The Humanistic Perspective (Empathy)

	-			
Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Page #s
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas JOHN BOYNE The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	Berlin 1942 When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance.	WWII/Holocaust	8 and up	224
<u>Holocaust</u> <u>Educator's</u> <u>Guide</u>	But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.			
Each Kindness - Jacqueline Woodson	Starting with the title, this quiet, intense picture book is about the small actions that can haunt. As in collaborations such as Coming on Home Soon (2004), Woodson's spare, eloquent free verse and Lewis' beautiful, spacious watercolor paintings tell a story for young kids that will touch all ages. In a first-person voice, Chloe speaks about how a new girl in class, Maya, gets the empty seat next to her and tries to be friends. But Chloe and her clique will have none of the poor white kid in her old ragged clothes, and their meanness intensifies after Maya asks to play with them. Then Maya's family moves away, and she is "forever gone," leaving Chloe without the chance to put things right. Chloe's teacher spells out lessons of kindness, but the story is most powerful in the scenes of malicious bullying in the multiracial classroom and in the school yard. It is rare to tell a story of cruelty from the bully's viewpoint, and both the words and pictures powerfully evoke Chloe's shame and sorrow over the kindness she has not shown, as she looks at the empty seat next to her in the classroom, and then, alone and troubled, throws a stone in the water and watches the ripples move out and away.	PB	Picture book	32

Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Page #s
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus	Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all even without arms.	Arizona Contemporary	5 and up	262
Forget Me Not by Ellie Terry	A girl with Tourette syndrome starts a new school and tries to hide her quirks in this debut middle-grade novel in verse. Calliope June has Tourette syndrome. Sometimes she can't control the noises that come out of her mouth, or even her body language. When she and her mother move yet again, she tries to hide her TS. But soon the kids in her class realize she's different. Only her neighbor, who is also the class president, sees her as she truly is—a quirky kid, and a good friend. But is he brave enough to take their friendship public? As Callie navigates school, she must also face her mother's new relationship and the fact that she might be moving again—just as she's starting to make friends and finally accept her differences. This story of being true to yourself will speak to a wide audience.	United States Contemporary	4 and up	330

Holly Goldberg Sloan Counting by 75 CHORES OF THE Store o	Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. She hasn't ever thought of herself as a performer, but when the wonderful director of <i>Oz</i> casts her as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a new way. As Julia becomes friendly with the poised and wise Olive – one of the adults with dwarfism who've joined the production's motley crew of Munchkins – and with her deeply artistic neighbor, Mrs. Chang, Julia's own sense of self as an artist grows. Soon, she doesn't want to fade into the background and it's a good thing, because her director has more big plans for Julia!	United States Contemporary	4 and up	304
The Thing About Georgie	As far as Georgie is concerned, everyone has a "thing." The thing about poodles is that Georgie Bishop hates to walk them. The thing about Jeanie the Meanie is that she would rather write on her shoe than help Georgie with their Abraham Lincoln project. The thing about Andy's nonna is that she kisses Georgie's cheeks and doesn't speak one word of English. The thing about Georgie's mom is that she's having a baby—a baby who will probably be taller than Georgie very, very soon. The thing about Georgie well, what is the thing about Georgie?	United States Contemporary	3 and up	224

TRUDY LUDWIG The isible Boy by Trudy Ludwig Educator's Guide	Brian feels invisible. His teacher hardly notices him, the other kids never invite him to play, and he eats lunch alone. But he loves to draw, so at recess, he creates comics about greedy pirates, battling space aliens, and superheroes with the power to make friends everywhere. One day, a new boy, Justin, joins the class. The other children make fun of him for eating Bulgogi, a Korean dish, but Brian slips him a friendly note. When it is time to find partners for a class project, Justin asks Brian to join him and another boy. Brian's artistic talents come in handy, and finally he is no longer invisible. This is a simple yet heartfelt story about a boy who has been excluded for no apparent reason but finds a way to cope and eventually gains acceptance. Barton's scribbly illustrations look like something Brian may have made. Pencil sketches painted digitally are set against lots of white space, and sometimes atop a background of Brian's drawings on lined notebook paper. At the start of this picture book, Brian is shown in shades of gray while the rest of the world is in color, a visual reminder of his isolation. Color starts to creep in as he is noticed by Justin. Once he becomes part of the group, he is revealed in full color. The thought-provoking story includes questions for discussion and suggested reading lists for adults and children in the back matter.	PB	K and up	35
Red - A Crayon's Story By Michael Hall Educator's Guide Worksheet	Step inside the life of a crayon in this funny and poignant picture book. The star of the show is Red, a blue crayon who mistakenly has a red label. His teacher tries to convince him to draw strawberries, but they show up blue. He tries on a red scarf, but it just does not match. His mother suggests he mixes with other colors, but the results are not what he expects. No matter how hard Red tries, his efforts just keep coming out blue. His other crayon friends try to help him reinvent himself, but no matter what they do, Red is still a blue crayon. After much self-doubt and denial, Red makes a new friend, a Berry-colored crayon, who asks him to complete his drawing by adding a blue ocean for his boat. Red gives it a go, and suddenly, he finds his true self and discovers what his other art-supply friends knew all along. The rest of his crayon friends are impressed with his new style, and Red comes to embrace his true identity. Hall's latest picture book is all about staying true to oneself, no matter what others say.	PB	K and up	40

We're All Wonders by R. J. Palacio Educator's Guide	A wide range of readers have embraced Auggie's story in Palacio's novel, Wonder (2012), and this picture book version stands on its own to highlight the novel's message for the youngest readers. Addressing the audience, Auggie shares the things he likes to do, such as ride bikes and eat ice cream. He likes ordinary things; he just does not look ordinary. A multicultural group of children make fun of him, prompting Auggie and his dog, Daisy, to don astronaut helmets and take a fantasy trip across the galaxy, where the expansive view helps change his perspective. Returning to Earth, he's met by a boy who wants to be friends. Palacio's multimedia illustrations, inspired by the novel's book jacket, are a pleasant, engaging visual combination. Auggie and Daisy are solid images, while the backgrounds have a stamped quality, with colors variously faded and darkened. With a warm message at its heart—"maybe people can change the way they see and they'll see that they're wonders too"—this story should inspire plenty of empathy among little ones.	PB	K and up	32
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper	Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom – the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it – somehow. In this breakthrough story, reminiscent of <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> , from multiple Coretta Scott King Award–winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.	United States Contemporary	4 and up	295

Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Page #s
University filted in the control of	August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.	United States Contemporary	4 and up	315
Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos Discussion Questions	Joey Pigza can't sit still. He can't pay attention, he can't follow the rules, and he can't help it especially when his meds aren't working. Joey's had problems ever since he was born, problems just like his dad and grandma have. And whether he's wreaking havoc on a class trip or swallowing his house key, Joey's problems are getting worse. In fact, his behavior is so off the wall that his teachers are threatening to send him to the special-ed center downtown. Joey knows he's really a good kid, but no matter how hard he tries to do the right thing, something always seems to go wrong. Will he ever get anything right?	United States Contemporary	5 and up	153

Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Page #s
	A funny, moving, and true story of an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face that's perfect for fans of <i>Wonder</i> now available in the U.S. When Robert Hoge was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived with a face that would never be the same. Strangers stared at him. Kids called him names, and adults could be cruel, too. Everybody seemed to agree that he was ugly. But Robert refused to let his face define him. He played pranks, got into trouble, had adventures with his big family, and finally found a sport that was perfect for him to play. And Robert came face to face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart. This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us ugly also makes us who we are. It features a reflective foil cover and black-and-white illustrations throughout."	Australia Contemporary	3 and up	208

Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Page #s
The Science Unbreakable Things	How do you grow a miracle? For the record, this is not the question Mr. Neely is looking for when he says everyone in class must answer an important question using the scientific method. But Natalie's botanist mother is suffering from depression, so this is The Question that's important to Natalie. When Mr. Neely suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie has hope. Eggs are breakable. Hope is not. Natalie has a secret plan for the prize money. She's going to fly her mother to see the Cobalt Blue Orchids – flowers that survive against impossible odds. The magical flowers are sure to inspire her mother to love life again. Because when parents are breakable, it's up to kids to save them, right?	United States Contemporary	4 and up	293
SIMON BARON-COHEN THE SCIENCE OF EVIL OF EVIL ON EMPATHY AND THE DRIGINS OF CRUELTY The Science of Evil: On	Borderline personality disorder, autism, narcissism, psychosis, Asperger's: All of these syndromes have one thing in commonlack of empathy. In some cases, this absence can be dangerous, but in others it can simply mean a different way of seeing the world. In <i>The Science of Evil</i> Simon Baron-Cohen, an award-winning British researcher who has	NF	12 and up	256

Empathy and the Origins of Evil	investigated psychology and autism for decades, develops a new brain-based theory of human cruelty. A true psychologist, however, he examines social and environmental factors that can erode empathy, including neglect and abuse.		
	Based largely on Baron-Cohen's own research, <i>The Science of Evil</i> will change the way we understand and treat human cruelty.		