

Top Tips: Best reads on enhancing empathy in our children



In August 2017, parenting author and educator Maggie Dent shared a list compiled by Tinybop.com of books to spark conversations about empathy... She asked her Facebook community for their suggested reading that may promote empathy in our children.

The original Facebook post:

Maggie Dent

I found *Franklin the Turtle* was a good series that built empathy. Any other suggestions please?

Maggie shared TinyBop.com's [13 kids books to spark conversations about empathy TINYBOP.COM](#)

- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *Just Because* by Amber Housey
- *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip C Stead
- *Stand In My Shoes* by Bob Sornson
- *Tough Guys (Have Feelings Too)* by Keith Negley
- *Sumi's First Day of School Ever* by Joung Un Kim
- *Amos and Boris* by William Steig
- *Tight Times* by Barbara Shook Hazen
- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson
- *The Monster Who Lost His Mean* by Tiffany Strelitz Haber
- *Hey, Little Ant* by Phillip M Hoose
- *The Sneetches* by Dr. Suess

Our Facebook community also suggestions:

- *You, Me and Empathy* by Jayneen Sanders
- *My Friend is Sad* by Mo Willems
- *The Smartest Giant in Town* by Julia Donaldson
- *Sharing a Shell* by Julia Donaldson
- *Snail & the Whale* by Julia Donaldson
- *Miss Lily's Fabulous Pink Feather Boa* by Margaret Wild
- *The Naming of Tishkin Silk* series by Glenda Millard
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Oliver and Patch* by Claire Freedman
- *Fancy Nancy* books by Jane O'Connor
- *Henry and Amy* by Stephen Michael King
- *Mutt Dog* by Stephen Michael King
- *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae

- *Lost & Found* by Oliver Jeffers
- *The Red Feather* by Ben Kitchin
- *The Very Cranky Bear* series by Nick Bland
- *Wonder* (a children's novel) by R J Palacio
- *Miss Spiders Tea Party* by David Kirk
- *Tough Boris* by Mem Fox
- *Old Pig* by Margaret Wild
- *We Found a Hat* by Jon Klassen
- *Frog Ballet* by Amanda McCardie
- *The Legend of the Golden Snail* by Graeme Base
- *Charlotte's Web* by E B White
- *The Song From Somewhere Else* by A F Harold

Further suggestions:

- *Wombat Divine* by Mem Fox
- *Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox

For a good article on this subject, check out Dr Janet Lansbury's *How Children Really Learn Empathy*:

<http://www.janetlansbury.com/2017/02/how-children-really-learn-empathy/>

Games that teach empathy

Common Sense Education has also published a list of the **Best empathy games, apps and websites for kids**. You can find it here:

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/best-empathy-games-apps-for-kids>

Facebook responses from this post:

Kate Baumwol

My Friend is Sad by Mo Willems. All the Elephant and Piggy series have lovely messages <https://www.bookdepository.com/My-Friend-Is.../9781423102977>

Candice Hitchcock

The Smartest Giant in town. He gives all his smart new clothes away to animals in need and becomes the Kindest Giant in town

Linlee Pontifex

There's also "Miss Lily's Fabulous Pink Feather Boa" Margaret Wild.
It's a lovely story about friendship and empathy, very gentle message.

Hayley Feeger

You, Me and Empathy

<https://www.amazon.com/You-Empathy.../dp/1925089088>

Sophie Chodorowski

Glenda Millard has written a series of books the first of which is The Naming of Tishkin Silk.

I think each teaches empathy to a different situation.

Louise Keady

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein is amazing.

Larissa Smith

Oliver and Patch - a boy who finds a lost dog and has to give it back to the girl

Kylee Veelios

I swear you know exactly what I need when I need it! Thanks Maggie x

Jessie Boan

Fancy Nancy books by Jane O'Connor are great. Empathy particularly towards younger siblings is a strong theme in her books.

Julie Pickering

Henry and Amy is wonderful, as is Giraffes Can't Dance. We all can relate to Gerald (the giraffe)

Claire Louise Prickett

The Red Feather, Sharing a shell, Lost & found, Snail & the Whale

Julie Boyer

Not quite empathy but "the wolf and the baby dragon" by avril McDonald is brilliant re anxiety and sharing worries

Brianna Peters

The very Hungry bear... The whole series really... cranky, hungry, noisy & brave...

Sarah Elliott

Mutt Dog by Stephen Michael King

Liz Moores

Wonder!

Victoria Carter Bingham

Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers

Kelly Willes

"miss spiders tea party"

Jennifer Murko

'Tough Boris' by Mem Fox

Cindie Smart

Old Pig, Margaret Wild

Stacey Watts

We Found a Hat by Klassen All his books are good

Daniel-Danielle Matthews

The Cranky Bear

Donna Bridges

Frog Ballet , it's also good for talking about grief

Sarah Laing

The Giving Tree was my little boys favourite for awhile

Janet Murphy

Tough Boris hy Mem Fox

Elizabeth Savina

The legend of the Golden Snail

Linzi Bridger

Lost and Found is good too

Andrew York

Charlotte's Web and The Song From Somewhere Else.

Rebecca Wall

I have always loved The Giving Tree

DISCLAIMER: These tips are shared from our Facebook community – please [do your own research](#) when making choices for your family. Also please note we have left people's entries largely unedited so there will be imperfections in grammar and spelling.

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Maggie Dent
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