

Character Education: Forgiveness

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Elementary School

I Did It, I'm Sorry

by Caralyn Buehner

Ollie Octopus, Bucky Beaver, Howie Hogg, and other animal characters encounter moral dilemmas involving such virtues as honesty, thoughtfulness, and trustworthiness. The reader is invited to select the appropriate behavior from a series of choices.

Ida B : --And Her Plans To Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, And (Possibly) Save The World

by Katherine Hannigan

Fourth grader Ida B feels betrayed when, because of her mother's illness, her parents send her to public school after years of happy and productive homeschooling.

My Brother, Ant

by Betsy Byars

In four separate stories, Ant's older brother gets rid of the monster under Ant's bed, forgives Ant for drawing on his homework, tries to read a story, and helps Ant writes a letter to Santa.

Star Boy

illustrated by Paul Goble

retold by Paul Goble

Relates the Blackfoot Indian legend in which Star Boy gains the Sun's forgiveness for his mother's disobedience and is allowed to return to the Sky World.

Middle and High School

Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve

by Lewis B. Smedes

Advice for letting go of anger and pain and moving towards forgiveness, allowing for personal healing and stronger relationships.

Seventy Times Seven: The Power of Forgiveness

by Johann Christoph Arnold

Real people affected by abuse, crime, injustice and war tell their own painful stories, with the belief that forgiveness is the only way to healing.

The Sin Eater

by Gary D. Schmidt

While living on his grandparents' farm in New Hampshire, Cole hears stories about a mysterious sin-eater; these stories enable Cole to learn forgiveness and to connect with his ancestors.

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness

by Simon Wiesenthal

Wiesenthal explores forgiveness by examining his personal experience as a Jew in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

Whirligig

by Paul Fleischman

Sixteen-year-old Brent Bishop embarks on a cross-country whirligig-making mission to atone for his reckless behavior and its tragic results.

Resources for Teachers

Books that Build Character: A Guide to Teaching Your Child Moral Values Through Stories

by William Kilpatrick

Recommended books to help combat moral illiteracy and build a child's character.

Children's Literature for All God's Children

by Virginia Thomas

Recommended children's books that express faith, belief, theology, and Christian principles.

Literature-Based Moral Education: Children's Books & Activities for Teaching Values, Responsibility & Good Judgment In the Elementary School.

by Linda Leonard Lamme

Discusses important values for children's moral development and suggests related activities.

The Book of Virtues for Young People: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories

by William J. Bennett

Well-known works including fables, folklore, fiction, drama, and more, by such authors as Aesop, Dickens, Tolstoy, Shakespeare, and Baldwin, are presented to teach virtues, including compassion, courage, honesty, friendship, and faith.