year with her grand-mother. (feelings change, identifying feelings, similarities and differences, reflection)

My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Willis Holt. Tiger Ann, the daughter of mentally challenged parents, struggles with her peers' reaction to her family. (reflection, identifying feelings, feelings change, perceptions, accepting differences, dealing with gossip, conflicting feelings)

Old Ramon by Jack Schaefer. Illustrated by Harold West. When a young boy joins an old shepherd for a season with the sheep, he watches and learns about how to overcome fear, ease tension, and face death and responsibility. (conflicting feelings, active listening, problem solving, cause and effect, dealing with fear, taking responsibility for your actions)

Otherwise Known As Sheila the Great by Judy Blume. When Sheila's family goes to spend the summer in the suburbs, she must face such terrors as swimming lessons, dogs, and thunderstorms. (resisting the impulse to lie, dealing with fear, identifying feelings, feelings change, conflicting feelings, problem solving, predicting feelings, anger buttons, dealing with criticism, dealing with frustration) Available in Spanish: *Sheila la magnifica*.

Our Sixth-Grade Sugar Babies by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by Aleta Jenks. Vicki and her best friend fear that their school project, carrying around five-pound bags of sugar to learn about parental responsibility, will make them look ridiculous in the eyes of the seventh-grade boy they both like. (cause and effect, fairness, expressing concern, problem solving, making conversation, taking responsibility for your actions, resisting the impulse to lie, resisting the temptation to cheat, dealing with consequences)

Rope Burn by Jan Siebold. While working on a writing assignment at his new school, Richard learns the meanings of various proverbs and how to express his feelings about his parents' divorce. (identifying feelings, conflicting feelings, reflection, similarities and differences)

Sixth Grade Secrets by Louis Sachar. Laura starts a secret club with secret messages, secret codes, and something embarrassing from each member as insurance. Soon all the secrets begin to backfire. (dealing with gossip, cause and effect, fairness, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with being left out, accepting consequences, keeping out of a fight)

Slump by Dave Jarzyna. When Mitchie finds himself at odds with every aspect of his life, he realizes he needs to make some changes. (feelings change, problem solving, taking responsibility for your actions, cause and effect, reflection)

Sort of Forever by Sally Warner. Twelve-year-olds Cady and Nana explore the strengths of their special friendship as they cope with Nana's cancer. (identifying feelings, active listening, expressing concern, friendship, accepting differences, reflection, dealing with fear, conflicting feelings, similarities and differences, giving emotional support)

Stay Away from Simon! by Carol Carrick. Illustrated by Donald Carrick. Lucy and her younger brother examine their feelings about a mentally challenged boy they both fear when he follows them home one snowy day. (reflection, accepting differences, perceptions, intentions, fairness)

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. (reflection, similarities and differences, feelings change, preferences, conflicting feelings, expressing concern)

Superfudge by Judy Blume. Peter describes the ups and downs of life with his younger brother Fudge. (anger buttons, accepting differences, perceptions, identifying feelings) Available in Spanish: *Supertoci*.

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. (feelings change, dealing with fear, reflection, accepting differences, intentions)

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. (reflection, anger buttons, perceptions, identifying feelings)

Teammates by Peter Golenbock. Illustrated by Paul Bacon. Set in the 1940s, this book tells the story of the first African-American baseball player to play in the Major Leagues by focusing on the relationship between Jackie Robinson and teammate Pee Wee Reese. (giving emotional support, expressing concern, fairness, accepting differences, goal setting, dealing with fear, dealing with peer pressure, dealing with criticism)

Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! by Eleanora E. Tate. Mary Elouise hates being reminded about her African-American heritage. But when two storytellers come to school with glorious tales of Africa, she finds a new way to see herself and her heritage. (accepting differences, conflicting feelings, active listening)

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar. An unmanageable but lovable 11-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too. (identifying feelings, feelings change, perceptions, intentions, active listening, giving and receiving compliments, making conversation, taking responsibility for your actions, anger buttons, keeping out of a fight)

The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg. Four students develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. (accepting differences, similarities and differences, perceptions, keeping a promise, goal setting)

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. On the way to visit her estranged mother, Sal tells her grandparents about her friend Phoebe's mother. (reflection, feelings change, perceptions, expressing concern) Available in Spanish: *Entre dos lunas*.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis. When the Watsons decide that their son Byron must spend the summer with his grandmother in Birmingham, the family drives him there and finds themselves in the middle of a racially charged situation. (reflection, perceptions, identifying feelings, feelings change, dealing with fear)

What Jamie Saw by Carolyn Coman. Having fled to a family friend's hillside trailer after his mother's boyfriend tried to throw his baby sister against a wall, nine-year-old Jamie finds himself living an existence full of uncertainty and fear. (identifying feelings, feelings change, problem solving, dealing with fear)

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt. During a difficult summer of change, meeting an unusual friend broadens Toby's perspective. (identifying feelings, feelings change, perceptions, similarities and differences, giving emotional support, dealing with peer pressure) (Newbery Honor)

The Wish by Gail Carson Levine. A stranger on the bus grants unpopular Wilma a wish; it takes the newly popular Wilma only a little while to realize her wish was short-sighted. (perceptions, similarities and differences, cause and effect, problem solving, dealing with peer pressure, accepting differences)

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli. Parker dreads his upcoming tenth birthday, when he will be expected to become a "wringer," wringing the necks of pigeons for the annual Pigeon Day Shoot. (dealing with fear, identifying feelings, expressing concern, dealing with peer pressure, conflicting feelings, taking responsibility for your actions)

Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family by Lensey Namioka. Illustrated by Kees de Kieffe. After moving to America from China, Yingmei tries hard to fit into the American way. She has some embarrassing moments, but she eventually learns that it is possible to be different and still get respect from people. (conflicting feelings, perceptions, accepting differences, giving and receiving compliments, dealing with peer pressure, goal setting, reflection)

Yolanda's Genius by Carol Fenner. Illustrated by Raul Collin. Yolanda knows that her brother is a genius, even though he can't read by the end of first grade. She must convince her mother of this while also struggling to adjust to a move from Chicago to a small Michigan town. (reflection, problem solving, dealing with peer pressure).