

**"Books written for children are usually affirmative...there is passionate concern for the broken, the lost, the hurt. All my life through stories, those I read and those I write, I have been building (intuitively, rather than consciously) a theology."**

**Madeleine L'Engle**

**Trailing Clouds of Glory: Spiritual Values in Children's Books**

**Discipleship includes**

**...asking hard questions**

**about life**

Delton, Judy. I'll Never Love Anything Ever Again 0-8075-3521-4  
*A boy's allergies force him to give away his beloved dog.*

Demi. The Empty Pot 0-8050-4900-2  
*A young boy in ancient China is rewarded for his honesty.*

Girard, Linda Walvoord. Alex, the Kid with AIDS 0-8075-0247-2  
*A 4th grader with AIDS makes a new friend and learns about being one of the group.*

Hesse, Karen. Out of the Dust 0-590-37125-8  
*Free-verse poems tell a young girl's life during the dust storms of the 1930's.*

**about war**

Buntin, Eve. Terrible Things: An Allergy of the Holocaust 0-8276-0325-8  
*Animals in the forest are carried away perhaps because they did not stick together.*

Giff, Patricia Reilly. Lily's Crossing 0-440-41453-9  
*A young American girl and a Hungarian refugee boy become friends during World War II.*

I Dream of Peace: Images of War by Children of the Former Yugoslavia. Preface by  
Maurice Sendak. UNICEF 0-06-251128-9  
*Pictures and text by children who have experienced the horrors of war.*

**about death**

Jordan, Mary Kate. Losing Uncle Tim 0-8075-4758-1  
*When a beloved uncle dies of AIDS, Daniel struggles for reassurance and discovers he's been left a legacy of joy and courage.*

Paterson, Katherine. Bridge to Terabithia. New York: Avon Books, 1972.  
*The story of a special friendship between a boy and a girl.*

Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say 0-399-226-71-0

*Two young soldiers captured by Southern troops during the Civil War.*  
Simon, Norman. The Saddest Time 0-8075-7204-7  
*Explains death as the inevitable end of life and provides three situations in which children experience the loss of someone close.*

### **...living in hope**

Albert, Richard. Alejandro's Gift 0-8118-0436-4  
*Lonely in his house beside a road in the desert, Alejandro builds an oasis to attract the many animals around him.*

Alberts, Nancy Markham. Elizabeth's Beauty 0-8192-1677-1  
*A young girl cares for an injured butterfly.*

Fox, Mem. Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge. New York & California: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1985. 0-916291-04-9  
*A small boy tries to discover the meaning of "memory" so he can restore that of an elderly friend.*

Henson, & United Nations. My Wish for Tomorrow 0-688-14455-1  
*Words and pictures from children around the world about their wishes for things that would make the world a better place.*

Lentz, Alice Boggs. Mountain Magic 0-8499-5841-5  
*A family's legacy of faith.*

Wild, Margaret. Let the Celebrations Begin. New York: Orchard Books, 1991.  
*A child, who remembers life at home before life in a concentration camp, makes toys with the women to give to the other children when liberation comes.*

Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon. New York: Philomel Books, 1987.  
*On a winter's night under a full moon, father and child trek into the woods to see a great horned owl.*

### **...building community with all God's children**

Fox, Mem. Whoever You Are 0-15-200787-3  
*A book that acknowledges in the simplest of terms our common humanity.*

Hamanaka, Sheila. All the Colors of the Earth 0-688-11131-9  
*Despite our outward differences children everywhere are essentially the same and lovable.*

Cowen-Fletcher, Jane. It Takes a Village 0-590-46573-2  
*Yemi watches her little brother, and finds the entire village is watching him, too.*

Rabe, Berniece. Where's Chimpy? 0-8075-8927-6  
*Text and photographs show Misty, a little girl with Down Syndrome, as she and her father search for her stuffed monkey.*

Ringgold, Faith. Tar Beach 0-517-58030-6  
*A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home.*

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. In God's Name 1-879045-26-5  
*In poetic text and vibrant illustrations, this modern fable celebrates the diversity and, at the same time, the unity of all people.*

Say, Allen. Emma's Rug 0-395-74294-3  
*A young artist finds that her creativity comes from within.*

Say, Allen. Grandfather's Journey 0-395-57035-2  
*A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America and the feelings of being torn between two countries.*

Tan, Amy. The Moon Lady. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc., 1992.  
*Nai-Nai tells her granddaughters the story of her outing, as a seven-year old girl in China, to see the Moon Lady and be granted a secret wish.*

### **...Bible study and prayer**

Cooper, Floyd, Cumbayah. 0-688-13543-9  
*All over the world people laugh and pray and sing, "Come by here, my Lord."*

Hague, Michael, illus. A Child's Book of Prayers 0-8050-0211-1  
*A collection of short prayers and devotions to share with young children. The illustrations make this a keep-forever book.*

Le Tord, Bijou. Sing a New Song 0-8028-5139-8  
*Graceful watercolors accompany this book of Psalms for children.*

Nursery Bible, The 0-88070-665-1  
*Captures the essence of 45 Bible stories in forty words or less; ideal for children 2 and under.*

Wensell, Ulises. They Followed a Bright Star 0-399-22706-7  
*Retells the story of how an angel led the shepherds and kings to Bethlehem.*

Lindbergh, Reeve. The Circle of Days 0-7636-0357-0  
*From Canticle of the sun by Saint Francis. Rhyming text gives praise and thanks for all of creation.*

Baynes, Pauline. Thanks Be to God: Prayers from around the world 0-02-708541-4  
*Prayers of praise and thanksgiving have been collected and beautifully illustrated.*

Wildsmith, Brian. Exodus 0-8028-5175-4  
*The story of Moses and his leadership of the people of Israel toward the Promised Land.*

Wildsmith, Brian. Joseph 0-8028-5161-4  
*A retelling of the Old Testament story of Joseph.*

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