

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. 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](#)

E = elementary (Pre-K- 5), M=Middle School (6-8), H= High School (9-12)

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 (*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 (*Seeking Refuge* series) (E)
- *John Deere's Powerful Idea: The Perfect Plow* by Terry Collins (*The Story Behind the Name* series) (E)
- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* -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)

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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 (*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 Garcia 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)
- *Lake Placid Miracle: When U.S. Hockey Stunned the World* by Blake Hoena (*Greatest Sports Moments* series) (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)

CURIOSITY & 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)

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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 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: ittlepicklepress.com
- Magination Press: apa.org/pubs/magination
- Red Chair Press: redchairpress.com