Social and Emotional Learning
Books & Resources

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is at the forefront of many educators’ minds as they seek to curate curricular classroom and library collections. Educators can intentionally purchase reading materials that offer support for students and allow for focused conversations facilitated by adults. Books encourage children and young adults to explore our interconnected world and gain a better understanding of humanity. Books help to give safe passage to test out social and emotional skills without risk. And lastly, books provide children the opportunity to flex their critical thinking skills which is paramount in supporting students as they become college, career and life ready.

The following list* is offered as a guide for educators, librarians, school counselors and other support staff as they seek to develop their literary collections.

*This list is provided only as a resource. The SD State Library does not endorse any of the content in the titles provided.

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RESOURCES
- American Institutes for Research: Center on Great Teachers and Learners: Social and Emotional Learning in the Daily Life of Classrooms
- Centervention: Social and Emotional Learning Activities
- Children’s Book List: The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Common Sense Education: Social & Emotional Learning
- Edutopia: Social and Emotional Learning Resources
- We are Teachers: Ideas and lesson plans about Social and Emotional Learning
### EMPATHY & COMPASSION
- **Waiting** by Kevin Henkes (E)
- **We’re All Wonders** by R. J. Palacio (E)
- **You, Me and Empathy: Teaching Children about Empathy, Feelings, Kindness, Compassion, Tolerance and Recognizing Bullying Behavior** by Jayneen Sanders (E)
- **The Invisible Boy** by Trudy Ludwig (E)
- **Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,500 Children During the Holocaust** by Sally Isaacs (in the *Encounter* series) (E)
- **Stranger than Fan-fiction** by Chris Colfer (M & H)
- **Empathy and Compassion** by Rosa Waters (M & H)
- **The Empathy Exams: Essays** by Leslie Jamison (H)

### INTEGRITY & SELF-CONTROL
- **Lying Up a Storm** by Julia Cook (E)
- **I Like Being Me: Poems About Kindness, Friendship, and Making Good Choices** by Judy Lalli (E)
- **Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader** by Christianne C. Jones (in the *Little Boost* series) (E)
- **A Lady has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women’s Rights** by Kate Hannigan (E)
- **Step Forward with Integrity** by Shannon Welbourn (E)
- **The Girl in the Well Is Me** by Karen Rivers (E & M)
- **One Shadow on the Wall** by Leah Henderson (E & M)
- **Lies We Tell Ourselves** by Robin Talley (H)

### COURAGE & PERSEVERANCE
- **Life** by Cynthia Rylant (E)
- **Izzy Gizmo** by Pip Jones (E)
- **Giant Steps to Change the World** by Spike Lee (E)
- **Navid’s Story: A Real-Life Account of His Journey from Iran** by Andy Glynne (in the *Seeking Refuge* series) (E)
- **John Deere’s Powerful Idea: The Perfect Plow** by Terry Collins (in *The Story Behind the Name* series) (E)
- **Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music** by Margarita Engle (E)
- **Ink and Ashes** by Valynne Maetani (M & H)
- **How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child** by Sandra Uwiringiyimana (H)
E = elementary (Pre-K-5), M = Middle School (6-8), H = High School (9-12)

HUMILITY & GRATITUDE
- Seuss-isms!: A Guide to Life for Those Just Starting Out and Those Already on Their Way by Dr. Seuss (E)
- Dealing with Feeling Jealous by Isabel Thomas (in the Dealing with Feelings series) (E)
- Niko Draws a Feeling by Bob Raczka (E)
- Attitude of Gratitude by Julia Andrews (E)
- Superstar by Mandy Davis (E&M)
- My Gratitude Journal for Kids by Mirabell Publishing (E&M)
- Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe García McCall (M)
- The Young Champion’s Mind: How to Think, Train, and Thrive Like an Elite Athlete by Jim Afremow (M & H)

TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATION
- Drawn Together by Minh Le (E)
- The Word Collector by Peter Reynolds (E)
- Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America’s First Bookmobile by Sharlee Glenn (E)
- Chester and Gus by Cammie McGovern (E&M)
- Miss Communication by Jennifer Holm (E&M)
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey (M&H)
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Personal Workbook by Sean Covey (M&H)
- Winners: And How They Succeed by Alastair Campbell (H)

CURIOUSITY & DISCOVERY
- Asking Questions and Finding Solutions by Riley Flynn (E)
- Ginny Goblin Is Not Allowed to Open This Box by David Goodner (E)
- Windows by Julia Denos (E)
- Curious Pearl, Science Girl by Eric Braun (E)
- Curiosity; The Story of a Mars Rover by Markus Motum (E)
- If Found… Please Return to Elise Gravel by Elise Gravel (E&M)
- The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by Christopher Edge (M&H)
- Answers to the World’s Greatest Questions by Bjorn Carey (M&H)
IDENTITY & SELF-AWARENESS
- Lila and the Crow by Gabrielle Grimard (E)
- Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie (E)
- Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson (E)
- The Science of Breakable Things by Tae Keller (E&M)
- In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall III (E&M)
- Well, That Was Awkward by Rachel Vail (M&H)
- The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley by April Stevens (M&H)
- School of Awake: A Girl’s Guide to the Universe by Kidada Jones (M&H)
- This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by Jay Allison (H)

PROFESSIONAL/ADULT
- Self-Control to the Rescue! by Lauren Brukner
- Quiet Kids: Help Your Introverted Child Succeed in an Extroverted World by Christine Fonseca
- Teaching Kids to Thrive: Essential Skills for Success by Debbie Silver
  The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom by Miguel Ruiz
- Mindsets in the Classroom by Mary Cay Ricci
- The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher’s Life by Parker J. Palmer
- How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character by Paul Tough
- Grit in the Classroom: Building Perseverance for Excellence in Today’s Students by Laila Sanguras
- 365 Thank Yous: The Year a Simple Act of Daily Gratitude Changed My Life by John Kralik

PUBLISHERS WITH A SEL FOCUS
- Brookes Publishing: brookespublishing.com/
- Cuento De Luz, in partnership with the What Really Matters Foundation: cuentodeluz.com
- Free Spirit Publishing: freespirit.com
- Lee and Low Books: leeandlow.com
- Little Parachutes: littleparachutes.com
- Little Pickle Press: littlepicklepress.com
- Magination Press: apa.org/pubs/magination
- Red Chair Press: redchairpress.com