

The Principled Academy: 5 Stories about Forgiveness for Children

Isaac Durst
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Forgiveness



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Hey there, friend,

This month, we're focusing on the powerful virtue of forgiveness —learning how to let go of hurt, take responsibility and move forward with kindness. Forgiveness can be a difficult concept for children to understand but stories can make it more real, relatable and approachable.

Nelson Mandela once said, “ Forgiveness liberates the soul. It removes fear. That is why it is such a powerful weapon.”

In *The Forgiveness Garden*, children learn how holding onto anger can weigh us down, while choosing to forgive can bring peace and healing. Through gentle storytelling and meaningful imagery, the book shows that forgiveness is a process, one that helps us grow and move forward with compassion.

In *Two Goats*, children see how conflict and stubbornness can create unnecessary problems, but also how letting go and choosing understanding can lead to resolution. The story highlights the importance of empathy, cooperation, and the role forgiveness plays in restoring relationships.

Please feel free to explore our selection of stories on forgiveness below, and if

you'd like more options, I invite you visit [our website](#).

Wishing you health and happiness always,

Isaac Durst

Isaac Durst
Director

5 Books on Forgiveness

First comes the Zebra

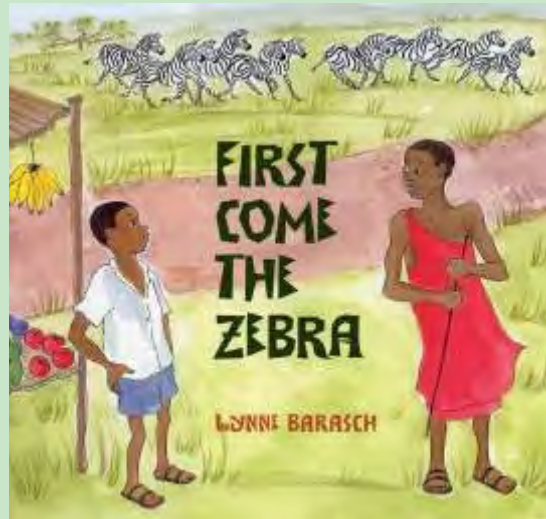
by Lynne Barasch

Grade level: 1st & 2nd graders

Genre: Fiction

When Abaani, a Maasai boy, meets Haki, a Kikuyu boy, the two are wary of each other due to longstanding conflicts between their communities. But when a sudden danger arises, they must act together, taking the first step toward understanding, forgiveness, and friendship.

Set against the backdrop of Kenya's great migration, *First Come the Zebra* is a hopeful story about overcoming differences and the power of young people to create change.

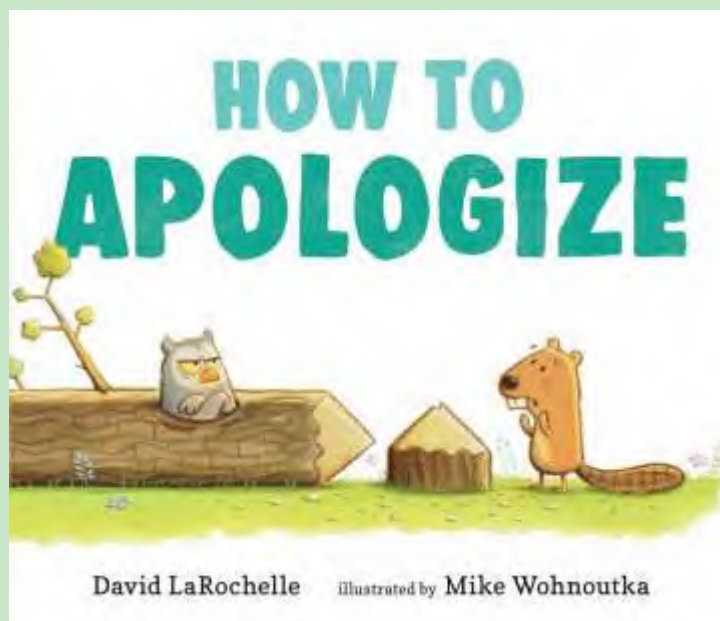


[See Story](#)

How to Apologize

by David La Rochelle

Illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka

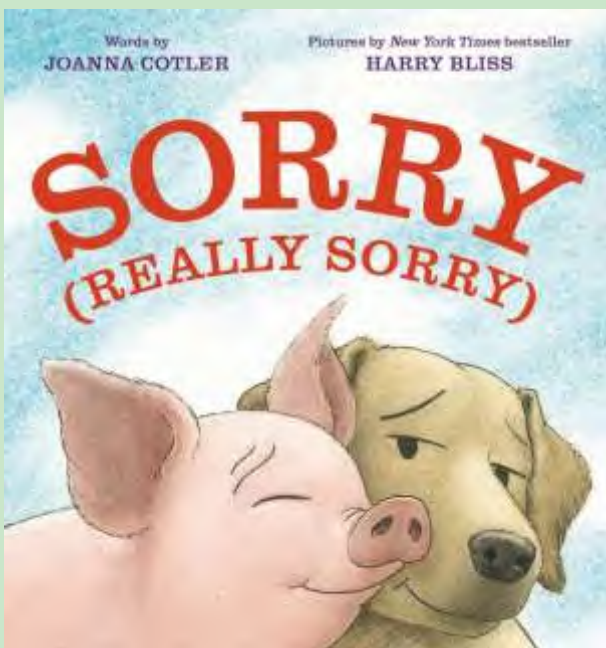


Grade level: 1st and 2nd Grade

Genre: Fiction

Wouldn't the world be a better place if everyone knew how to apologize? Luckily, this humorous guidebook is full of practical tips about when, why, and how to say you're sorry. From a porcupine who accidentally popped his friend's balloon to a snail who was running so fast he stepped on a sloth's toes, hilarious examples and sweet illustrations abound. For both listeners who are just learning and older readers who need a refresher, this book will come as a welcome reminder that even though apologizing can be hard, it doesn't have to be complicated.

[See Story](#)



Sorry (really sorry)

by Joanna Cotler

Illustrated by Harry Bliss

Grade level: Pre-K & Kindergarden

Genre: Picture book

A sweet and thoughtful picture book about how one act of kindness can change the world, written by publishing legend Joanna Cotler and illustrated by *New York Times* bestseller Harry Bliss.

[See Story](#)

Two goats

by Jonathan Bernstein

Illustrated by Natalia Berezina

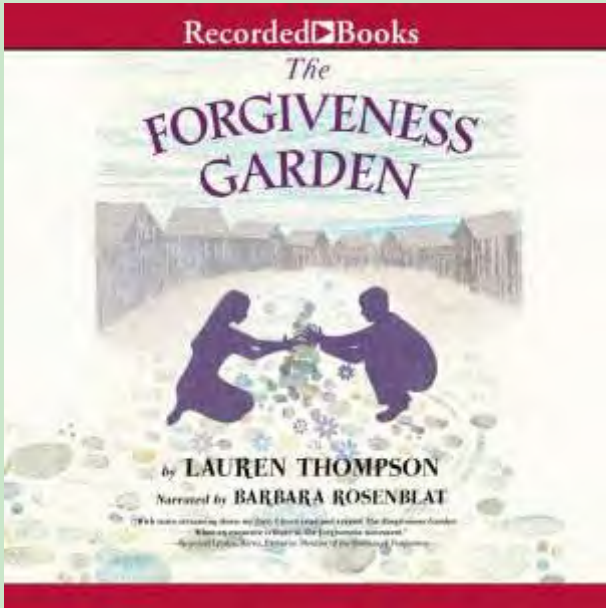
Grade level: 1st & 2nd

Genre: Fiction

The new "**Two Goats**" 2nd edition is a fun, illustrated children's book about the adventures of a big goat (father) and little goat (son) who live a happy life in the country until the little goat decides to venture over a fence into a very different world. It's a simple story, 32 pages long, and is filled with life lessons to entertain and educate both parents and children, primarily for ages 4-8.



[See Story](#)



The Forgiveness garden

by Lauren Thompson

Illustrated by Barbara Rosenblat

Grade level: 5th & 6th

Genre: Fiction

A long time ago and far away - although it could be here, and it could be now - a boy threw a stone and injured a girl. For as long as anyone could remember, their families had been enemies, and their towns as well, so it was no surprise that something bad had happened.

Hate had happened. Revenge had happened. And that inspired more hate and more calls for revenge. But this time, a young girl decided to try something different...

[See Story](#)



Thanks for reading and Happy Easter

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