Children’s Literature that Supports Social and Emotional Learning

Children’s literature provides both mirrors and windows for readers. Some books are mirrors, reflecting children’s experiences, feelings, and cultures. Other books are windows, giving children an opportunity to see the world through others’ eyes. Reading books that reflect our diverse population enhances children’s social and emotional development, especially the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others.

SELF-AWARENESS
Recognizing & naming your emotions; having confidence and optimism

Ana Hibiscus’ Song, by Atinuke
The Colors of Us, by Karen Katz
A Gift from Papá Diego/Un Regalo de Papá Diego, by Benjamin Alire Saenz
How Are You Feeling? Foods with Moods, by Saxton Freymann
In My Family, by Carmen Lomas Garza
I Love My Hair, by Natasha Anatasia Tarpley
Looking Like Me, by Walter Dean Myers
Lots of Feelings, by Shelley Rotner
Mama’s Sari’s, by Pooja Makhijani
Marisol MacDonald Doesn’t Match, by Monica Brown
Meet Danitra Brown, by Nikki Grimes
My Cold Plum, Lemon Pie, Bluesy Mood, by Tameka Fryer Brown
Too Many Tamales, by Gary Soto
The Way I Feel, by Janan Cain
The Three Names of Me, by Mary Cummings
Yesterday I Had the Blues, by Jeron Ashford Frame

Grump, Groan, Growl, by Bell Hooks
The Heart of a Chief, by Joseph Bruchac (Novel)
Knock Knock: My Dad’s Dream For Me, by Daniel Beaty
Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, by Kevin Henkes
Little Melba and her Trombone, by Katheryn Russell-Brown
Mouse Was Mad, by Linda Urban
My name is María Isabel, by Alma Flor Ada (Chapter book)
The Quiet Place, by Sarah Stewart
Rickshaw Girl, by Mitali Perkins (Chapter book)
Serafina’s Promise, by Ann E. Burg (Novel in verse)
Sky Sisters, by Jan Boudreau Waboose
Sometimes I’m Bombaloo, by Rachel Vail
Twist: Yoga Poems, by Janet Wong
Upside Down Boy, by Juan Felipe Herrara

SOCIAL AWARENESS
Ability to take perspective of and empathize with others

Amelia’s Road, by Linda Jacob Altman
Back of the Bus, by Aaron Reynolds
The Colour of Home, by Mary Hoffman
Deep in the Sahara, by Kelly Cunnane
Goin’ Someplace Special, by Patricia McKissack
Halmoni’s Picnic, by Sook Nyul Choi
Here I Am, by Patti Kim
I Lost My Tooth in Africa, by Penda Diakité
I Love Saturdays y Domingos, by Alma Flor Ada
Indian Shoes, by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Short Stories)
Inside Out and Back Again, by Thanhha Lai (Novel in verse)
Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt De La Peña
Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match/Marisol McDonald No Combina, by Monica Brown

SELF-MANAGEMENT
Managing emotions and behaviors; working toward personal goals

Big Red Lollipop, by Rhuksana Khan
Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson (Novel)
The Day of Ahmed’s Secret, by Florence Parry Heide
Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan (Novel)
SOCIAL AWARENESS (cont’d)

**Mirror**, by Jeannie Baker
**Muskrat will be Swimming**, by Cheryl Savageau
**My Name is Bilal**, by Asama Mobin-Uddin
**My Name is Yoon**, by Helen Recorvits
**Nadia’s Hands**, by Karen English
**New Shoes**, by Susan Myer
**One Crazy Summer**, Rita Williams Garcia (Novel)
**Rain School**, by James Rumford
**Same, Same, But Different**, by Jenny Sue Kostecki Shaw
**Shades of People**, by Shelly Rotner
**Skin Again**, by Bell Hooks
**Suki’s Kimono**, by Chieri Uekagi
**Take Me Out to the Yakyu**, by Aaron Meshon
**The Ugly Vegetables**, by Grace Lin
**Wonder**, by R.J. Palacio

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Building & maintaining positive relationships

**Across the Alley**, by Richard Michelson
**Crossing Bok Chitto**, by Tim Tingle
**Danitra Brown Leaves Town**, by Nikki Grimes
**Dear Whiskers**, by Ann Whitehead
**Each Kindness**, by Jacqueline Woodson
**Extra Credit**, by Andrew Clements (Novel)
**Four Feet, Two Sandals**, by Karen Williams
**A Friendship for Today**, by Patricia McKissack (Novel)
**Grandfather Counts**, by Andrea Cheng
**Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel**, by Nikki Grimes
**Margaret and Margarita/Margarita y Margaret**, by Lynn Reiser
**Matthew and Tilly**, by Rebecca Jones
**My Name is Sangoel**, by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Making decisions considering the well-being of self and others

**Baseball Saved Us**, by Ken Mochizuki
**A Chair for my Mother**, by Vera B. Williams
**Crow Boy**, by Taro Yashima
**First Day in Grapes**, by L. King Perez
**Freedom Summer**, by Deborah Wiles
**Grandmama’s Pride**, by Becky Birtha
**Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez**, by Kathleen Krull
**King for a Day**, by Rhuksana Khan
**Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy**, by Gary D. Schmidt (Novel)
**A Long Walk to Water**, by Linda Sue Park (Novel)
**Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice**, by Sylvia Rosa Casanova
**My Heart Will Not Sit Down**, by Mara Rockcliff
**Nasreen’s Secret School**, by Jeannette Winter
**New Shoes**, by Susan Meyers
**One**, by Kathryn Otoshi
**One Hen**, by Katie Smith Milway
**Rosa**, by Nikki Giovanni
**Sam and the Lucky Money**, by Karen Chinn
**Say Something**, by Peggy Moss
**Teammates**, by Peter Golenbock
**Unspoken**, by Henry Cole
**Wings**, by Christopher Myers

For more recommended children's books, visit: [www.open-circle.org/literature](http://www.open-circle.org/literature)