



BOOKS FOR PEACE: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

By Ruth van Veenendaal, MEd

Books for children can be among the most beautiful creations by artists today: Colorful and inviting, they can range from simple to complex and often intend to teach or illustrate a concept. The subject matter is as broad as the collective imagination. One area of focus that is receiving needed attention in the world of books is education for peace.

Since its formation, the AMS Peace Committee has had education for peace as its mission. Essential aids in this process, after the direction of the prepared guide, are books that exemplify peaceful living.

Ruth van Veenendaal, a longtime member of the Peace Committee, has compiled an extensive list of peace books currently available. The list is divided by suggested age levels, with a short summary of each book's contents. It is a wealth of information for busy educators who want to promote peace through reading!

—Julie Winnette

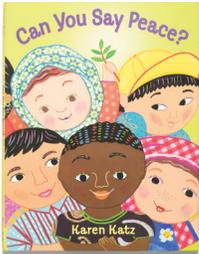
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

All I See Is Part of Me

Curtis, C. M. (1994). Illumination Arts Publishing Company. Ages 4+.
A child discovers his connections with all of life.

And to Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends!

Hoberman, M. A., and Hawkes, K. (2003). Dragonfly Books. Ages 3–7.
In rhyming verse that is a deliberate homage to Dr. Seuss, quarreling and its consequences are depicted. In the end, fighters become friends.



Can You Say Peace?

Katz, K. (2006). Henry Holt and Co. Ages 3–7.
A colorful trip around the world on International Peace Day (September 21), in which children from different countries say the word “peace” in their language.

Cool Down and Work through Anger

Meiners, C. J. (2010). Free Spirit Publishing. Ages 4–8.
Depicts behaviors/situations that give rise to frustration and/or anger, with examples of what a child may physically experience (for example, “hot face, tense muscles, fast heartbeat, or loud breathing”).

Each Breath a Smile

Swan, S. (words by Thich Nhat Hanh). (2002). Plum Blossom Books. Ages 3–6.
Through colorful illustrations, children learn to connect with their breathing to help them experience calm and enjoy a deeper relationship with friends and family.

Five Minutes' Peace

Murphy, J. (1999). Puffin Books. Ages 2–6.
A picture book in which the mother elephant wants 5 minutes of peace for her breakfast and bath, but her three active children have other intentions.

For Every Child, a Better World

Henson, J., Gikow, L., and Weiss, E. (1993). Golden Books. Ages 2–5.
Kermit the Frog shows children what basic needs are and how all children need these fulfilled in order to be happy and peaceful; he then talks about how some children are not able to have them fulfilled.

Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message

Chief Jake Swamp. (1997). Lee & Low Books. Ages 4+.
A child's version of the Thanksgiving address originated by the Native People of Upstate New York and still used in ceremonies by the Iroquois people.

Hands Are Not for Hitting

Agassi, M. (2009). Free Spirit Publishing. Ages 4–7.
Children learn that violence is never acceptable.



I Offer You Peace

Wolf, A. D. (2001). Parent Child Press. Ages 5–8.
“I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship...” This book nurtures the human spirit and is a recitation about peace, with hand gestures for children.

If Peace Is

Baskwill, J. (2003). Mondo Publishers. Ages 4+.
Illustrations and rhyming text describe what peace is.

Let There Be Peace on Earth (book and CD)

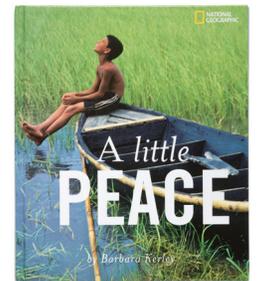
Jackson, J., and Miller, S. (1955, 1983). Tricycle Press. All ages.
Song lyrics brought to life with compelling pictures. The music and lyrics are in the back of the book, along with a page explaining peace symbols.

A Little Book of Peace

Fernando, C. (2013). Publicity Services. Ages 2+.
Written after 9/11, this book demonstrates that there can be peace in the world.

A Little Peace

Kerley, B. (2007). National Geographic Children's Books. Ages: 2+.
Photographs from around the world demonstrating peace with few words.



One World, One Day

Kerley, B. (2009). National Geographic Children's Books. All ages.
One day around the world, through 60 photos that show how we are all one global family.

Our Peaceful Classroom

Wolf, A. D. (2009). Parent Child Press. Ages 3+.
Children's drawings annotated with quotes from Maria Montessori reflect life in a Montessori classroom.

Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace

Proimos, J. (2009). Little Brown Books for Young Readers. Ages 3–6.
Paulie is not good at many things, but he plans to achieve world peace by the time he is 8!

Peace

Halperin, W. A. (2013). Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Ages 4–8.
This lavish and lyrical picture book, based on the Tao Te Ching, ponders the eternal question: How can we bring peace to the world?

Peace Baby

Ashman, L. (2013). Chronicle Books. Ages 3–5.
A gentle portrayal of normal childhood upsets, with solutions that lead to peace.

Peace Begins with You

Scholes, K. (1994). Little Brown Books for Young Readers. Ages 3–6.
This Sierra Club book explains, in simple terms, the concept of peace, why conflicts occur, how conflicts can be resolved in positive ways, and how to protect peace.

The Peace Book

Parr, T. (2009). Little Brown Books for Young Readers. Ages 3–6.
Simple definitions of peace, with colorful, childlike pictures.

Peace Crane

Hamanaka, S. (1995). Harper Collins. Ages 3–8.
Based on the legend of Sadako and the thousand paper cranes, this book uses poetry to express the dreams of another child, trapped in a violent world, who wonders if the peace crane will ever come.

Peacefulness

Raatma, L. (2001). Character Education. Ages 4+.
Describes peacefulness as a virtue and suggests ways in which children can recognize and practice peace, such as cooperating with others and engaging in daily exercise and activities.

Peaceful Piggy Meditations

MacLean, K. L. (2004). Albert Whitman & Company. Ages 5–9.
Piggy manages to be quiet and peaceful, even when things don't go his way: He meditates!

The Peacekeepers Series: Levels I, II, and III (eight small paperback books per series)

Bivins, M. (1997). Bivins Publishers. Ages 4+.
For beginning readers, these stories show how the characters prevent or resolve conflict. The stories, which can be acted out, lend themselves to discussion about what it means to be a peacekeeper.

The Peace Rose (with Teacher's Guide)

Jewell, A. (2006). Parent Child Press. Ages 3–8.
A lovely story in pictures, showing how children use the peace rose in the classroom.

Pledge to the Earth

Wolf, A. D., and Servello, J. (2001). Parent Child Press. Ages 5–8.
One sentence per page tells how to live in peace and harmony with the Earth.

Somewhere Today

Thomas, S. M. (1998). Albert Whitman & Company. Ages 5–9.
Shows people in different parts of the world acting in kind, peaceful, loving ways.

Talk and Work It Out

Meiners, C. J. (2005). Free Spirit Publishing. Ages 4–8.
Demonstrates processes of peaceful conflict resolution.

This Is Our House

Rosen, M. (1996). Candlewick Press. Ages 3+.
Together, children find a box—but George wants it for himself: a book about sharing and exclusion, in which George learns how it feels when you don't share.

The Sandwich Swap

Queen Rania Al Abdullah and DiPucchio, K. (2010). Disney-Hyperion. Ages 3–7.
Two best friends fight over food. They discover that the smallest things can pull people apart, but friendship is more powerful than differences.

We Share One World

Hoffelt, J. E. (2004). Illumination Arts Publishing Company. Ages 2+.
Portrays global connections through a young boy's eyes.

Words Are Not for Hurting

Verdick, E. (2004). Free Spirit Publishing. Ages 4–7.
Demonstrates that children have choices in the words they say and how they say them.

FOR ELEMENTARY

Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize

Wargin, K. J., and Pullen, Z. (2009). Sleeping Bear Press. Ages 7+.
The true story of the scientist who invented dynamite for road construction but was upset when it was used for war. Nobel wanted a different legacy, so he established the Peace Prize.

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem (book and CD)

Angelou, M. (2008). Schwartz & Wade. All ages.
Poetic story, by Maya Angelou, of a family that joins with their community, rich and poor, black, white, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish, to celebrate the holidays; includes a CD of the story read by the author.

The Big Book for Peace

Durell, A., and Sachs, M. (Eds). (1990). Dutton Children's Books. Ages 6–9.
Includes 30 of the best-loved authors and illustrators for children, who combined their talents in a great book for and about peace.

Declaration of Human Rights: An Adaptation for Children

Rocha, R., and Roth, O. (1990). United Nations Publications. Ages 6–10+.
The United Nations Declaration, adapted to picture-book format for children.

Giant Steps to Change the World

Lee, S., and Lee, T. L. (2011). Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. Ages 4+.
An inspirational picture book about activism and taking the big steps to set things right.

The Great Peace March

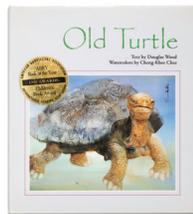
Near, H. (1993). Henry Holt and Company. Ages 5–10.
A lyrical evocation of a call to action for a peaceful planet, this book celebrates the courage and determination to achieve real peace. Music with lyrics is included.

A Million Visions of Peace: Wisdom from the Friends of Old Turtle

Garrison, J., and Tubesing, A. (2002). Scholastic Press. Ages 4–8.
Touching, insightful messages from children, combined with colorful pictures.

Old Turtle

Wood, D. (2007). Scholastic Press. All ages.
An inspirational fable about ecology, peace, and the interconnectedness of all beings.



Old Turtle and the Broken Truth

Wood, D. (2003). Scholastic Press. Ages 4–8.
In this moving fable, the Earth and all its creatures are suffering; the people will not share their truth with those who are different from them. Old Turtle reveals the missing part of the truth to a little girl, who then shares it with others to achieve peace.

One Voice

McKinley, C. (2013). Illumination Arts Publishing. Ages 5–9.
A young boy's act to make a peaceful world leads to a chain of events that support his special project for peace.

The Peace Bell

Preus, M. (2008). Henry Holt and Company. Ages 5–8.
Based on a true story, this book tells how a temple bell taken during World War II to use as scrap was found by a U.S. Navy crew and returned to Japan as a gesture of friendship between the formerly warring countries.

Peaceful Pieces

Hines, A. G. (2011). Henry Holt and Company. Ages 4–8.
This collection of poems, illustrated with pictures of beautiful handmade quilts, explores peace in all its various and sometimes surprising forms: from peace at home to peace on a worldwide scale to peace within oneself.

Peace One Day

Gilley, J. (2005). G. P. Putnam's Sons. Ages 8+.
The story of British activist and filmmaker Jeremy Gilley's successful quest to have the United Nations declare September 21 as "World Peace Day."

The Peace Stick

Misra, N. (2013). Castlebridge Books. Ages 5–8.
A lovely story about two children learning to listen to each other, which leads naturally to peaceful behavior.

Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About

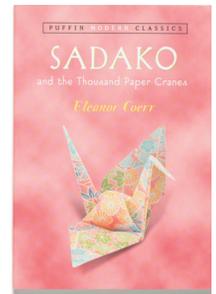
MacDonald, M. R. (2006). August House. Ages 5–9.
For humans, peace does not come easily. The author's thesis is that peace is a choice.

Playing War

Beckwith, K. (2005). Tilbury House Publications. Ages 5–11.
A child who has experienced real loss through war tells his friends what happened to him, leading to their decision not to "play war."

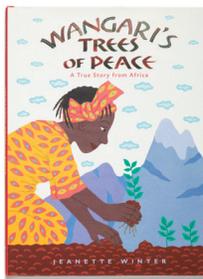
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Coerr, E. (1999). Harcourt School Publishers. Ages 8–12.
This book is based on the true story of a Japanese girl who developed leukemia as a result of the Hiroshima bombing. Following an old Japanese legend, the story portrays her courage in dealing with illness.



Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

Winter, J. (2008). HMH Books for Young Readers. Ages 4–8.
The story of Wangari Maathai, an environmentalist and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one person's passion, vision, and determination can lead to great change.



We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures

Amnesty International. (2011). Frances Lincoln Children's Books. Ages 6–9.
The 30 articles that comprise the Amnesty International Declaration are simplified for clarity.

What Does Peace Feel Like?

Radunsky, V. (2004). Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Ages 4–8.

Ideas about peace, from children around the world, are depicted in simple, colorful pictures, including “peace” in 190 different languages.

When the Horses Ride By: Children in Times of War

Greenfield, E. (2006). Lee & Low Books. Ages 6–10+.

Poems that celebrate the ability of children to be hopeful and optimistic, even in times of war.

When I Grow Up I Will Win the Nobel Peace Prize

Pin, I. (2006). Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Ages 4–8.

The boy in this book has trouble admitting the gap between his aspirations and his everyday actions. Humor underscores the importance and the difficulty of trying to live up to one’s own ideals.

Wisdom Tales from Around the World

Forest, H. (2005). August House. Ages 8–12.

Fifty folktales and parables with a global perspective. This anthology contains simple truths, common sense, and the promise that we can benefit from past generations’ experiences.

The Worry Stone

Dengler, M. (1996). Cooper Square Publishing. Ages 6–8.

Three interwoven tales depict the way human lives are connected, despite distance and time. The book pays homage to the first people of California’s Ojai Valley—the Chumash—and the power of folktales.

Ziji: The Puppy Who Learned to Meditate

Rinpoche, Y. M., and Hayden, T. (2009). Tergar International. Ages 5–9.

Ziji is a noisy puppy, living with the Anderson family. When he sees Nico, a neighbor, sitting quietly, he learns to be quiet and peaceful too.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)

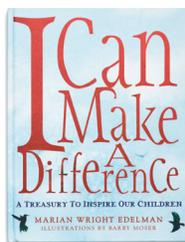
Yousafzai, M. (2014). Little Brown Books for Young Readers. Ages 10+.

Living in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala had been taught to stand up for what she believed. She was shot point-blank in the face for this but recovered and continued to speak for girls’ rights to education, showing how one person can change a community and the world.

I Can Make a Difference

Edelman, M. W. (2005). Harper Collins Publishers. Ages 12+.

A variety of stories, poems, songs, quotations, and folktales.



Kids with Courage: True Stories about Young People Making a Difference

Lewis, B. A. (2008). Free Spirit Publishing. Ages 12+.

Compelling real-life stories of young people making a difference, some surviving through abuse. Not suitable for readers under 12.

One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists

Wilson, J. (2008). Orca Book Publishers. Ages 12+.

Using photos, this book shows what young activists have done to help others and make the world more peaceful.

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children’s Peace Statue

Ishii, T. (1997). Dell Laurel-Leaf Books. Ages 12+.

The story of Sadako and the building of a children’s peace statue.

On the Wings of Peace: Writers and Illustrators Speak Out for Peace, in Memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Introduction by Hamanaka, S. (1995). Clarion Books. Ages 12+.

Writers, poets, and illustrators advocate for peace.



Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World

Zalben, J. B. (2006). Dutton Juvenile. Ages 8+.

The author tells the stories of 16 people, from different eras and different parts of the globe, who were peacemakers.

Peace in 100 Languages

Kabattchenko, M., et al. (1992). Jalmar Press. All ages.

A one-word multilingual dictionary with a variety of inspiring quotes.

PeaceJam: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace (book and DVD)

Suvanjiieff, I., and Engle, D. G. (2008). Puffin. Ages 12+.

The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Costa Rican president Oscar Arias, and political rights activist Aung San Suu Kyi are just some of the Nobel Peace laureates who have joined the PeaceJam Foundation in a Global Call to Action.

The Peace Seekers: The Nobel Peace Prize

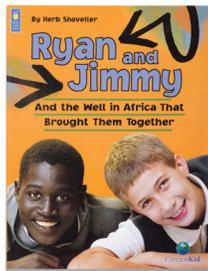
Aaseng, N. (1992). First Avenue Editions. Ages 12+.

Stories of nine heroic Peace Prize winners and the work they advanced to promote peace.

Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About

MacDonald, M. R. (1992). Linnet Books. Ages 12+.

International folktales under headings of “Pathways to War,” “The Folly of Fighting,” “One War,” “An End to War,” “Pathways to Peace,” “Peacemaking Techniques,” “Peacemakers,” “The Never-ending Work,” and “Choices.”



Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together

Shoveller, H. (2008). Kids Can Press.

Ages 8+.

This is the story of Ryan, who raised enough money to build one well in Uganda. Eventually, he traveled to Uganda with his parents and met his pen pal, Jimmy.

A Handful of Quiet: Happiness in Four Pebbles

Hanh, T. N. (2012). Plum Blossoms Books.

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Vietnamese monk, a renowned Zen master, a poet, and a peace activist. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize by Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1967, and is the author of many books about peace. Pebble meditation (using actual pebbles) is a groundbreaking and unique technique to introduce children to the calming practice of meditation.

Time for Peace

Ganguli, J. (2003). Quaker Press. Ages 8+.

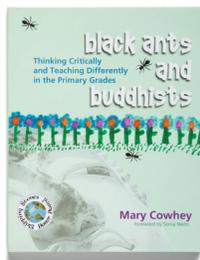
The author talks about why wars happen and what different groups have done to try to stop them—while exploring many ways people have tried to build peace.

FOR TEACHERS

Black Ants and Buddhists: Thinking Critically and Teaching Differently in the Primary Grades

Cowhey, M. (2006). Stenhouse Publishers.

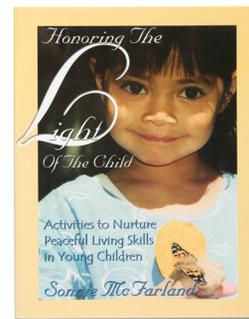
Discusses organic happenings in the classroom and issues of discovery.



Honoring the Light of the Child: Activities to Nurture Peaceful Living Skills in Young Children

McFarland, S. (2004). Shining Mountains Press (available with CD, by Pat Yonka).

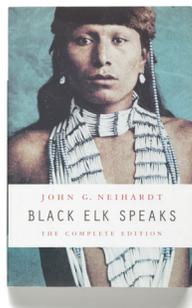
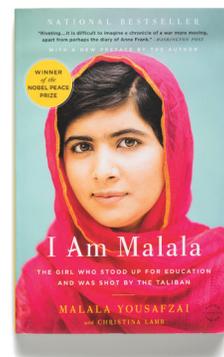
A key text for Montessori teachers, this book contains many creative peace activities that make use of silence, songs, symbols, and special materials, all of which can make a difference in children's behavior.



I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

Yousafzai, M. (2013). Little, Brown and Company.

After being shot in the face for speaking out on girls' rights to an education, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey, from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the United Nations. Now just 18, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.



Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

Black Elk, N., and Neihardt, J. G. (2008). State University of New York Press.

Black Elk, the Lakota visionary, met the distinguished poet, writer, and critic John G. Neihardt, in 1930, on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation and chose him to tell his story.

Curriculum of Love: Cultivating the Spiritual Nature of Children

Daleo, M. S. (1996). Grace Publishing and Communications.

A nondenominational, positive, creative approach to fostering spiritual development in children, through music, art, and storytelling.

Educating for a Culture of Peace

Eisler, R., and Miller, R. (2004). Heinemann.

A collection of essays by 13 proponents for peace.

Education and Peace

Montessori, M. (1992). ABC-Clio.

Dr. Montessori's 1943 lectures in India.

Go with Peace: Enriching the Lives of Children through the Pursuit of Peace for All

Guinan, K. (2005). Kind Regards.

Simple activities lead to holistic understandings while connecting lessons with real-life experiences.

Learning the Skills of Peacemaking: A K-6 Activity Guide on Resolving Conflict, Communicating, and Cooperating

Drew, N. (1995). Jalmar Press.

Recommended as an excellent resource by Michiko Kuroda, of the United Nations.

Moonbeam: A Book of Meditations for Children

Garth, M. (1992). Collins Dove Publisher.

A collection of imaginings for parents and teachers to help children feel secure and cared for, so they can sleep peacefully.

Nurturing the Spirit in Non-Sectarian Classrooms

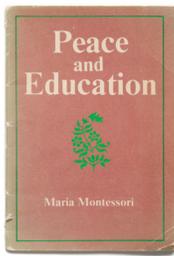
Wolf, A. D. (2010). Parent Child Press.

The fundamental purpose of Maria Montessori's work is to bring about a more peaceful world by nurturing the spirit of the child.

Path to Peace

Wuling, S. (2006). Amitabha Publications.

A book of 365 thoughts on peace, one for each day of the year.



Peace and Education

Montessori, M. (1965). The Theosophical Publishing House.

Originally an address by Dr. Montessori, in 1932, to the International Office of Education, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Peace Book

Diamond, L. (2001). Conari Press.

More than 100 simple ways to create a more peaceful world.

The Peaceful Classroom: 162 Easy Activities to Teach Preschoolers Compassion and Cooperation

Smith, C. (1993). Gryphon House.

Each activity in this book uses accessible materials and incorporates the joy of music, movement, puppets, play dough, gardening, and more.

Peace in Our Land

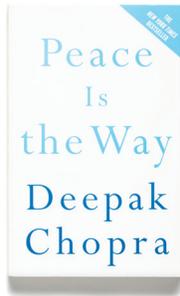
Hull, B., and Saint James, S. (2002). Kids Creative Classics (available with CD, by Bunny Hull).

Peace activities and songs for Elementary students.

Peace Is the Way: Bringing War and Violence to an End

Chopra, D. (2005). Harmony.

How to expand awareness, stop reacting out of fear, and reject war, one person at a time. "Violence may be innate in human nature, but so is its opposite: love. The next stage of humanity, the leap we are poised to take, will be guided by the force of that love."



Peace Quest: Journey with Purpose

Guinan, K. (2002). Kind Regards.

The essence of the Peace Quest method is learning through discovery and encountering life as a purposeful journey. Over 100 intergenerational and experiential lessons, with illustration, are included.

Peace: Thematic Unit

Sterling, M. E. (1992). Teacher Created Materials.

Stories and activities, with a useful bibliography for intermediate students.

Peace: Thematic Unit

Martin, M. P. C. (1994). Teacher Created Materials.

Activities for Early Childhood students, with designs to copy and games to play.

Planting Seeds: Practicing Mindfulness with Children (book and CD)

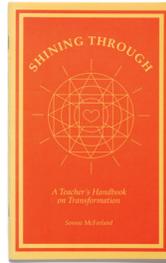
Hanh, T. N. (2011). Parallax Press.

This book reflects decades of development and innovation in the Plum Village community's collective practices with children.

Reaching All by Creating Tribes Learning Communities

Gibbs, J. (1994, 2006). Center Source Publications.

This 30th anniversary edition of Tribes Learning Communities discusses how to reach students by developing a caring environment as the foundation for growth and learning. The author describes how to teach essential collaborative skills, design interactive learning experiences, work with multiple learning styles, foster the development of resiliency, and support school community change.



Shining Through: A Teacher's Handbook on Transformation

McFarland, S. (2012). Shining Mountains Press.

An insightful handbook that provides adults with simple, practical techniques to develop a deeper understanding of the connection between body, mind, and emotions.

Talking Peace: A Vision for the Next Generation

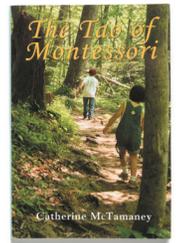
Carter, J. (1995). Puffin Books.

In this book, written for a young adult audience, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter discusses how every citizen can contribute to the foundations of world peace.

The Tao of Montessori

McTamaney, C. (2005). iUniverse.

Eighty-one mental images from the collected wisdom of Lao-Tzu's writings, applied to the lives and work of teachers and the parents of young children, as well as to the children themselves.



Touching Peace: Practicing the Art of Mindful Living

Hanh, T. N. (2009). Parallax Press.

This book, by renowned monk and Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, gives specific, practical instructions on extending meditation practice into one's daily life.



World Peace and Other 4th-Grade Achievements

Hunter, J. (2013). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Based on 30 years of using his World Peace Game in classrooms, Hunter lays out principles of successful collaboration that people of any age can achieve.

RUTH VAN VEENENDAAL, MEd, was a Montessori teacher for 43 years, at North Country Montessori School, the Potsdam Early Learning Center, and the Montessori Children's House of Hannawa, all in New York. She retired in 2008.