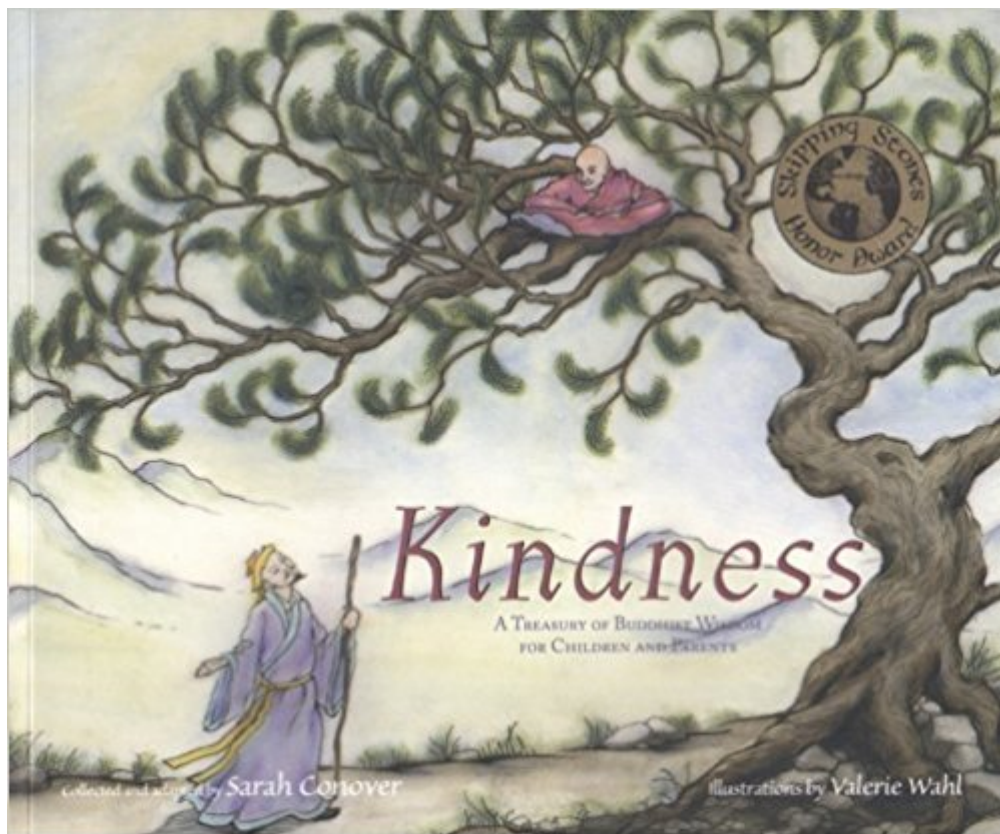




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Kindness: A Treasury Of Buddhist Wisdom For Children And Parents (This Little Light Of Mine)



Synopsis

Sarah Conover's collection of traditional Buddhist tales leads us to the kind of implicit understanding of ourselves and others that only stories can provide. Following the Buddha through his various transformations, these clarified, often humorous narrative journeys open the ancient masters profound and gentle teachings to persons of all ages, religions, races, and ideological persuasions. Over and over this marvelous book tells us, "let go of your anger, your fear, your greedy desire. Embrace gladness. Follow the path." And the stories themselves, simply as stories, from a wondrous pageant: of elephants, monkeys, monks, and men working through foolishness toward wisdom and delight.

Book Information

Series: This Little Light of Mine

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Customer Reviews

"Many American children know the parable of the mustard seed told in the New Testament. Few, however, have been exposed to the equally compelling Buddhist story of the mustard seed. In this parable, the Buddha tells a woman who has lost her child to seek out mustard seeds from families that have not been exposed to death. In doing so, the woman learns the universality of grief.

Thirty-one such stories have been masterfully adapted and translated by Conover to transmit the soft, lyrical voice of the originals. These include Jataka tales, stories of the Buddha in past incarnations, which are widely read and retold to Buddhist children throughout the world. Populated with sticky-haired dragons, verbose monkeys, and strange-looking monks, and illustrated in pleasant, sepia-tone pictures contributed by Valerie Wahl, *Kindness* is packed with excellent tales

that will surprise and delight readers while introducing them to the diversity of religious traditions."

-John Green, Booklist"Most of these 32 stories are only a few pages long, and the longer ones seem drawn out. Wry, rather than humorous, many are less-known Jataka tales. The traditions of India, Japan, and Tibet are well represented, while China and other Buddhist-influenced countries are not. Although many of these stories resemble fables, their level of language as well as the parablelike meanings demand skillful readers. Oblique as many tales are, readers must be good interpreters, alert to implications. The vocabulary ("asceticism," "gratification," "enlightenment") in the "Young Reader" introductions signals is level of sophistication. The narrative style is sometimes arch ("sprite," "thee"), sometimes moralizing. The dozen full-page illustrations are fine line drawings, whose realistic style helps ground these spiritual anecdotes. Each story is preceded by a wise "saying," providing attractive and accessible nuggets of Buddhist thought. Sources for sayings and stories appear in a valuable annotated bibliography. This is not a complete introduction to the religion, but its ethos, much as a collection of parables would be for Christianity. Although there are several similar compilations in print, the growth of Buddhism in the U.S. might provide a demand for this one, too." -Patricia Lothrop, School Library Journal

Sarah Conover has long-standing interests in world religions and education. She has traveled worldwide producing numerous award-winning documentaries for PBS, the Discovery Channel and the United Nations. Ms. Conover received a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado and an MFA in Creative Writing from Eastern Washington University. She presently teaches language arts at the secondary level in Spokane, Washington. Ms. Conover has been a student of Buddhism for over a decade. Illustrator Valerie Wahl currently lives and works in Spokane, Washington. She has read thousands of books to her children over the years, but this is her first try at illustrating one. She is a graduate of Washington State University where she studied Fine Art.

Love this book. Perfectly short stories to read before bed and talk about it for a few moments before tucking my girl in. I often read ahead because I enjoy the stories for myself.

What an absolute treasure! Easy to read and wonderfully illustrated. A beautiful collection of stories with timeless lessons appropriate for all ages. I haven't been able to put this book down and constantly go back to it for new insight. Each read brings fresh perspective. A must have for every open mind!

I got this book for my daughter for Christmas and she LOVES it! We have been reading and re-reading the stories almost nightly. It's a wonderful read-aloud and a great introduction to the values of love and kindness. It has stories that one can ponder, and re-read, with messages applicable to both children and adults. Love and Kindness are values that cross religious borders.

This is a wonderful book. Calming and full of life lessons. Highly recommend!

I have been reading a few stories from this book every night with my eight year old. Love it!!!!Common sense do the right thing stories.

During family time, these stories are brought to life. Digging a little deeper each time they are read, and applying the lessons to our own lives. What a blessing.

I enjoyed reading this book but my little one couldn't focus. It's a nice book to read aloud during quiet time. Maybe it will sink in.

Excellent book in fine condition.

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