**A Bad Case of Stripes** | David Shannon

When Camilla gives up something she loves to be like everyone else, she comes down with a bizarre illness—a bad case of the stripes! How will Camilla get back to her true, unstriped self?

**LEXILE:** 610  
**THEMES:** Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving

---

**Be Kind** | Pat Zietlow Miller

“Be kind” is nice advice, but how do you do it? A child navigates her school day trying, and sometimes failing, to be as kind as possible.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 600  
**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Compassion, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

---

**The Bully Blockers Club** | Teresa Bateman

Lotty Raccoon loves school—until a bully ruins her fun. Adults offer advice, but she comes up with a solution of her own: She and her friends form a club to stop the bullying.

**LEXILE:** 560  
**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Feelings, Problem Solving

---

**Come With Me** | Holly McGhee

A little girl, frightened by what she sees in the news, asks her parents what she can do. Their simple, perfect solution is to say, “Come with me.” Hand-in-hand, they face the world.

**LEXILE:** 550  
**THEMES:** Compassion, Empathy, Understanding Perspectives
The Day the Crayons Quit | Drew Daywalt
When Duncan opens his crayon box, he finds letters—and nothing to color with. Each color has a different complaint! What can Duncan do to smooth things over to get them working again?

LEXILE: 730
THEMES: Being Assertive, Feelings, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

Drum Dream Girl | Margarita Engle
A Chinese-African-Cuban girl secretly plays the congas, bongos, and timbales. But on her island, only boys are allowed to play drums. What happens when she lets her secret out is poetic, magical—and inspired by a true story.

LEXILE: NP (non-prose)
THEMES: Being Assertive, Problem Solving

Each Kindness | Jacqueline Woodson
Chloe and her friends tease Maya, the new girl, for her old clothes and toys. One day, Maya’s seat in class is empty, and Chloe learns a harsh lesson in missed opportunity.

LEXILE: 640
THEMES: Compassion, Consequences, Understanding Perspectives

Egg | Kevin Henkes
There are four eggs—one pink, one yellow, one blue, and one green. Pink, yellow, and blue baby birds hatch right away, but the green egg takes its time—and reveals a big surprise.

LEXILE: ≈ 300
THEMES: Feelings, Friendship
**Horton Hears a Who! |** Dr. Seuss  
Horton the elephant hears a tiny voice coming from a speck of dust. The speck turns out to be Whoville, a tiny planet full of tiny people. Horton faces a lot of teasing in his gentle, sweet quest to protect the miniature community.  
LEXILE: ≈ 300  
THEMES: Feelings, Friendship

**How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? |** Jane Yolen  
Would a stegosaurus hog the toys? Would a triceratops take over the whole swing set? Or would a T. rex be a good friend and give you a boost or his turn at the slide? Even the most intimidating dinosaur can play nice.  
LEXILE: 480  
THEMES: Friendship, Problem Solving

**How Full Is Your Bucket? |** Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer  
One morning, Felix wakes up with an invisible bucket floating above him. Every time someone is unkind, it empties out a little more, but every time someone is thoughtful, it fills a little. And Felix learns how words and small actions affect the people around him.  
LEXILE: 560  
THEMES: Compassion, Consequences, Feelings

**It’s Okay to Make Mistakes |** Todd Parr  
This little book is like a reassuring pep talk. Did you color outside the lines? Then you were creative! Were you clumsy, or did you invent a new move? This cheerful book will have you looking on the bright side of everything.  
LEXILE: 390  
THEMES: Feelings, Skills for Learning
**Jabari Jumps** | Gaia Cornwall

Jabari thinks he’s totally ready to jump off the diving board—until he starts to climb the ladder. After some helpful talk from his dad, he does some stretches, takes some deep breaths, and surprises himself.

**LEXILE:** 490  
**THEMES:** Emotion Management, Feelings

---

**The Invisible Boy** | Trudy Ludwig

Brian is a quiet kid, and he feels invisible. But the new kid in class might have it worse—he gets teased on his first day. Brian draws him a picture, and that little act of kindness changes everything.

**LEXILE:** 680  
**THEMES:** Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

---

**Last Stop on Market Street** | Matt de la Peña

CJ complains about the rain, taking the bus, and not having the same cool toys other kids have. But with some gentle humor and encouragement from his grandmother, he begins to see the beauty all around him.

**LEXILE:** 610  
**THEMES:** Compassion, Feelings, Understanding Perspectives

---

**Most People** | Michael Leannah

When the world looks scary, it’s reassuring to remember that most people want to be kind, helpful, loving, and funny. This book meanders through a busy city showing all kinds of people helping, playing, and sharing.

**LEXILE:** = 600  
**THEMES:** Compassion, Feelings
**My Brother Charlie** | Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete
Callie and Charlie are twins, and they have a lot in common. But Callie also notices that there are quite a few differences between them. Sometimes it’s hard for Callie to play with Charlie, but she focuses on her brother’s strengths.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 600  
**THEMES:** Compassion, Feelings

---

**My Mouth Is a Volcano!** | Julia Cook
Louis has a lot of important things to say, and the words just erupt out of his mouth. Then, one day in school, he realizes that other people have volcanoes for mouths, too.

**LEXILE:** 600  
**THEMES:** Emotion Management, Empathy, Skills for Learning

---

**Noni Speaks Up** | Heather Hartt-Sussman
Noni tries to be thoughtful, but she loses her nerve when she sees another kid being bullied in front of her. But things change, quickly, when she decides to use her words.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 600  
**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Compassion, Emotion Management, Problem Solving

---

**Not Your Typical Dragon** | Dan Bar-el
Dragons are supposed to breathe fire. But Crispin’s breath produces anything but: beach balls, marshmallows, whipped cream, and other surprises come out of his mouth. Crispin is sad, until the day his unusual ability comes in handy.

**LEXILE:** 570  
**THEMES:** Feelings, Friendship, Understanding Perspectives
Old Turtle and the Broken Truth | Douglas Wood
In a place where people have only part of the truth, life becomes very difficult. A little girl goes on a journey to see her friend, Old Turtle, who helps her replace the missing piece, and bring peace back to the community.
LEXILE: 620
THEMES: Consequences, Empathy, Problem Solving

Sadly Ever After? | Elise Allen
Set in the world of the Pixar movie Inside Out, this story shows how each of Riley’s emotions remembers an ordinary day very differently. All of the other emotions try to lift Sadness up out of her mood.
LEXILE: ≈ 625
THEMES: Being Assertive, Compassion, Feelings

A Sick Day for Amos McGee | Philip C. Stead
Amos takes the bus to the zoo every day to spend time with his friends, Elephant, Tortoise, Penguin, Rhinoceros, and Owl. One day he wakes up with a cold and can’t make the trip, so his friends return his kindness—and leave the zoo to go check on him.
LEXILE: 580
THEMES: Compassion, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Understanding Perspectives

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down | Andrea Davis Pinkney
This book tells the story of the Woolworth’s lunch counter sit-in in 1960: Four students who took Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s call for nonviolent protest to heart calmly and bravely made history.
LEXILE: 500
THEMES: Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Problem Solving

© 2018 Committee for Children | SecondStep.org
**Talk and Work It Out** | Cheri J. Meiners

Kids share their strategies for working out problems with other people. They use empathy, imagination, and calming strategies—and they play!

**LEXILE:** 510  
**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving

---

**What Should Danny Do?** | Ganit and Adir Levy

Danny is training to be a superhero, and he faces a lot of choices. Make them with him: There are nine possible stories in this slim book. Each one shows how decisions can shape a life.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 600  
**THEMES:** Consequences, Empathy, Skills for Learning

---

**When Sophie Thinks She Can’t** | Molly Bang

When Sophie feels like she can’t do puzzles or math, she learns the most important word: “Yet.” She learns that when she tries and grows, she gets smarter every day. She just hadn’t figured out puzzles...yet.

**LEXILE:** 520  
**THEMES:** Problem Solving, Skills for Learning