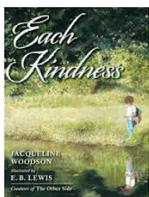


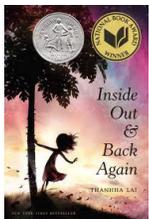
## Best of 2012: Connections to Social and Emotional Learning

One of the many signs of the season is the appearance of end-of-the-year “best of” lists. Here is Open Circle’s contribution to that seasonal ritual. Of the many exceptional children’s books published in 2012, a large number have strong connections to social and emotional learning.

For educators who are looking for ways to raise awareness and stimulate reflection and conversations about social and emotional concepts and topics, such as recognizing differences, including others, and responsible decision-making, here are some of the stand-outs from 2012.

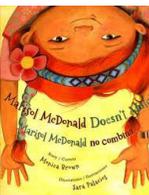


1. ***Each Kindness***, by Jacqueline Woodson (*grades 2–4*): Chloe regrets not showing Maya, a new girl at school, the smallest kindness.



2. ***Wonder***, by R.J. Palacio (*grades 4 and up*): A boy who was born with a facial deformity shows great courage as he attempts to fit in at school.

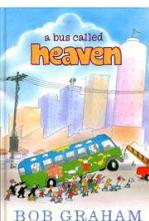
3. ***Unspoken: A Story of the Underground Railroad***, by Henry Cole (*grades 3 and up*): A wordless book that asks: What would you do if you had the chance to help someone find freedom?



4. ***Hello! Hello!***, by Mathew Cordell (*grades 1–3*): When electronic devices hinder face-to-face communication, the youngest member of a family takes action.

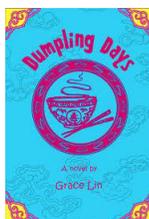
5. ***Inside Out and Back Again***, by Thanhha Lai (*grades 5 and up*): Forced to flee from Vietnam during the war, ten-year-old Hà attempts to adjust to life in Alabama.

6. ***Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina***, by Monica Brown (*grades 2–3*): Marisol embraces who she is – from her Peruvian/Scottish/American heritage, to her taste for peanut butter and jelly burritos.



7. ***Same, Same, But Different***, by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw (*grades 1–3*): Eliot lives in New York and Kailish, lives in India. As pen pals, they sort out what is the same, yet different, about their daily lives.

8. ***A Bus Called Heaven***, by Bob Graham (*grades 1–3*): Led by young, determined Stella, a community transforms an abandoned bus into a gathering space for one and all.



9. ***Dumpling Days***, by Grace Lin (*grades 3 and up*): When Pacy travels to Taiwan to visit family, everything about the trip is harder than she expects.

10. ***My Heart will Not Sit Down***, by Mara Rockliff (*grades 1–3*): Based on a true Depression-era event, a child in Cameroon convinces her village to help feed the hungry people in New York City.