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Children's Books About Tough Topics

Acceptance

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz

Accept and Value Each Person by Cheri J. Meiners

A Different Pond by Bao Phi

All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold

All Families Are Special by Norma Simon

A Peacock Among Pigeons by Tyler Curry

A Picture Book of Helen Keller by David A. Adler

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead

Bear Feels Sick by Karma Wilson

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr

Daddy, Papa, and Me by Lesléa Newman

Elmer by David McGee

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson

Everybody's Welcome by Patricia Hegarty

Except When They Don't by Laura Gehl

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

G-d's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way by Peter Golenbock

Here I Am by Patti KimHooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester

I Am Enough by Grace Byers

I Can Be Anything! by Jerry Spinelli

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Debbie Levy

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont

I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book About Understanding and Celebrating Each

Other by Cindy Gainer

I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien

It's OK to Be Different by Todd Parr

Jacob's New Dress by Sarah and Ian Hoffman



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Jacob's Room to Choose by Sarah and Ian Hoffman
Jamie is Jamie by Afsaneh Moradian
Julián is a Mermaid by Jessica Love
Just Because by Rebecca Elliott
Lost and Found Cat by Doug Kuntz
Love Heels by Patricia Dibsie
Love the World by Todd Parr
Me I Am by Jack Prelutsky
Mommy, Mama, and Me by Lesléa Newman
My Brother Charlie by Holly Robinson Peele and Ryan Elizabeth Peele
My Buddy by Audrey Osofsky
My Friend Isabella by Eliza Woloson
My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis
My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay by Cari Best
My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald
Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima
Odd Velvet by Mary Whitcomb
One by Kathryn Otoshi
One of a Kind Like Me by Laurin Mayeno
Only One You by Linda Kranz
Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote by Duncan Tonatiuh
Pink is for Boys by Robb Pearlman
Radiant Child by Javaka Steptoe
Red by Michael Hall
Skin Again by Bell Hooks
Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are by Maria Dismondy
Sparkle Boy by Lesléa Newman
Special People Special Ways by Arlene Maguire
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell
Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch
Susan Laughs by Jeanne Willis
Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
The Barefoot Book of Children by Tessa Strickland
The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About Their Bodies in Picture and Words by Wendy Ewald
The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates



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The Brand New Kid by Katie Couric
The Colour of Home by Marcy Hoffman
The Family Book by Todd Parr
The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig
The Journey that Saved Curious George by Louise Borden
The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco
The Pirate of Kindergarten by George Ella Lyon
The Seeds of Friendship by Michael Foreman
This is Me by Jamie Lee Curtis
Tico and the Golden Wings by Leo Lionni
Two Eyes, a Nose and a Mouth by Roberta Grobel Intrater
We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families by Todd Parr
We'll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
We're All Wonders by R. J. Palacio
What Does It Mean to Be Global? by Rana DiOrio
What I Like About Me by Allia Zobel-Nolan
Where Will I Live? by Rosemary McCarney
Where Oliver Fits by Cale Atkinson
Who We Are! All About Being the Same and Being Different by Robbie H. Harris
Why Am I Different? by Norma Simon
Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt
With a Friend by Your Side by Barbara Kerley

Diversity

Ada's Violin by Susan Hood
Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty
All Kinds of Children by Norma Simon
All Kinds of Families by Norma Simon
All Kinds of People by Sheri Safran
All the Colors We Are by Katie Kissinger
All the Way to America by Dan Yaccarino
All the World by Liz Garton Scanton
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
America's Promise by Alma Powell
And Here's to You by David Elliott



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And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson
A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. by David A. Adler
A Rainbow of Friends by P. K. Hallinan
Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold
Black is Brown is Tan by Arnold Adoff
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel
Charlie Takes His Shot by Nancy Churnin
Children Around the World by Donata Montanari
Counting on Community by Innosanto Nagara
Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
Dream Something Big: The Story of Watts Towers by Dianna Hutts Aston/Drum, Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle
Elizabeti's School by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers
Families by Shelley Rother
Girls Hold Up This World by Jada Pinkett Smith
Global Babies by The Global Fund for Children
Global Baby Bedtimes by Maya Ajmera
Global Baby Boys by Maya Ajmera
Global Baby Girls by The Global Fund for Children
Goldie Takes a Stand: Golda Meir's First Crusade by Barbara Krasner
Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio
Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say
Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin
Heal the Earth by Julian Lennon
Hiawatha and the Peacemaker by Robbie Robertson
Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester
How to be a Lion by Ed Vere
I Am Harriet Tubman by Brad Meltzer
I Am Helen Keller by Brad Meltzer
I Am Latino: The Beauty in Me by Sandra L. Pinkney
I Am Martin Luther King, Jr. by Brad Meltzer
Ian's Walk by Laurie Lears
I'm an Immigrant Too! By Mem Fox
Immigration (World Issues) by Harriet Brudle



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Islandborn by Junot Díaz
It Takes a Village by Hillary Rodham Clinton
Jalapeño Bagels by Natasha Wing
Little Humans by Brandon Stanton
Mama Panya's Pancakes by Mary Chamberlin
Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration by Edwidge Danticat
Many: The Diversity of Life on Earth by Nicola Davies
Migrant by Maxine Trottier
Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
More, More, More Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams
Mustafa by Marie-Louise Gay
She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton
My Name is Yoon by Helen Recorvits
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems
Not All Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen
Off We Go to Mexico: An Adventure in the Sun by Laurie Krebs
Old Mikamba had a Farm by Rachel Isadora
One Dad Two Dads Brown Dads Blue Dads by Johnny Valentine
One Green Apple by Eve Bunting
One Word from Sophia by Jim Averbeck
Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights by Rob Sanders
Rainbow of Friendship by Joni Klein-Higger
Raising a Hero by Laura Numeroff
Rebecca's Journey Home by Brynn Olenberg Sugarman
Refugees (World Issues) by Harriet Brundle
Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
Same Difference by Calida Garcia Rawles
Same, Same but Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
Shades of Black by Sandra L. Pinkney
Shades of People by Shelley Rotner
Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating
Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille by Jen Bryant
Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs
Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev
Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki



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The Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin
The Blessing Cup by Patricia Polacco
The Colors of Us by Karen Katz
The Forgiveness Garden by Lauren Thompson
The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster
The Journey by Francesca Sanna
The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi
The Sandwich Swap by Queen Rania Al Abdullah
The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler
The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game by Nancy Churnin
This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration by Jacqueline Woodson
Violet the Pilot by Steve Breen
We All Sing with the Same Voice by J. Philip Miller
We Came to America by Faith Ringgold
We're Different, We're the Same by Bobbi Jane Kates
Why Are All Families Different? by Mary Atkinson
World Pizza by Cece Meng
You and Me Together: Moms, Dads, and Kids Around the World by Barbara Kerley

Children's Civil & Human Rights, Justice

A Cool Drink of Water by Barbara Kerley
A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara
A Different Pond by Bao Phi
A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World by Doris Kindersley
All the World by Liz Garton Scanton
America's Promise by Alma Powell
A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. by David A. Adler
A Sweet Smell of Roses by Angela Johnson
Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel
Can We Help? Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities by George Ancona
Can You Say Peace? by Karen Katz
Charlie Takes His Shot by Nancy Churnin
Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton



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Children Around the World by Donata Montanari
Counting on Community by Innosanto Nagara
Dreams of Freedom by Amnesty International UK
Drum, Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson
Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson
Every Human has Rights: a Photographic Declaration for Kids by National Geographic and
Mary Robinson
Giant Steps to Change the World by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee
Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus
Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills by Renée Watson
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson
I Am Harriet Tubman by Brad Meltzer
I Am Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer
I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Debbie Levy
If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks by Faith Ringgold
If The World Were a Village by David J. Smith
I Have a Dream by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
I Have the Right to Be a Child by Alain Serres
Jalapeño Bagels by Natasha Wing
Make a Stand: When Life Gives You Lemons, Change the World by Vivienne Harr
Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai
Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words by Karen Legett Abouraya
Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappapor
Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford
My Brother Martin by Christine King Farris
My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King III
My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold
My Little Book of Big Freedoms by Amnesty International
Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson
Of Thee I Sing by Barack Obama
One Family by George Shannon
Our Rights: How Kids are Changing the World by Janet Wilson
Rain School by James Rumford
Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim



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Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh
She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History by Chelsea Clinton
Side by Side, Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez by Monica Brown
Swimmy by Leo Lionni
The Golden Rule by Ilene Cooper
The Librarian of Basra by Jeanette Winter
The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
The Pink Hat by Andrew Joyner
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights by Ruth Rocha
The Water Princess by Susan Verde
This is the Dream by Diane Z. Shore and Jessica Alexander
Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts
To Be a Kid by Maya Ajmera
Two White Rabbits by Jairo Buitrago
We are All Born Free by Amnesty International
We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart by Walter Dean Myers
We March by Shane W. Evans
What Does Peace Feel Like? by Vladimir Radunsky
What's the Big Deal About Freedom by Ruby Shamir
When Harriet Met Sojourner by Catherine Clinton
Whoever You Are by Mem Fox
The Faraway Seed by Anna Boucaut
Is the Rainbow Fish Jewish? Secular Picture Books that Reinforce Jewish Concepts and Values by Heidi Estrin

Additional Resources

<http://databases.jewishlibraries.org/sites/default/files/proceedings/proceedings2002/estrin.pdf>

Master List of Books for Kids by What Do We Do All Day blog

<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/books-for-kids/>