



## RECOMMENDED PICTURE BOOK LIST FOR DEVELOPING EMPATHY

Spark conversations with children about empathy, solidarity, and pride in Jewish identity

Selected by author, educator, and mother, [Megan Dowd Lambert](#)

### OUR INSPIRATION

Children are looking for opportunities to learn about solidarity and how to understand the world around us. These books are an opportunity to act from a place of compassion and understanding about our differences and the importance of standing together. We Stand Together shared these picture books with families during a Family Read-in held at [The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#), which also included a storytime reading of *I Am Human: A Book of Empathy* by Susan Verde and illustrated by Peter Reynolds.

### USING DR. RUDINE SIMS BISHOP'S MIRRORS AND WINDOWS METAPHOR<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing the value of books acting as both mirrors and windows is one way of affirming our common humanity and fostering empathy across differences.

- Does a book you are reading reflect your own experience back to you? Why or why not?
- If not, how might it offer you a window into someone else's experience?

### BOOKS FOR DEVELOPING SOLIDARITY AND COMPASSION

1. *Why Am I Me?* by Paige Britt, illus. by Selina Alko and Sean Qualls
2. *Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse* by Marcy Campbell, illus. Corinna Luyken
3. *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate* by Janice Cohn, illus. Bill Farnsworth
4. *I Can Help* by David Hyde Costello
5. *Snow in Jerusalem* by Deborah da Costa, illus. Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu
6. *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld
7. *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom and Salaam* by Fawzia Gilani-Williams, illus. by Chiara Fedele
8. *Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty* by Linda Glaser, illus. by Claire A. Nivola.
9. *I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness* by Kerascoët
10. *Come with Me* by Holly M. McGhee, illus. by Pascal Lemaître
11. *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold, illus. by Suzane Kaufman
12. *I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien

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13. *Someone New* by Anne Sibley O'Brien
14. *The Trees of the Dancing Goats* by Patricia Polacco
15. *Elijah's Angel* by Michael J. Rosen, illus. by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson
16. *All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon, illus. by Marla Frazee
17. *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith, illus. by Danielle Daniel
18. *I Am Human: A Book of Empathy* by Susan Verde, illus. by Peter Reynolds
19. *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, illus. by Rafael López
20. *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, illus. by E.B. Lewis

## WHO WE ARE

**Megan Dowd Lambert** teaches Children's Literature at Simmons University and is the author of *Reading Picture Books with Children*, which introduces the Whole Book Approach to storytime that she developed in association with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Awarded a 2016 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor, her picture books are *A Crow of His Own* (illus. David Hyde Costello) and *Real Sisters Pretend* (illus. Nicole Tadgell). She lives in Amherst with her family, including seven children ages 1-21.

**We Stand Together** is a movement of individuals, organizations, and leaders committed to taking a stand for those at risk of—or who are already—being subjected to hate locally and nationally. We believe that everyday people and children can take brave stands against hate. Our Hanukkah Ally Action is in support of the Jewish community, in which we take a stand against anti-Semitism following the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

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<sup>i</sup> Bishop, Rudine Sims. "Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors." *Perspectives: Using and Choosing Books for the Classroom*, vol. 6, no. 3, Summer 1990.

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