

# Friends of Peace Park Sheboygan Books on Peace – for children

*“If we are to reach real peace in the world,  
we shall have to begin with the children.”*

~ Mahatma Gandhi



## PRESCHOOL & EARLY ELEMENTARY

### REFERENCES:

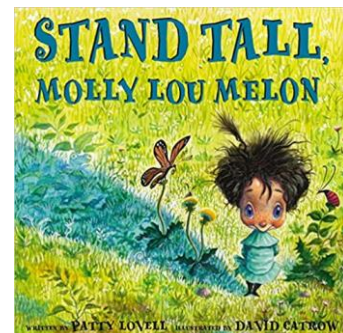
- [1] [www.sleepingshouldbeeasy.com/childrens-books-about-peace/](http://www.sleepingshouldbeeasy.com/childrens-books-about-peace/)
- [2] [www.coloursofus.com/21-multicultural-childrens-books-about-peace](http://www.coloursofus.com/21-multicultural-childrens-books-about-peace)
- [3] Amazon review
- [4] <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/kids/8-lovely-childrens-books-about-peace/>
- [5] Friends' referrals and Google search results

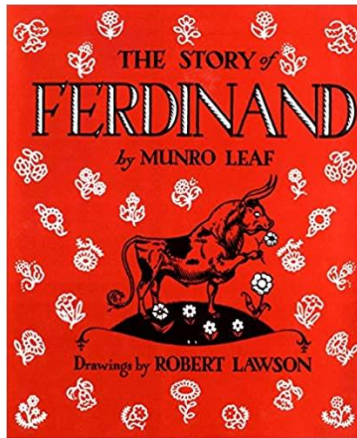


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**Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon** by Patty Lovell, illustrated by David Catrow Putnam, Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy, has buck teeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandmother has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that advice to heart.

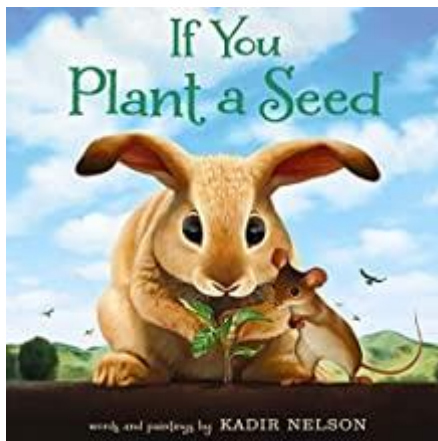
But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. A horrible bully picks on her on the very first day, but Molly Lou Melon knows just what to do about that. (Ages 4-8) [3]






**The Story of Ferdinand** by Munro Leaf, illustrated by Robert Lawson

A true classic with a timeless message, **The Story of Ferdinand** has enchanted readers since it was first published in 1936. All the other bulls would run and jump and butt their heads together. But Ferdinand would rather sit and smell the flowers. So what will happen when our pacifist hero is picked for the bullfights in Madrid? This new edition contains the complete original text of the story and the original illustrations. (Ages 3-7) [3] 




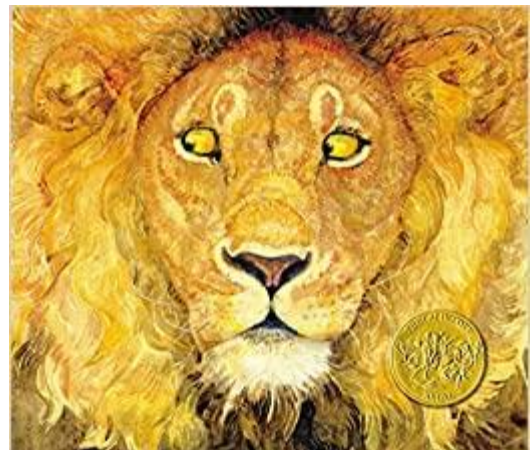
**If You Plant a Seed** by Kadir Nelson

If you plant a carrot seed . . . a carrot will grow.  
If you plant a cabbage seed . . . cabbage will grow.  
But what happens if you plant a seed of kindness . . . or selfishness?

With spare text and breathtaking oil paintings, **If You Plant a Seed** demonstrates not only the process of planting and growing for young children but also how a seed of kindness can bear sweet fruit. (Ages 4-8) [3] 

**The Lion & the Mouse** by Jerry Pinkney

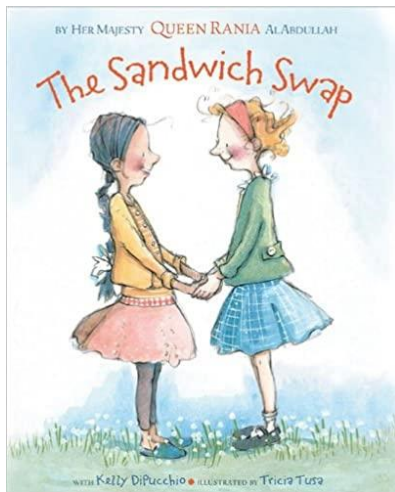
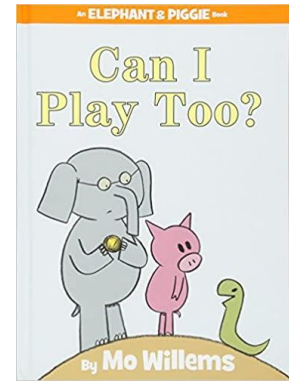
In Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted. After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he'd planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher's trap. With vivid depictions of the landscape of the African Serengeti and expressively-drawn characters, Pinkney makes this a truly special retelling, and his stunning pictures speak volumes. (Ages 1-8) [3] 



## Can I Play Too? by Mo Willems

Gerald and Piggie are best friends. Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.

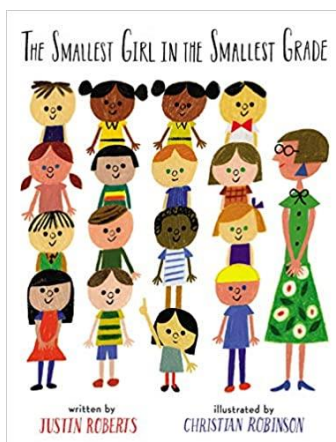
In **Can I Play Too?** Gerald and Piggie meet a new snake friend who wants to join in a game of catch. But don't you need arms to catch? Ages 3-5 [3]



## **The Sandwich Swap** by Queen Rania, consort of Abdullah II, King of Jordan, and Kelly DiPucchio illustrated by Tricia Tusa

Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus-but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them? The smallest things can pull us apart-until we learn that friendship is far more powerful than difference. In a glorious three-page gatefold at the end of the book,

Salma, Lily, and all their classmates come together in the true spirit of tolerance and acceptance. (Ages 3-7) [3]



## **The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade** by Justin Roberts illustrated by Christian Robinson

Hardly anyone noticed young Sally McCabe. She was the smallest girl in the smallest grade. But Sally notices everything—from the twenty-seven keys on the janitor's ring to the bullying happening on the playground. One day, Sally has had enough and decides to make herself heard. And when she takes a chance and stands up to the bullies, she finds that one small girl can make a big difference. Ages 3-6 [3]

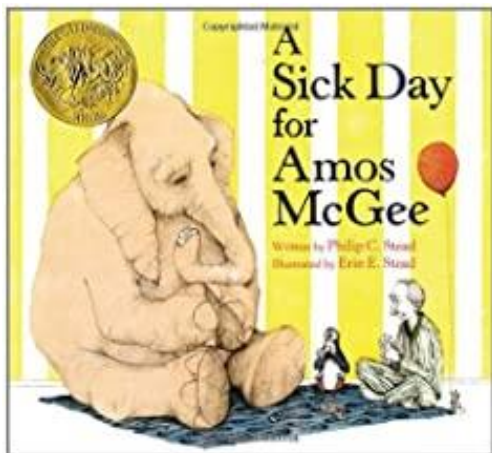
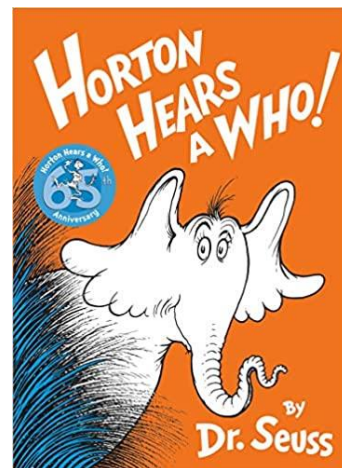




## **Horton Hears a Who!** by Dr. Seuss

*A person's a person, no matter how small.*

Everyone's favorite elephant stars in this heartwarming and timeless story for readers of all ages. In the colorful Jungle of Nool, Horton discovers something that at first seems impossible: a tiny speck of dust contains an entire miniature world--*Who*-ville--complete with houses and grocery stores and even a mayor! But when no one will stand up for the *Whos* of *Who*-ville, Horton uses his elephant-sized heart to save the day. This tale of compassion and determination proves that any person, big or small, can choose to speak out for what is right. (Ages 5-9) [3]



## **A Sick Day for Amos McGee** by Philip C. Stead & illustrated by Erin E. Stead

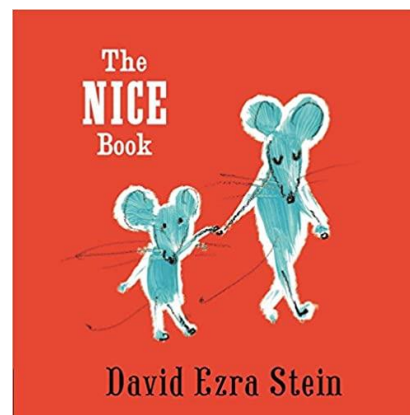
Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and even reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it's time they returned the favor.

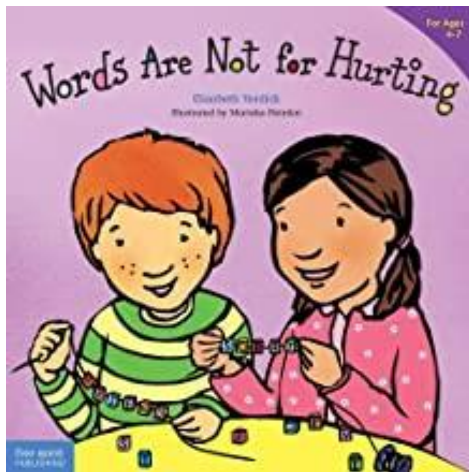
(Ages 2 to 6) [3]





## **The Nice Book** by David Ezra Stein

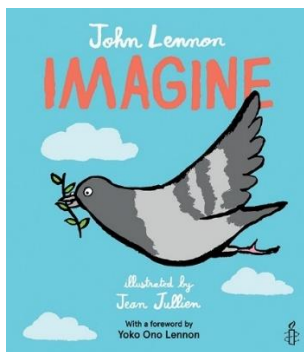
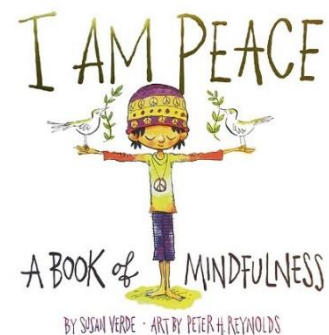
A perfect introduction to manners and playing nice. From cuddling koalas to friendly penguins, an array of animals illustrates fun, sweet, and silly examples of "how to be nice," showing simple ways young children can show they care for those around them. The lyrical text, funny illustrations and upbeat friendship message make this a great gift and a wonderful introduction to manners. Ages 1-4 [3]





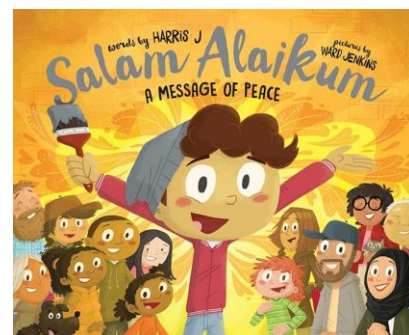
**Words Are Not for Hurting** Elizabeth Verdick illustrated by Marieka Heinlen  
 The older children get, the more words they know and can use—including hurtful words. This book teaches children that their words belong to them: They can think before they speak, then choose what to say and how to say it. It also explores positive ways to respond when others use unkind words and reinforces the importance of saying “I’m sorry.” Includes tips for parents and caregivers.  
 Ages 4-7 [3] 

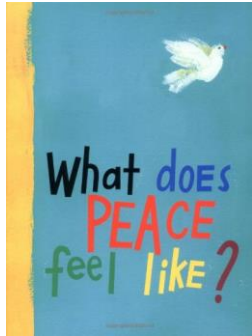
**I am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness** by Susan Verde  
 Vignettes of the child in a balance pose, feeding birds, and meditating beneath a tree (magically sprouting from fallen birdseed) reinforce messages of kindness, compassion, and self-awareness as worry melts into bliss...A gentle, helpful tool for cultivating kid mindfulness. (Ages 4-8) [3] 



**Imagine** by John & Jullien Lennon  
 Join one little pigeon as she sets out on a journey to spread a message of tolerance around the world. Featuring the lyrics of John Lennon’s iconic song and illustrations by the award-winning artist Jean Jullien, this poignant and timely picture book dares to imagine a world at peace. **Imagine** is published in partnership with human rights organization Amnesty International. (Ages 3 – 8) [3]

**Salam Alaikum** by Harris J  
 “Spread peace on the earth... / Treasure the love, let it surround us / Always be kind, always remind one another / Peace on the earth every day.” From “the Muslim Justin Bieber” Harris J comes a picture book that celebrates spreading peace, love, and happiness throughout the world, using the lyrics of his international YouTube hit of the same name. With engaging illustrations, **Salam Alaikum** celebrates kindness, community and the power of paying it forward. Preschool . [2]



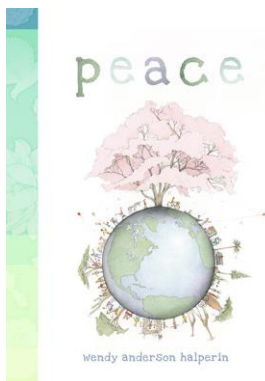
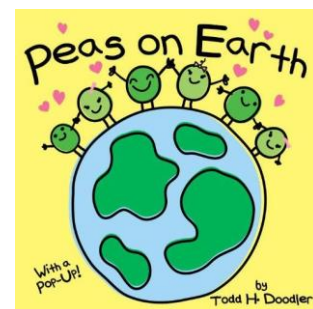


### **What Does Peace Feel Like?** By Vladimir Radunsky

This charming book reveals children's answers on peace as it relates to the five senses. What does peace feel like, taste like, sound like, smell like, and look like? The author explores this concept with several children from a school in Rome. This artful book is an excellent starting point for a discussion on peace in your home and community. It also features the word "peace" represented in almost 200 different languages. (4-8 years) [4]

### **Peace on Earth** by Todd H. Doodler

This board book uses a simple play on words to portray the basic concepts of peace, harmony, getting along with all kinds of people, and being green in a manner that young kids will grasp. And it will resonate more as they grow older. Adult caregivers will chuckle over the peas/peace references while young children will relate to the important messages about our earth and those of us who live on it. The artwork is colorful, charming, and perfect for the board book crowd. And, as an added value, there is a simple pop-up at the end of the book. [3]

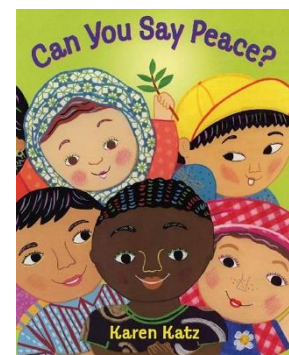


### **Peace** by Wendy Anderson Halperin

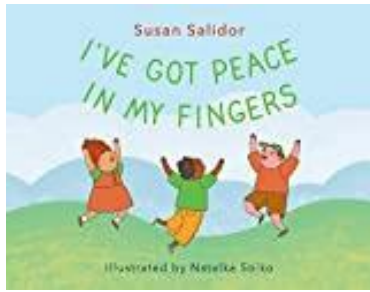
"For there to be peace in the world, there must be peace in nations". Based on the Tao Te Ching, this lyrical picture book ponders the eternal question: How can we bring peace to the world? Powerful words of wisdom – including quotes from famous peacemakers – intertwined with intricate pencil-and-watercolor artwork make **Peace** a unique and uplifting children's book. Preschool-Early Elementary Grades [2]

### **Can You Say Peace?** By Karen Katz

This book takes readers on a journey around the globe to meet different children and learn about the many different ways to say peace. Karen Katz's signature bright and childlike illustrations are the perfect way to introduce the very young to the concept of peace and this annual day to celebrate it. Preschool [2]





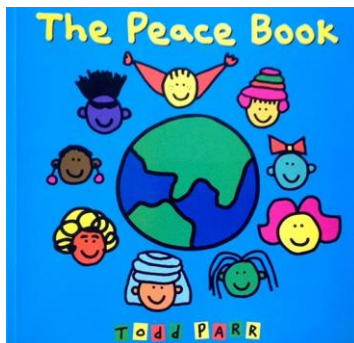
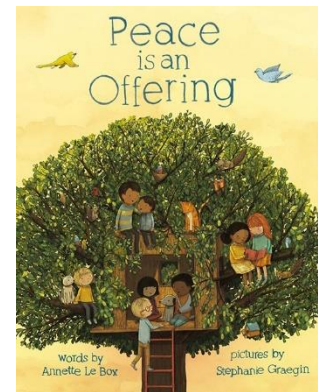


### **I've Got Peace in My Fingers** by Susan Salidor

Based on Susan Salidor's song, **I've Got Peace In My Fingers**. is a joyous book that teaches little readers that all of us, even the youngest, can be makers and messengers of peace. The book can be read, chanted or sung, and the interwoven stories told in pictures give children opportunities to imagine how they, too, can help the world be a kinder, gentler place. Includes an empowering "This book belongs to..." page along with the sheet music for the song. [2]

### **Peace is an Offering** by Annette LeBox

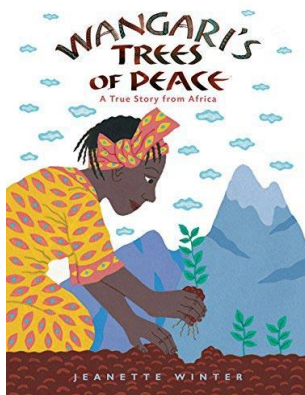
"Peace is an offering. / A muffin or a peach. / A birthday invitation. / A trip to the beach." A diverse group of children finds peace in everyday things, from sunlight shining through the leaves to cookies shared with friends. This book is a warm, comforting poem about finding peace in a community of neighbors. Preschool [2]



### **The Peace Book** by Todd Parr

This book will give young children a helpful understanding of peace. With colorful pictures and simple prose, Parr explains peace in terms of helping a neighbor, making new friends, keeping streets clean, or listening to music. Peace becomes less of an immaterial concept and more of a concrete way for children to emulate peacefulness with actions.

(3-6 years) [4]



### **Wangari's Trees of Peace** by Jeanette Winter

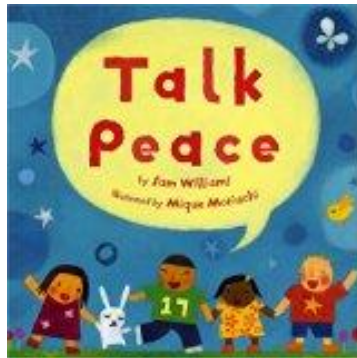
A true story from Africa

"People are fighting over water, over food.../ we plant the seeds of peace." **Wangari's Trees of Peace** tells the inspiring story of Kenyan environmentalist, Women's Rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai. When Wangari returns home from studying in the US, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down. She starts planting trees and soon inspires great change. Preschool. [2]



### **The Peace Stick** by Nidhi Misra

Native American boys Maska and Taima get into an argument over one of the sticks they enjoy playing with. Their father teaches them about a special stick that can actually solve arguments. **The Peace Stick** is a beautiful book, inspired by the native American legend of The Talking Stick. Preschool [2]

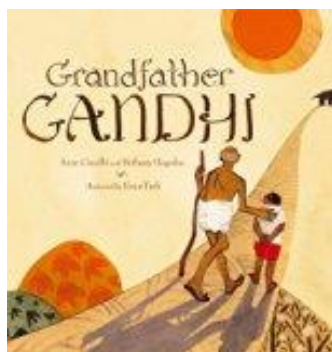


### **Talk Peace** by Sam Williams

“On the street,/ when you meet,/ when you eat,.../ talk peace.” **Talk Peace** conveys the message that peace starts with your own actions. Starting in the playground and moving outwards to a park, a city, a mountain, and eventually encompassing the globe, each scene is portrayed through stunning artwork. Preschool [2]

### **The Peace Rose** by Alicia Jewell

This Montessori book teaches problem solving skills with the use of a peace rose. Three every-day conflicts are presented in simple language and with soft, colorful illustrations. **The Peace Rose** encourages independent and peaceful conflict resolution in the classroom, at home, or anywhere else. Includes Teachers Guide. Preschool [2]



### **Grandfather Gandhi** by Arun Gandhi

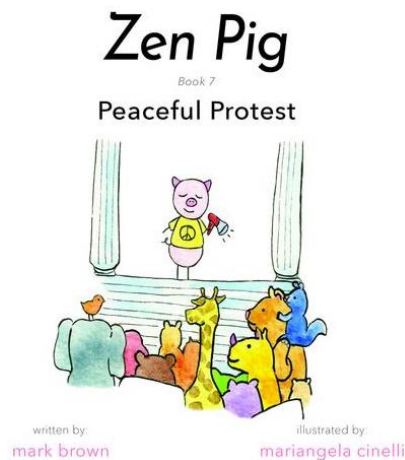
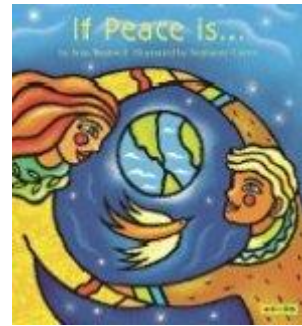
12-year-old Arun travels to India to live in Grandfather Gandhi’s village. Like all children, Arun sometimes gets frustrated and erupts in anger. Gandhi teaches his grandson that anger is human and how to turn darkness into light. **Grandfather Gandhi** is touching personal account carrying a message of peace, brought to life by unique three-dimensional mixed-media collages. Preschool [2]





## If Peace Is... by Jane Baskwill

Peace can be a hand waved in friendship, a kind deed done without asking anything in return, or a candle that we light at night to keep the darkness away. In rhyming text and with colorful illustrations, **If Peace Is...** describes all the different things peace can be. Preschool [2]



### **Zen Pig: Peaceful Protest** by Mark Brown.

In the 7th book of Brown's children's book series, Zen Pig shows what it looks like to peacefully protest and care for others... Teach your child the importance of equality and social values!

"Even though some look different than others,  
We are all part of the beautiful whole.

Being unkind is never the answer,  
Lifting each other up is our role."

(Preschool / Elementary) [3]

## REFERENCES:

[1] [www.sleepingshouldbeeasy.com/childrens-books-about-peace/](http://www.sleepingshouldbeeasy.com/childrens-books-about-peace/)

[2] [www.coloursofus.com/21-multicultural-childrens-books-about-peace](http://www.coloursofus.com/21-multicultural-childrens-books-about-peace)

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