

ESSENTIAL BOOKS FOR THE MONTESSORI CLASSROOM

January 11, 2014

Our Story Begins...

Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution by Steve Jenkins
Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story by Lisa Westberg

Fundamental Needs

Food...

Ann Morris
Bread, Bread, Bread
Houses and Homes

Norah Dooley
Everybody Cooks Rice
Everybody Bakes Bread
Everybody Brings Noodles
Everybody Serves Soup

For younger students...
Good Enough to Eat by Lizzy Rockwell
The Vegetables We Eat by Gail Gibbons
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert

For older students...
The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper by Richard Sobol

Shelter...

Building Our House by Jonathan Bean
Building a House by Byron Barton
How a House is Built by Gail Gibbons

For older students...
Material World by Peter Menzel

Global Awareness

Children of the World: How We Live, Learn and Play in Poems, Drawings and Photographs by Anthony Asael

Children from Australia to Zimbabwe: A Photographic Journey Around the World by Maya Ajmera

Flags of the World by Sylvie Bednar

Castle on Viola Street by Dyanne DiSalvo (Habitat for Humanity)

Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts (consumerism)

Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams (Pakistan/refugee camp)

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier (Uganda)

Rain School by James Rumford (Chad)

Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane

The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families by Susan Roth (Eritrea)

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba (Malawi)

Under the Lemon Moon by Edith Hope Fine (Mexico)

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway (Ghana)

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Respect for Work

Farm by Elisha Cooper

A Day's Work by Eve Bunting

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers by Sarah Warren

Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx by Jonah Winter

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel

Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family's Farm by Michael Rosen

Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

What Happened on Fox Street by Tricia Springstubb

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

The Circuit by Francisco Jimenez

The Natural World

My Garden by Kevin Henkes
The Watcher by Jane Goodall
Me....Jane by Patrick McDonnell
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown
And Then It's Spring by Julie Fogliano
The Gardener by Sarah Stewart
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
City Green by Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan
On Meadowview Street by Henry Cole
Jack's Garden by Henry Cole
I Took a Walk by Henry Cole
On the Way to the Beach by Henry Cole
The Lorax by Dr Seuss
Look Up: Birdwatching in Your Own Backyard by Annette Cade
Patchwork Garden/Pedacitos de huerto by Diane De Anda
The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough by Katie Smith
Milway
Home by Jeannie Baker
A Nest for Celeste by Henry Cole

Dianna Hutts Aston

A Rock is Lively
A Butterfly is Patient
A Seed is Sleepy
An Egg is Quiet

Wangari Maathai

Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa by Jeanette Winter
Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya by Donna Jo Napoli
Seeds of Change Planting a Path to Peace by Jen Cullerton Johnson
Planting the Trees of Kenya by Claire Nivola

Water

Water in the Park: A Book About Water and the Times of the Day by Emily Jenkins
A Drop of Water by Walter Wick
All the Water in the World by George Ella Lyon
One Well: The Story of Water on Earth by Rochelle Strauss
A Drop Around the World by Barbara McKinney

Barbara Kerley

The World Is Waiting For You
One World, One Day
A Cool Drink of Water
You and Me Together: Moms, Dads and Kids Around the World
A Little Peace

Family

Who's In My Family? by Robie Harris
All Kinds of Families! by Mary Ann Hoberman
Maple by Lori Nichols
The Colors of Us by Karen Katz
The Family Book by Todd Parr
Blackout by John Rocco
And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson
In Our Mothers' House by Patricia Polacco
We Belong Together by Todd Parr
Molly's Family by Nancy Garden
Daddy, Papa and Me by Leslea Newman
Mommy, Mama and Me by Leslea Newman
Donovan's Big Day by Leslea Newman
The Trouble With Babies by Martha Freeman
I Love You Like Crazy Cakes by Rose Lewis
Every Year on Your Birthday by Rose Lewis
White Snow Express: A Story About Adoption by Jean Davis Okimoto

Geography/Our World

Walk This World by Jenny Broom
On the Same Day in March: A Tour of the World's Weather by Marilyn Singer
Same, Same But Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
Yoko by Rosemary Wells
My Name is Yoon by Helen Recorvits

Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson
Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan by Jeanette Winter

Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia by Jeanette Winter
Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown

Peace

Can You Say Peace? by Karen Katz
What Does Peace Feel Like? by Vladimir Radunsky
The Peace Book by Todd Parr
Peace by Wendy Anderson Halperin
The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf
A Little Peace by Barbara Kerley
Why Do We Fight? Conflict, War and Peace by Niki Walker

Citizenship and Character

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Phillip Stead
How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham
A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams
All the World by Liz Garton Scanlon
The Dot by Peter Reynolds
Friends by Mies van Hout
Weslandia by Paul Fleischman
Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran
Bluebird by Bob Staake
Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett
The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson
Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne
The Quiet Place by Sarah Stewart
Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey
Sacred Places by Philemon Sturges
Books by Jon Muth (Zen Ties, Zen Shorts, The Three Questions)

Meditation and Quiet

A Handful of Quiet: Happiness in Four Pebbles by Thich Nhat Hanh
The Quiet Book by Deborah Underwood
Frederick by Leo Lionni
On My Beach There are Many Pebbles by Leo Lionni
Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Chief Jake Swamp
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant

Toddlers

Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers
Global Babies
Carry Me
I Can Do It Myself! by Stephen Krensky
Wait! Wait! by Hatsue Nakawaki
Sleep Like a Tiger by Mary Logue

Poetry

In Every Tiny Grain of Sand: A Child's Book of Prayers and Praise, collected by Reeve Lindbergh
Today at the Bluebird Cafe by Deborah Ruddell
Giving Thanks: Poems, Prayers, and Praise Songs of Thanksgiving by Katherine Paterson
Joyce Sidman (Swirl by Swirl, Red Swings from Treetops, What the Heart Knows)
When Thunder Comes: Poems for Civil Rights Leaders by J. Patrick Lewis
This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World, selected by Naomi Shihab Nye

Novels

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
The Garden of My Imaan by Farhana Zia
Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle
One Crazy Summer/P.S Be Eleven by Rita Williams Garcia
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Serafina's Promise by Ann E. Burg
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman

Desert Island Montessori School

The Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen (Taschen)

How To Build a House by Jonathan Bean

People by Blexbolex

Weslandia by Paul Fleischman

Zen Shorts by Jon Muth

Journey by Aaron Becker

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Maps by Aleksandra Mizielinska

The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest - and Most Surprising - Animals by Steve Jenkins

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Children's Book Awards

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards

"given annually to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence."

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

"given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values."

Pura Belpre Award

"presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth."

Stonewall Book Awards

"The first and most enduring award for GLBT books..."

Compiled by Shelley Sommer

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www.sommerreading.com

MORE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS....
