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, compiled by Laura Kelly, Children & Youth Services Coordinator and Alissa Adams, School Library Technology Coordinator. The SD State Library does not endorse any of the content in the titles provided.

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

CONTACT AT THE SD STATE LIBRARY

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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 -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)

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)
- The Young Champion’s Mind: How to Think, Train, and Thrive Like an Elite Athlete by Jim Alemow (M & H)

TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATION
- Drawn Together by Minh Le (E)
- The World Collector by Peter Reynolds (E)
- Library on Wheels: Mary Lernst 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)
- 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 Mutom (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)