

Teaching Peace to Children / Learning Peace from Children





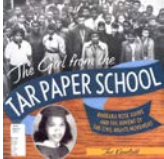
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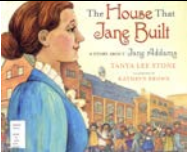




By Anne M. Yoder

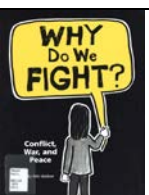
BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TEACHING PEACE & JUSTICE TO CHILDREN

by Anne M. Yoder, February 2018 Updates

	<p>Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman's Race for the Presidency by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen; Illustrated by Courtney A. Martin. 2008</p>	<p><i>In 1884, Belva Lockwood runs for president, focusing her campaign on equality, and she becomes the first woman to receive any votes in the election. From the 1870s onward Lockwood was active with the Universal Peace Union, representing the organization at several international peace congresses.</i></p>
	<p>Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus; Illustrated by Evan Turk. 2016</p>	<p><i>Arun Gandhi tries to follow his grandfather's vows to live simply and nonviolently, but he has trouble following the rule of not wasting anything. After Arun throws away a pencil, Gandhi helps him understand the impact wasteful acts can have on others.</i></p>
	<p>Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 By Michelle Markel; pictures by Melissa Sweet. 2013</p>	<p><i>When she arrives to America and is forced to work in a garment factory instead of attending school, Clara Lemlich vows to take action against the mistreatment of women in the workforce. She goes on to organize the largest strike of female workers in American history.</i></p>
	<p>Escape From Syria by Samya Kullab, Jackie Roche, and Mike Freiheit. 2017</p>	<p><i>After their home is destroyed by a government airstrike, Amina and her family must escape violence in Syria during the Arab Spring revolution.</i></p>
	<p>The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial by Susan E. Goodman; Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. 2016</p>	<p><i>When Sarah Roberts is kicked out of her all-white school in Boston, her parents take legal action, making Roberts v. City of Boston the first court case calling for the desegregation of schools.</i></p>
	<p>The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement by Teri Kanefield. 2014</p>	<p><i>Fed up with their inadequate facilities, sixteen-year-old Barbara Jones leads students from the black high school in Farmville, Virginia, in a peaceful boycott in order to call</i></p>

		<i>attention to the conditions of their school. Their cause gains national attention and helps outlaw segregation in the Brown v. Board of Education decision.</i>
	Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus; illustrated by Evan Turk. 2012	<i>When he and his family move to Grandfather Gandhi's village, Arun feels pressure to live up to the legacy his grandfather has built. Through this personal tale, Arun shares what he learned about living a life of peace from his grandfather.</i>
	The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams by Tanya Lee Stone; illustrated by Kathryn Brown. 2015	<i>Jane Addams always knew that she wanted to help others, so in 1898 she bought a house in a run-down Chicago neighborhood and turned it into Hull-House, where she provided help to the poor. As Hull-House expanded, Jane Addams and her colleagues were able to help hundreds of thousands of people.</i>
	I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark by Debbie Levy; illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley. 2016	<i>This book shares the story of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and how she has spent her life and career objecting to inequality.</i>
	Mahavira: The Hero of Nonviolence by Manoj Jain; illustrated by Demi. 2014	<i>Mahavira, a young prince from India, renounces his wealth and power in order to become a Jain monk. His life of kindness, nonviolence, and forgiveness went on to inspire Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.</i>
	Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr. by Doreen Rappaport; illustrated by Bryan Collier. Circa 2001	<i>This picture book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world's most influential leaders. Doreen Rappaport weaves the immortal words of Dr. King into a captivating narrative to tell the story of his life.</i>

	<p>No! by David McPhail. 2009</p>	<p><i>In this almost wordless picture book, a small boy sets out to deliver a letter and witnesses acts of war on his way. Repeated three times, "No" is the only word in this book. No! dramatizes conflict and its alternatives in a language that's accessible to everyone.</i></p>
	<p>Painting for Peace in Ferguson by Carol Swartout Klein. 2015</p>	<p><i>The story is related of community members of all races coming together to heal Ferguson, Missouri, through art. Told in childlike verse, this book also features actual artwork painted around Ferguson.</i></p>
	<p>The Seagoing Cowboy by Peggy Reiff Miller; Illustrated by Claire Ewart. 2016</p>	<p><i>After World War II, thousands of American men sign up to help transport livestock to those in Europe affected by the war.</i></p>
	<p>Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney; Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. 2010</p>	<p><i>Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of peaceful protest, four young black men challenge segregation in North Carolina by sitting down at a department store lunch counter marked "Whites Only."</i></p>
	<p>Steamboat School by Deborah Hopkinson; Illustrated by Ron Husband. 2016</p>	<p><i>In 1847 St. Louis, Missouri, James and his sister attend a school taught by Reverend Meachum. When a law prohibiting the education of African Americans in their state is passed, Reverend Meachum evades it by holding classes in a boat on the Mississippi River.</i></p>
	<p>Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs; Artwork by Nizar Ali Badr. 2016</p>	<p><i>When their Syrian village is affected by war, Rama and her family must leave in hope of finding a better life.</i></p>







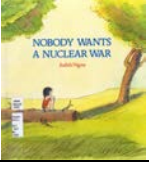
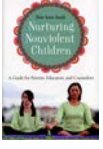

		Why Do We Fight?: Conflict, War, and Peace by Niki Walker. 2013	<i>This book presents the history and many factors of conflict in an attempt to explain conflicts around the world to children.</i>
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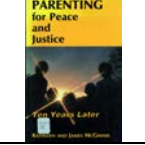
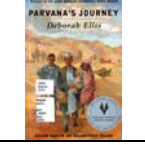

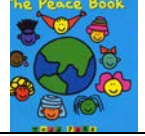
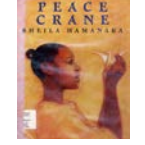
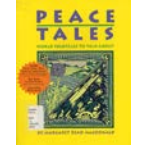

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TEACHING PEACE TO CHILDREN

by Anne M. Yoder, March 2012

	All The Animals Were Angry / by William Wondriska. 1970	<i>With nothing else to do on a hot day in the jungle, the animals make the mistake of pointing out each other's faults.</i>
	As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom by Richard Michelson; illustrated by Raul Colón, 2008	<i>Two icons for social justice form a remarkable friendship and turn their personal experiences of discrimination as children into a message of love and equality for all.</i>
	Bang Bang You're Dead / by Louise Fitzhugh and Sandra Scoppetone; illustrated by Louise Fitzhugh. 1969	<i>A group of children find that while playing war can be fun, real war is no fun at all.</i>
	Big Book For Peace, The / edited by Ann Durell and Marilyn Sachs; written by Lloyd Alexander ... [et al.]; illustrated by Jon Agee ... [et al.]. 1990	<i>The wisdom of peace and the absurdity of fighting are demonstrated in seventeen stories and poems, with images by Maurice Sendak and others.</i>
	Book By Book: An Annotated Guide To young People's Literature With Peacemaking And Conflict Resolution Themes / by Carol Spiegel. 2010	<i>Written by a veteran peace educator, Book by Book leads adults to children's literature that will help students explore themes related to conflict and its resolution, social justice, and appreciation for diversity.</i>
	Butter Battle Book, The / by Dr. Seuss. 1984	<i>Chronicles the feud between the Yooks and the Zooks, from slingshots through sophisticated weaponry, until each side has the capacity to destroy the world.</i>
	Can You Say Peace? / by Karen Katz. 2006	<i>Bright and childlike illustrations introduce the very young to the concept of peace and teach them how to say the word in twenty-two different languages.</i>
	Christmas In The Trenches / by John McCutcheon; illustrated by Henri Sørensen. 2006	<i>A World War I veteran tells his grandson of his experiences in 1914, when British and German soldiers declared a truce from fighting to celebrate Christmas together. Includes an audio CD with a reading of the book and the music on which it is based, by John McCutcheon.</i>



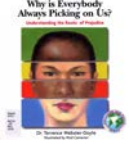
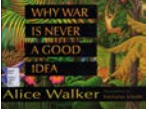
	Composition, The / by Antonio Skármeta; pictures by Alfonso Ruano; English translation by Elisa Amado. 2000	<i>When Daniel's father is arrested from their village in Peru, he and his friend are thrust into a situation where they must grapple with the incomprehensible: dictatorship and its inherent abuses. The illustrations portray a child's view of a repressive society.</i>
	Cumbayah / by Floyd Cooper, 1998	<i>Rooted in the African-American tradition, this song speaks to people of many different cultures, ages and religions. The illustrations show children rejoicing and having fun, as well as dealing with sadness and fear.</i>
	Delivering Justice: W.W. Law And The Fight For Civil Rights / by Jim Haskins; illustrated by Benny Andrews. 2005	<i>Presents the life of W.W. Law, whose efforts resulted in Savannah, Georgia being the first city in the south to end racial discrimination, and to do so with very little violence.</i>
	Dreaming God's Dream: Study Materials for Church, Home And School by Jean Lersch. 1989	<i>Presents lesson outline and learning activities for six age groups (preschool through adult), plus outline and activities for a day-long inter-generational workshop. Designed to help congregations celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and to understand the parallels between his dream and that expressed in Scripture.</i>
	Enemy Pie / by Derek Munson; illustrated by Tara Calahan King. 2000	<i>Hoping that the enemy pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend. An endearing story accompanied by charming illustrations.</i>
	The Enemy: A Book About Peace / by written by Davide Cali; illustrated by Serge Bloch. 2009	<i>After watching an enemy for a very long time during an endless war, a soldier finally creeps out into the night to the other man's foxhole and is surprised by their common humanity.</i>
	Four Feet, Two Sandals / by Karen Lynn Williams, 2007	<i>Two young girls from Afghanistan, living in a refugee camp in Pakistan, first meet after a frenzied crowd has jostled for used clothing that relief workers threw off the back of a truck. Each girl finds one sandal from a matching pair. The sandals become a symbol for sharing and friendship.</i>
	Freedom On The Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins / by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. 2005	<i>The 1960 civil rights sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young Southern black girl.</i>

	Hating Book, The / by Charlotte Zolotow; illustrated by Ben Shecter. 1969	<i>When a girl's friend ignores her completely, bad feelings get out of hand in this gentle look at friendship.</i>
	Jane Addams / by David & Patricia Armentrout. 2002	<i>Jane Addams (1860-1935) was one of the most famous women of her day for her work on behalf of immigrants, and for her efforts for peace. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.</i>
	Kid's Guide To How To Stop The Violence, A / by Ruth Harris Terrell; illustrated by John Paul Genzo. 1992	<i>Discusses violence in society and in the home, its various causes, and possible ways to prevent it.</i>
	King Of The Playground / by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; illustrated by Nola Langner Malone. 1991	<i>Kevin learns to deal with a bossy child at the neighborhood playground.</i>
	Marching For Freedom: Walk Together, Children, And Don't You Grow Weary / by Elizabeth Partridge. 2009	<i>Tells of the three months of protests that culminated in the landmark march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, with a focus on the courageous children who faced violence in order to march alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</i>
	Marianthe's Story One: Painted Words; Marianthe's Story Two: Spoken Memories / by Aliko. 1998	<i>Two separate stories in one book, the first tells of Mari's starting school in a new land, and the second describes village life in her country before she and her family left in search of a better life.</i>
	Nobody Wants A Nuclear War: Story And Pictures / by Judith Vigna. 1986	<i>A mother discovers her small daughter and son have built a shelter to protect themselves from nuclear attack.</i>
	Nurturing Nonviolent Children: A Guide For Parents, Educators, And Counselors / by Elsie Jones-Smith. 2008	<i>Offers research and vignettes to recognize the growing problem of violence in youth, understand its causes, and help adults closest to children know techniques to nurture nonviolence as a way of life. Also gives tips for parents, teachers, and counselors, on teaching impulse control and anger management, and instilling empathy, the antidote to violence.</i>
	On the Wings of Peace / by assorted authors, 1995	<i>Famous authors and illustrators present a collection of prose and poetry exploring aspects of peace, from issues of personal and community violence to international conflict.</i>

	<p>One Peace: True Stories Of Young Activists / written and illustrated by Janet Wilson. 2008</p>	<p><i>Accounts the stories of children and youth who have been refugees from war, injured by land mines, or learned about the consequences of violence through other means, interspersed with children's poems, quotes, artwork, and photographs. For Grades 4-8.</i></p>
	<p>Paper Crane Journey: Carrying Sadako's Prayer / by Umino Shiho; illustrated by Karino Fukiko; translated by Keiko Miyamoto and Steve Leeper. 2003 [English translation pasted on each page]</p>	<p><i>Tells the stories of Sadako and children's efforts to remember her, including raising monuments in Hiroshima and Albuquerque.</i></p>
	<p>Parenting For Peace And Justice: Ten Years Later / by James McGinnis and Kathleen McGinnis. 1990</p>	<p><i>Shares wisdom about parenting, from a faith perspective; the chapter on what they learned since the first edition of their book was published is especially worth reading.</i></p>
	<p>Parvana's Journey / by Deborah Ellis. 2002</p>	<p><i>Bombs are falling, and Parvana, 13, leaves Kabul to find her family. Masquerading as a boy, she travels across Afghanistan. A sequel to "The Breadwinner."</i></p>
	<p>Peace Begins With You / by Katherine Scholes; illustrated by Robert Ingpen. 1990</p>	<p><i>Explains, in simple terms, the concept of peace, why conflicts occur, how they can be resolved in positive ways, and how to protect peace.</i></p>
	<p>Peace Book, The / by Todd Parr. 2004</p>	<p><i>Describes peace as making new friends, sharing a meal, feeling good about yourself, and more.</i></p>
	<p>Peace Crane / by Sheila Hamanaka. 1995</p>	<p><i>After learning about the Peace Crane, created by Sadako, a survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima, a young African American girl wishes it would carry her away from the violence of her own world.</i></p>
	<p>Peace Tales: World Folktales To Talk About / compiled by Margaret Read MacDonald; illustrated by Zobra Anasazi. 1992</p>	<p><i>A collection of folktales from cultures around the world, reflecting different aspects of war and peace.</i></p>
	<p>Petar's Song / by Pratima Mitchell; illustrated by Caroline Binch. 2003</p>	<p><i>Petar loves music, and his violin keeps the whole village dancing. But when war breaks out, Petar, his mother, and his brother have to flee the village to safety, leaving their beloved father behind with the other men. Petar is so sad that he can no longer play his violin. One day a new song starts to form in his head, a song of peace and new beginnings.</i></p>

	<p>Piece Of Forever, A / by Laurel Dee Gugler. 2008</p>	<p><i>Tells nuanced story of a Mennonite girl and her questions during the Korean War era. Portrays conscientious objectors and military veterans as real people with inner conflicts about war and bravery. For girls especially, aged 10-12; sequel to "Catching Forever," part of the Lorimer Streetlights series.</i></p>
	<p>Place Where Sunflowers Grow, A = Sabaku Ni Saita Himawari / by Amy Lee-Tai; illustrated by Felicia Hoshino; Japanese translation by Marc Akio Lee. 2006</p>	<p><i>Mari's family and thousands of other Japanese Americans have been sent to live in a grim internment camp during World War II. Somehow, glimmers of hope begin to surface — in the eyes of a kindly art teacher, in the tender words of Mari's parents, and in the smile of a new friend.</i></p>
	<p>Plant A Seed Of Peace / by Rebecca Seiling; illustrated by Brooke Rothshank. 2007</p>	<p><i>Contains forty-three stories of peacemakers from today and the past telling of people whose lives point to something beyond themselves -- a transforming faith in God. Readers learn how to put their faith into action so they too can grow a better world.</i></p>
	<p>Playing War / by Kathy Beckwith; illustrated by Lea Lyon. 2005</p>	<p><i>Four boys enjoy dividing into soldiers and enemies to play war, but when Sameer, a new boy in the neighborhood, tells of losing his family in a real war, they feel differently about the game.</i></p>
	<p>Sadako And The Thousand Paper Cranes / by Eleanor Coerr; illustrated by Ronald Himler. 1977</p>	<p><i>Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.</i></p>
	<p>Saying No To Violence: Children And Peace / by Jan Melichar and Margaret Melicharova. 2000</p>	<p><i>Casts a critical eye at the way we teach children to accept violence as natural and inevitable, suggesting alternative strategies for parents and teachers, including curriculum-based lesson plans.</i></p>
	<p>Seeds Of Change: Planting A Path To Peace / by Jen Cullerton Johnson; illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler. 2010</p>	<p><i>A biographical sketch of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a female scientist who made a stand in the face of opposition to women's rights and her own Greenbelt Movement, an effort to restore Kenya's ecosystem by planting millions of trees.</i></p>
	<p>Sensing Peace / by Suzana Yoder; illustrated by Rachel Hoffman-Bayles. 2010</p>	<p><i>Children aged 4 to 7 are encouraged to see what peace looks, sounds, feels, tastes and smells like in everyday things like laughing, cooking, gardening, singing or sharing ice cream, things they already experience and can recreate.</i></p>

	Sitti's Secrets / by Naomi Shihab Nye; illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. 1994	<i>A young girl describes a visit to see her grandmother in a Palestinian village on the West Bank.</i>
	Somewhere Today: A Book Of Peace / by Shelley Moore Thomas; photographs by Eric Futran. 1998	<i>Gives examples of ways in which people bring about peace by doing things to help and care for one another and their world.</i>
	Stolen Voices: Young People's War Diaries, From World War I To Iraq / edited with commentaries by Zlata Filipović and Melanie Challenger; foreword by Olara A. Otunnu. 2006	<i>Presents fourteen diaries of adolescents coping with the gritty realities of life during war, from World War I to the war in Iraq.</i>
	Talk Peace / by Sam Williams; illustrated by Mique Moriuchi. 2005	<i>Calls for all people of the world, wherever they are and whatever they are doing, to talk peace.</i>
	Teaching Young Children In Violent Times: Building A Peaceable Classroom / by Diane E. Levin; foreword by Deborah Prothrow-Stith. 1994	<i>A preschool through grade three violence prevention and conflict resolution guide.</i>
	Try This: Family Adventures Toward Shalom / by the Ecumenical Task Force on Christian Education for World Peace. 1979	<i>Provides numerous "activities to learn the ways of peace," which, with a little updating, may still be useful to teachers and parents.</i>
	Tug of War: Peace Through Understanding Conflict / by Terrence Webster-Doyle ; illustrated by Rod Cameron. 1990	<i>Helps children deal with conflict and violence by describing practical skills for peace.</i>
	Volcano In My Tummy, A: Helping Children To Handle Anger. A Resource Book For Parents, Caregivers And Teacher / by Warwick Pudney and Eliane Whitehouse. 1996	<i>Provides exercises and advice on teaching conflict management and other skills.</i>
	Walk In Peace / by Ingrid Hess. 2009	<i>Children are sent out each day with a prayer for protection and with a loving reminder to walk in peace.</i>

	<p>What Does Peace Feel Like? / by V. Radunsky. 2004</p>	<p><i>Simple text and illustrations portray what peace looks, sounds, tastes, feels, and smells like to children around the world.</i></p>
	<p>Why Is Everybody Always Picking On Me?: A Guide To Understanding [Handling] Bullies, For Young People / by Terrence Webster-Doyle; illustrated by Rod Cameron. 1991</p>	<p><i>Stories and activities demonstrate how to resolve conflicts nonviolently and how to peacefully confront hostile aggression.</i></p>
	<p>Why Is Everybody Always Picking On Us?: Understanding The Roots Of Prejudice / by Terrence Webster-Doyle; illustrated by Rod Cameron. 2000</p>	<p><i>Provides sensitive advice, creative stories, and insights about how to peacefully cope with prejudice. For ages 8-14.</i></p>
	<p>Why War Is Never A Good Idea / by Alice Walker; illustrations by Stefano Vitale. 2007</p>	<p><i>Simple, rhythmic text explores the wanton destructiveness of war, which has grown old but not wise, as it demolishes nice people and beautiful things with no consideration for the consequences.</i></p>

For more information on (almost) all of these titles, search the online library catalog at

<http://tripodclassic.brynmawr.edu>

Note that these titles are available through interlibrary loan.

OTHER IDEAS FOR TEACHING PEACE TO CHILDREN

by Anne M. Yoder, March 2012 [updated February 2018]

Take the pledge not to use your hands or words to hurt anyone.

<http://handsproject.org/our-logo/> (to order DVD “Hands and Words Are Not For Hurting” and other activities)

Plant peace rocks along your walkways and in your gardens, at home / school / church / neighborhood center.

<http://www.plantingrocksforpeace.org/>

Celebrate International Peace Day.

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/peace-day> [updated February 2018]

Cherish the earth.

<http://www.planetpals.com/>

Learn about peace symbols used throughout history.

<http://www.sanantoniopeace.center/dictionary-of-peace-symbols/> [updated February 2018]

Control your anger. Stop bullies.

<https://lynnenamka.com/kids/> [updated February 2018]

Find peace education material for school teachers and parents.

<https://peacelearningcenter.org/> [updated February 2018]

Learn how to get along with others from the dinosaurs.

<http://www.doonething.org/stories/dino-cool/index.htm> [updated February 2018]

See how kids have been peace creators, and follow their example.

<http://kidsforpeaceglobal.org/> [new February 2018]

Imagine whirled peace!

<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/pinwheelsforpeace/home.html>

Read even more books about children and peace!

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2014/09/childrens-books-peace/> [new February 2018]

Notes from Talk by Anne M. Yoder (Given On March 10, 2012)

Using Book Covers and Pages to Illustrate Points

(all but three of the books used [see bibliography] were borrowed from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection)

Presentation sponsored by the Eastern District Conference and Franconia Mennonite Conference Peace & Justice Committee

How do we define peace? How do we explain it to children? How do they explain it to us?

- Shalom is God's vision for heaven and earth.
- Peacemaking is a melding of spirituality and action. It's not just a private thing; God cares how we bring peace to all.
- It can incorporate various movements that have helped bring peace and justice to people throughout history. The civil rights movement, based on nonviolence, is particularly useful in this.

If we stick with only Mennonite sources, we have only a small array to choose from.

- Not much has been published in the past dozen years. It's surprising that a denomination that prides itself on its peace history does so little in providing print resources for teaching peace to children. I can only think of a few titles published in the past 10 years!

Thankfully, peace is a subject that has found voice around the world as a universal, timeless theme.

- Why not use non-Mennonite sources that help us tell a fuller story? (There would still be peacemakers and conscientious objectors even if the Mennonites were not around.)

What can we do to teach peace:

- Make it do-able for kids. Kids *can* make peace. Find ways of conveying this as you share about everyday life.
- Older books are not as eye-catching to children, but they still have good lessons.
- Use humor! (for kids and adults)
- Bright and colorful illustrations help kids know that peace is a good thing, and that there is something hopeful in a dark and scary world.
- Words have power to heal or hurt. Examine yours and help kids learn words that speak peace or say no to those things that are evil. Learn from practitioners such as Martin Luther King Jr.
- Use teachable moments that come up naturally.
- Sing familiar and new songs, and find words within the songs that help illustrate the need for peace (example: *Cumbayah*).
- Pray for peace for all children; pray with children; pray using children's prayers.
- Tell stories of immigration, war, pain. How is peace a part of the solution?

Some people say "I just want to follow Jesus" as if that does not include a component of peacemaking and peacebuilding – taking risks, learning skills, caring about shalom for all. Peacemakers follow Jesus by being reconcilers, breaking down dividing walls of hostility and prejudice:

- Urban vs. rural
- U.S. vs. other countries
- Racial divides
- Rich vs. poor
- The church is the body of Christ, and we belong to the human family as well. We need each other to be at peace and to bring about peace for all.

Many children – and adults – do not realize the full effects of violence and war. These:

- Use up resources of money (with trillions going toward creating bigger and better weapons systems) and talent and imagination. What a waste! Why not use it to produce something life-giving?
- Kill people indiscriminately, including children.
- Interrupt lives.
- Displace children and their families from their homes. Some never can return.
- Damage the earth.
- Make children even more vulnerable (used for information, for sex, for unpaid labor, as killers of other children and adults).
- Brainwash us about who our enemies are.
- Create fear and the urge to retaliate.
- Generate prejudice and bullying.

Who are our heroines and heroes? We emulate those who live out our values.

- Jane Addams co-established Hull-House in Chicago as a resource for the immigrant population there. She and other women very bravely traveled to the belligerent nations of Europe as World War I was just beginning, begging their leaders to sign non-aggression pacts. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. She is still studied by scholars and schoolchildren (in National History Day, etc.) alike, but often her peace work is ignored. Fill in the blanks by educating your children (and their teachers perhaps) about Addams' tireless efforts for peace for 20 years.
- Those who have taken risks for peace, especially as godly men and women, such as Martin Luther King Jr.
- Even ordinary people can make a huge difference through persistence (people of color included – they are and have been actors on the behalf of themselves and others, and not just the recipients).
- Parents can be models and teachers. Try some family activities to learn about peace.

We make a big mistake if we think we have everything to impart to kids. Children themselves have much to teach us.

- Listen to their stories, see their pain, their hopes and dreams.
- Be engaged by their questions.
- Ponder their words.
- Appreciate their amazing perception, courage, and honesty.
- Learn from their example!

Perhaps our children won't be doing yoga with us in the end. But together we can keep hope alive for a better world, based on God's vision, example and spirit of shalom!