

Great Reading for FeelingBeing Children **Ages 9 through 12**

For children between 10 through 12 years of age (*the heart of the FeelingBeing* (FB) years), inspiration is of utmost importance. Inspirational stories—whether they be of the birth/death/rebirth cycle, of a spiritual nature, myths, or simply about the human challenge of facing adversity--are essential for the development of deep feeling. Connection to others, one's place in community, and facing death are central concerns of the FeelingBeing child. Through story, inspiration moves us. Sharing such stories aloud fulfills the need for real life inspiration and connection. Use feeling words about your own emotions to talk with your child about aspects of the unfolding story.

Through reading inspirational literature, the child's emotional literacy often expands to feel the meaning in any text. Innuendoes often become apparent, and understanding of character and plot expand tremendously. Children often vicariously travel to new worlds, feeling the feelings of the characters and trying on their personas while expanding horizons in relationship to what inspires the child.

At EnCompass, we have been adding books to this list of inspirational literature since 1995. There are over 65 books in our FB bibliography and each year we add on few more. Unfortunately many young people's books go out of print almost as fast as they are printed. If your library doesn't have some of these titles, try used bookstores. There are many used-books cites on the internet as well (e.g., www.abebooks.com, amazon.com, alibris.com, and many more). You can often find online reviews on these sites. The important thing is simply to begin, and find that common place where minds can meet, discovery can happen, and the parent/child relationship can flourish.

This is not an exhaustive list of all that is available in children's literature. Please let us know about your favorites. If you have found an inspirational book that is not on this list, please write and tell us about it. In the meantime, Enjoy!

Josette Luvmour, MA in Human Development

Annotated Bibliography

Babbitt, N. (1987). Tuck everlasting: A novel. Santa Barbara, CA, ABC-CLIO.

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older. The Tuck family had drunk from the spring of eternal life, for better or worse. When Winnie Foster stumbles upon their secret, the Tucks take her home to tell why staying the same age is not as good as it seems. All seems well until they are followed by a stranger who wants to sell the water for a fortune.

Banks, L. R. (1992). One more river. New York, Morrow Junior Books.

Fourteen-year-old Lesley is upset when her parents abandon their comfortable life in Canada for a kibbutz in Israel prior to the 1967 war.

Banks, L. R. and B. Cole (1980). The Indian in the cupboard. Garden City, NY, Doubleday.

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Banks, L. R. and B. Geldart (1989). The return of the Indian. Santa Barbara, CA, Cornerstone Books.

A year after he sends his Indian friend, Little Bear, back into the magic cupboard, Omri decides to bring him back, only to find that he is close to death and in need of help. Sequel to "The Indian in the Cupboard."

Banks, L. R. and T. Lewin (1989). The secret of the Indian. New York, Doubleday.

In this third book about Omri and his magic cupboard, Omri and his friend Patrick must risk grownups' discovering their secret when they find themselves in need of a friend's toy plastic doctors to save wounded people from the dangerous world of the Old West which the cupboard enables them to enter.

Barron, T. A. (1990). Heartlight. New York, Philomel Books.

Kate and her grandfather use one of his inventions to travel faster than the speed of light on a mission to save the sun from a premature death.

Barron, T. A. (1992). The Ancient One. New York, Philomel Books.

While helping her Great Aunt Melanie try to protect an Oregon redwood forest from loggers, thirteen-year-old Kate goes back five centuries through a time tunnel and faces the evil creature Gashra, who is bent on destroying the same forest.

Bolden, T. (2002). 33 things every girl should know about women's history: From suffragettes to skirt lengths to the ERA. New York, Crown Publishers.

For age 12+: Uses poems, essays, letters, photographs and more to present the actions and achievements of women in the United States, from its beginnings up through the twentieth century.

Boone, J. A. (1954). Kinship with all life. New York, Harper.

Boone, J. A., P. H. Leonard, et al. (1990). Adventures in kinship with all life. Joshua Tree, CA, Tree of Life Publications.

Buck, W. (1976). The Ramayana: Retold by William Buck. Berkeley, University of California Press.

Classic Hindu Mythology. In Ramayana (written by a poet known to us as Valmiki), William Buck has retold the story of Prince Rama (with all its nobility of spirit, courtly intrigue, heroic renunciation, fierce battles, and triumph of good over evil) in a length and manner that will make the great Indian epics accessible to the contemporary reader. Part One: Om! I bow to Lord Narayana, To Lady Lakshmi of Good Fortune, To Hanuman the best of monkeys, And to Saraswati, The Goddess of words and stories: JAYA! Victory!

Carter, F. (1986). The education of Little Tree. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press.

Cooper, S. and M. Gill (1989). Dawn of fear. New York, Aladdin Books.

Three English children, fascinated by the war air raids, gradually become aware of true fear and horror when they seek vengeance on an opposing gang that destroyed their hideaway.

De Jong, M. (1954). The wheel on the school. New York,, Harper.

De Jong, M. (1969). The Wheel on the school. [Sound recording], Newbery Award Records. Based on the book by Meindert De Jong. Children's play. "The music" ... written by Dutch composers and played by the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra.

DiCamillo, K. and T. B. Ering (2003). The tale of Despereaux: Being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread. Cambridge, Mass., Candlewick Press.

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Ende, M. (1984). The neverending story. Boston, MASS, G.K. Hall.

"The story begins with a lonely boy named Bastian and the strange book that draws him into the beautiful but doomed world of Fantastica. Only a human can save this enchanted place—by giving its ruler, the Childlike Empress, a new name. But the journey to her tower leads through lands of dragons, giants, monsters, and magic—and once Bastian begins his quest, he may never return. As he is drawn deeper into Fantastica, he must find the courage to face unspeakable foes and the mysteries of his own heart" (Book, inside flap, 1984).

Fitzhugh, L. (2001). The long secret. New York, Delacorte Press.

While at the beach for the summer, Harriet tries to uncover the author of mysterious religious notes that appear all over town and which make her ponder her own beliefs, and Beth Ellen meets the mother she last saw when she was four years old.

Gates, D. and P. Lantz (1940). Blue willow. New York, Viking Press.

A little girl, who wants most of all to have a real home and to go to a regular school, hopes that the valley her family has come to, which so resembles the pattern on her treasured blue willow plate, will be their permanent home.

George, J. C., J. C. George, et al. (2000). My side of the mountain trilogy. New York, Dutton Children's Books.

Gold, M. and L. Fitzhugh (2005). Harriet the spy, double agent. New York, Delacorte Press.

While spying on her New York City neighborhood with a new friend, Annie, twelve-year-old Harriet decides that the only way to learn Annie's many secrets is to spy on her, as well.

Gray, H. M., S. Phillips, et al. (2005). Real girl, real world: A guide to finding your true self. Emeryville, CA, Seal Press.

For age 12+: Teenage girls Juvenile literature. Self-esteem in adolescence - Juvenile literature. Self-perception in adolescence. Sexual ethics. Feminine beauty (Aesthetics).

Hallie, P. P. (1994). Lest innocent blood be shed: The story of the village of Le Chambon and how goodness happened there. New York, HarperPerennial.

Hamilton, V. (1982). Sweet whispers, Brother Rush. New York, Philomel Books.

Fourteen-year-old Tree, resentful of her working mother who leaves her in charge of a retarded brother, encounters the ghost of her dead uncle and comes to a deeper understanding of her family's problems.

Hamilton, V. (1983). The magical adventures of Pretty Pearl. New York, Harper & Row.

Pretty Pearl, a spirited young African god child eager to show off her powers, travels to the New World where, disguised as a human, she lives among a band of free blacks who have created their own separate world deep inside a vast forest. One day she sees the black people in slavery. For her love of the people she wants to help them. With the protective spirits from her big brother she sets out on her journey to help the people.

Hautzig, E. R. (1987). The endless steppe: Growing up in Siberia. New York, Harper & Row.

During World War II, when she was eleven years old, the author and her family were arrested in Poland by the Russians as political enemies and exiled to Siberia. She recounts here the trials of the following five years spent on the harsh Asian steppe.

Hill, J. B. (2000). The legacy of Luna: The story of a tree, a woman, and the struggle to save the redwoods. [San Francisco], Harper San Francisco.

Hill, J. B. and J. Hurley (2002). One makes the difference: Inspiring actions that change our world. San Francisco, HarperSanFrancisco.

Environmental responsibility.

Hoose, P. M. (1993). It's our world, too! Stories of young people who are making a difference. Boston, Joy Street Books.

Child volunteers United States Juvenile literature. Social action in the United States. Community development and volunteers in the US. Social action.

Hoose, P. M. (2001). We were there, too! Young people in U.S. history. New York, Farrar Straus Giroux.

Biographies of dozens of young people who made a mark in American history, including explorers, planters, spies, cowpunchers, sweatshop workers, and civil rights workers.

Houston, J. W. and J. D. Houston (2002). Farewell to Manzanar: A true story of Japanese American experience during and after the World War II internment. Boston, Houghton Mifflin.

Howker, J. (1986). Isaac Champion. New York, Greenwillow Books.

After the death of his idolized older brother, twelve-year-old Isaac's relationship with his horse dealer father grows even worse as he sees his father's obsession with hatred poison their family's life.

Howker, J. (1987). Badger on the barge, and other stories. New York, Puffin Books.

A collection of five short stories set in the small towns of northern England, exploring complex relationships and rare understandings among the young and old.

Howker, J. and A. Browne (1995). The topiary garden. New York, Orchard Books.

Camping with her father and brother at a motorcycle rally, young artist Liz Jackson meets an old woman named Sally Beck who disguised herself as a boy in her youth and worked as a gardener's assistant at Carlton Hall.

Howker, J. and S. Fox-Davies (2002). Walk with a wolf. Cambridge, MASS, Candlewick Press.

After a lone hungry wolf finds companions whose combined strength drags down an old moose, the entire pack sleeps through a blizzard and dreams of the return of spring.

Hughes, K. W. and L. Wolf (1997). Daughters of the moon, sisters of the sun: Young women & mentors on the transition to womanhood. Stony Creek, CT, New Society Publishers.

Book Description: Making the transition into womanhood is a time of great potential, challenge, discovery, courage and confusion. Girls often face the journey alone, risking their sense of self and purpose along the way. *Daughters of the Moon, Sisters of the Sun* provides validation, support and vision through powerful and compelling autobiographical stories gathered from more than forty teenage girls, over half of whom participated weekly in a two-year focus group. By sharing themselves intimately on topics ranging from bulimia, anorexia, body image, peer pressure and terminal illness, to empowered relationships with males, lesbianism, pregnancy, motherhood, drug exploration, sexuality, abuse and suicide, these young women explore the process of discovery, healing and developing self-esteem. Candid narratives are accompanied by interviews with accomplished women mentors. In *Daughters of the Moon, Sisters of the Sun*, women and girls will recognize themselves and each other and the ageless and timeless struggle of all young women to evolve to be who and what they are. Women mentors in the book are: Bella Abzug, Michele Akers, Maya Angelou, Byllye Avery, Angela Davis, Riane Eisler, Carol Gilligan, the Indigo Girls, Jean Kilbourne, Wilma Mankiller, Anisa Romero, Starhawk, Lindsay Wagner, Barbara Walker, Marion Woodman.

Hyde, D. O. (2000). Sandy: The sandhill crane who joined our family. Corvallis OR, Oregon State University Press.

True story. Dayton Hyde's observations on the plight of our endangered native species are still so fresh and relevant that it's hard to believe the book is over 30 years old! This book is a charming love story about Hyde's passion for Sandhill Cranes and his adventures with them over twenty years while ranching in Oregon and raising a family of five human children and assorted other wildlife (Reviewer: Anne E. McCune, Book buyer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History).

Hyde, D. O. (2004). Don coyote: The good times and the bad times of a much maligned American original. Boulder, Johnson Books.

Hyde discusses observing wild coyotes and hand-raising coyote pups. His primary and most compelling theme in this book is the harmonious interdependence of species in any successful ecosystem. Surrounded by ranchers bent on wiping out coyotes and other pests with guns, poison, and other sophisticated weapons, Hyde instead actively encouraged the presence of predator and prey on his Oregon cattle

ranch. He even built a dam to re-create an ancient lake. The result was a banner year: solar heat trapped by lake water moderated frosts, causing grasses and marsh plants to flourish. (Review by: Laurie Tynan, Huntingdon Cty. Lib., Pa.).

Kidd, S. M. (2002). The secret life of bees. New York, Viking.

For age 12+. "In Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, 14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their Georgia peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. These consoling fantasies are her heart's answer to the family story that as a child, in unclear circumstances, Lily accidentally shot and killed her mother. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. *The Secret Life of Bees* is a carefully crafted novel with an inspired depiction of character" (Regina Marler, 2002).

Kielburger, C. and K. Major (1999). Free the children: A young man's personal crusade against child labor and proves that children can change the world. New York, HarperCollins.

This is a story of one child's transformation from a middle-class kid from the suburbs to an activist, fighting against child labor on the world stage of international human rights (back cover, 1999).

Le Guin, U. K. (1991). Searoad: Chronicles of Klatsand. New York, HarperCollins.

Le Guin, U. K. (1991). A wizard of Earthsea. New York, Maxwell Macmillan International Pub. Group.

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard. Fantasy about sorcerers, priestesses', dragons and adventure. Age 12+.

Le Guin, U. K. (2002). Tales from Earthsea. New York, Ace Books.

Explores further the magical world of Earthsea through five tales of events which occur before or after the time of the original novels, as well as an essay on the people, languages, history and magic of the place.

Le Guin, U. K. (2004). Four ways to forgiveness: Stories. New York, Perennial.

From the back cover: "At the far end of our universe, on the twin planets of Werel and Yeowe, all humankind is divided into "assets" and "owners," tradition and liberation are at war, and freedom takes many forms. Here is a society as complex and troubled as any on our world, peopled with unforgettable characters struggling to become fully human. For the disgraced revolutionary Abberkam, the callow "space brat" Solly, the haughty soldier Teyeo, and the Ekumen historian and Hainish exile Havzhiva, freedom and duty both begin in the heart, and success as well as failure has its costs. In this stunning collection of four intimately interconnected novellas, Ursula K. Le Guin returns to the great themes that have made her one of America's most honored and respected authors" (back cover, 2004).

Le Guin, U. K. and A. Barrow (1988). A visit from Dr. Katz. New York, Atheneum.

Although Marianne is sick and has to stay in bed, she is cheered up by medicinal treatment from her two cats.

Le Guin, U. K. and G. Garraty (1988). The tombs of Atuan. Boston, Mass., G.K. Hall.
Arha's isolated existence as high priestess in the tombs of Atuan is jarred by a thief who seeks a special treasure.

Le Guin, U. K. and Juvenile Collection (Library of Congress) (1990). Tehanu: The last book of Earthsea. New York, Atheneum.

When Sparrowhawk, the Archmage of Earthsea, returns from the dark land stripped of his magic powers, he finds refuge with the aging widow Tenar and a crippled girl child who carries an unknown destiny.

Leslie, R. F. (1974). In the shadow of a rainbow: The true story of a friendship between man and wolf. New York,, Norton.

Lewis, C. S. and P. Baynes (2005). The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe. New York, HarperEntertainment.

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist its ruler, the golden lion Aslan, in defeating the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Little, J. (1984). Mama's going to buy you a mockingbird. New York, Viking Kestrel.

Young Jeremy and Sarah learn to cope with their grief and drastically changed lifestyle during their father's battle with cancer, which forces their mother to sell their house and return to school full time.

Lopez, B. H. (1990). Crow and Weasel. San Francisco, North Point Press.

Indians of North America Fiction. "Long ago, when people and animals spoke the same language, two young men left their tribe to make an adventurous voyage through the wilderness, into the unknown northland. Set in the mythic past and inspired by the traditions of the North American Plains people, this fable of self-discovery follows Crow and Weasel as they face unfamiliar perils on a quest for knowledge and wisdom. Conquering their innermost fears, the two heroes come of age and learn more than they ever could have imagined—about humanity's relationship to the land, the importance of respecting other peoples and giving thanks, and even the very nature of friendship itself" (Back cover of the book, 1990).

Lowry, L. (2005). Number the stars. New York, Yearling Book.

It's 1943 Copenhagen during the German occupation of Denmark, and the Jews of Denmark are being "relocated," so ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen's best friend, Ellen, moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. When Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission, she must find the courage to save her friend's life. Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Magorian, M. (1981). Good night, Mr. Tom. New York, Harper & Row.

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during the Second World War.

Nikkah, J. and L. Furman (2000). Our boys speak: Adolescent boys write about their inner lives. New York, St. Martin's Griffin.

For age 12+. From Library Journal: Teenage boys find their voice in this collection of writings on socially relevant issues ranging from sex and sports to premature death, teenage "angst," and drug/alcohol use. The author, a graduate student in clinical psychology (New Sch. for Social Research. Each chapter begins with the author's recollections of a topic, which slide seamlessly into the boys' own prose and poetry. The selections are fairly short, predictably uneven in quality, and skewed to the middle-class experience. However, most suggest a wider emotional range and depth than is typically ascribed to young men barely out of their "wonder years." This book could be valuable for stimulating discussion among teenage boys as well as a tool for understanding the mindset of this demographic group.

North, S. and J. Schoenherr (2004). Rascal. New York, Puffin Books.

The author recalls his carefree life in a small midwestern town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

Paulsen, G. (1987). Dancing Carl. New York, Puffin Books.

As winter progresses, the strange man in the worn flight jacket dances frequently on the ice of the rink, expressing more with his movements than most people do with words.

Sebestyen, O. (1979). Words by heart. Boston, Little, Brown.

A young black girl struggles to fulfill her papa's dream of a better future for their family in the southwestern town where, in 1910, they are the only blacks.

Smucker, B. C. and C. Lilly (1978). Runaway to freedom: A story of the Underground Railway. New York, Harper & Row.

Two young slave girls escape from a plantation in Mississippi and wind a hazardous route toward freedom in Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Steig, W. (1976). Abel's island. New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Book: Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Steig, W. and W. Griffis (1978). Abel's island. New York, Newbery Award Records.

Audio Cassette: Presents the story of a mouse named Abel who discovers his inner resources and abilities when he is stranded on an uninhabited island.

Taylor, M. D. (1981). Let the circle be unbroken. New York, Dial Press.

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.

Taylor, M. D. (1992). The road to Memphis. New York, Puffin Books.

In 1941 a black youth, sadistically teased by two white boys in rural Mississippi, severely injures one of them with a tire iron and enlists Cassie's help in trying to flee the state.

Taylor, M. D. (2001). Roll of thunder, hear my cry. New York, Dial Books.

A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

Taylor, M. D. and J. Pinkney (2003). Song of the trees. New York, Puffin Books.

During the Depression, a rural black family deeply attached to the forest on their land tries to save it from being cut down by an unscrupulous white man. Cassie's daddy had gone to Louisiana to lay track for the railway to get money to send to his family back in Mississippi. That's when the trouble began. Mr. Anderson cheats Big Ma into selling the huge trees in the forest surrounding their house. Cassie must save her beloved trees. Other books by Taylor include: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*; *The Road to Memphis*.

Wartski, M. C. (1979). My brother is special. Philadelphia, PA, Westminster Press.

Eighth grader Noni Harlow hopes to solve several problems by entering her younger, mentally retarded brother in the Special Olympics, but on the morning of the competition Kip must be so heavily sedated that it appears he won't be able to run the relay.

Wartski, M. C. (1988). My name is nobody. New York, Walker.

A desperate teenager on the brink of suicide is rescued by a retired policeman who gives the boy a home and an appreciation for life. (For age 12+)

Wartski, M. C. and D. Teicher (1980). A boat to nowhere. Philadelphia, Westminster Press.

Fleeing from agents of the new communist government in Vietnam, an old man and three children begin an endless and seemingly hopeless struggle for survival as boat people.

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