

Clifford's Big Ideas Book List

The following is a list of Clifford's 10 Big Ideas along with book titles that are helpful in teaching these concepts to young children.

Share

Dear Annie by Judith Casey. New York: Greenwillow Books. 1991.

From the time of her birth, Annie's grandfather has been her pen pal. When Annie brings her decorated shoebox filled with his 86 letters and cards to school, all the children decide they want pen pals, too! They set up a "mail from everybody" bulletin board.

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins. New York: Greenwillow Books. 1986.

Victoria and Sam's mother bakes 12 cookies 6 for each. Friends arrive just as they are ready to eat them. Each time the doorbell rings brings more friends and a new division of the cookies. Now at 12 friends, with one cookie for each, the doorbell rings again with unexpected results.

Have Respect

A Chair for my Mother by Vera B. Williams. Greenwillow Books, 1984.

This is a story of a young girl who, along with her waitress mother, saves coins in a jar because they want to buy a big, new, comfortable chair for their apartment, after losing all their furniture in a fire.

Yoko by Rosemary Wells. Hyperion Press, 1998.

When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of her. Fortunately, Yoko's teacher concocts a plan to stop the teasing.

Work Together

Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young. Philomel Books, 1992.

In this Indian fable, each blind mouse visits the elephant and declares that he has discovered a pillar, a snake, a cliff, a spear, a fan, or a rope. But a seventh mouse, the only one to investigate the whole something is able to discern that it is an elephant.

The Rooster who Went to his Uncle's Wedding by Alma Ada, Econo-Clad Books, 1998.

A rooster needs to clean his beak in time for a wedding, but the grass refuses to help him, so he asks the lamb to eat the grass. So begins a cumulative folktale narrated in a rhythmic cadenza. (Also available in Spanish.)

Play Fair

Stone Soup by Marcia Brown. Aladdin Books. 1987.

First published in 1947, this classic tale is about three hungry soldiers who outwit the greedy inhabitants of a village into providing them with a feast.

Little Red Hen (Makes A Pizza) by Philemon Sturges and illustrated by Amy Walrod

This is a creatively modern twist on a classic tale of cooperation and contribution. Both the characters and the collage illustrations are very kid-friendly.

Be Kind

My Best Friend by Pat Hutchins. New York: Greenwillow Books. 1993.

When her best friend comes over to spend the night, a little girl is glad that her friend can run faster, jump higher and draw wonderful pictures. She's also happy that she can reassure her friend when she is frightened by the noises of the night and to hear that she's her best friend, too.

Owl Moon by Jane Yoland and illustrated by John Schoenherr

Through a moonlight journey on a winter's night, this story hosts a surprising introduction to kindness to and appreciation of animals.

Be Responsible

Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss. New York: Random House. 1940.

When a lazy bird hatching an egg wants a vacation, she asks Horton the elephant to sit on her egg. He persists through all sorts of hazards until he is rewarded for doing what he said he would.

Babushka's Doll by Patricia Polacco. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 1990.

Babushka (grandmother) has a special doll. She gives it to her granddaughter Natasha while she goes to the store. When the naughty doll comes to life, she is even more rambunctious than Natasha who finds out why playing once with Babushka's doll is enough.

Be Truthful

A Day's Work by Eve Bunting. New York: Clarion. 1994.

Francisco learns the value of telling the truth when he and his grandfather are hired to do gardening for a day. Grandfather, who is a new arrival in America, acts honorably and saves the day.

Big Fat Enormous Lie by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. New York: E.P. Dutton. 1978. When his father asked if he ate the jar of cookies, a little boy is afraid to admit it. Although he is sorry afterward, the lie follows him in the form of an enormous green monster. After he admits his mistake, the monster shrinks and disappears. (Also has a Spanish language version)

Believe in Yourself

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus. Windmill Books, HarperCollins. 1998 c1971.

Leo the lion cub is slow in learning things. His father is worried, but his mother knows he will "blossom when he's ready." And, he does.

Knots on a Counting Rope by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault. New York: Henry Holt. 1987, c1966.

Named *Boy-Strength-of-Blue-Horses*, a blind Native American boy asks his grandfather who he is. The grandfather uses a counting rope to recount many amazing things the boy has accomplished during his life, and in the process builds his confidence.

Be a Good Friend

We Are Best Friends by Aliko. New York: Greenwillow Books. 1982.

Peter protests when his best friend Robert tells him he's moving away. Left behind, Peter first deals with his anger, slowly reaches forgiveness, and finally builds new friendships.

Dabble Duck by Anne Leo Ellis. New York: Harper Collins. 1984.

Jason and his best duck friend Dabble befriend a dog in the park. Now, when Jason's away at school, dog and duck keep one another company and the three share a special friendship.

Help Others

The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting. New York: Clarion Books. 1989.

On Wednesday nights, *Grandma* stays with her granddaughter Anna. Everyone believes they spend their time together learning to read. The surprise is in who is learning.

Helping Out by George Ancona. New York: Clarion Books. 1985.

Black and white photographs explore the special relationships between adults and children working together in many different settings.