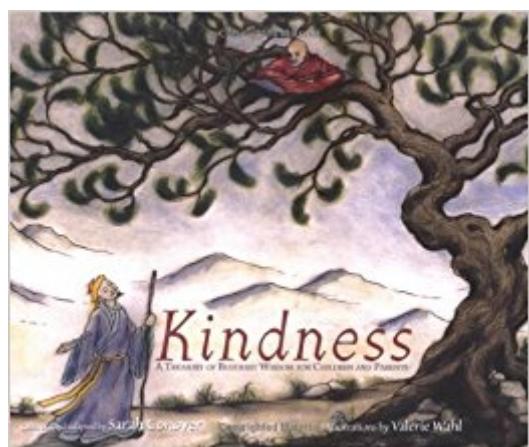


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# Kindness: A Treasury Of Buddhist Wisdom For Children And Parents (Little Light Of Mine Series)



## **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 and often humorous narrative journeys open the ancient master's 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." The stories form a wondrous pageant of elephants, monkeys, monks, and men working through foolishness toward wisdom and delight. Sara Conover teaches high school language arts in Spokane, Washington. She has produced numerous award-winning documentaries for PBS, the Discovery Channel, and the United Nations.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 11 and up

Series: Little Light of Mine Series

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Eastern Washington University Press; First Edition edition (October 31, 2000)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,118,232 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 6-9-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" introduction signals its 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 to 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-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RICopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 4-7. 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.

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good book!

First I used this book with my children as we learned about different religions and spiritual views. As they got older we visited it again because these Buddhist stories are applicable to so many situations in life regardless of your views on God, theist, or atheist. Now as a religious education teacher of younger people at the Unitarian Universalist fellowship I use this book extensively when teaching about buddhism, kindness, compassion and many other concepts. Well written and engaging for all ages, but best for elementary school age children. My middle schoolers still love the stories.

This is the second Buddhism-for-kids book my 9 year old and I have read together and it is definitely a keeper. The stories are short and interesting--really well edited so that you don't have to dig for the moral, but at the same time you don't feel like your being bashed over the head with the lesson

(hmm, not a very Buddhist analogy there). It is a beautifully designed book as well. We're not yet through it all, but I know this is one we will re-read together.

This is a wonderful book and well designed. It is perfect for a short story time with a discussion of meaning. Many of the stories are classic Buddhist tales. Each story has a short saying in between it which come to have their own value. Whether you would like to introduce your child to Buddhism or simple wish to have a vehicle with which to discuss life and values, this is a quality investment.

Such great "real life" stories that can make a difference in our children's lives. I am teaching about the life of the Buddha this year and these stories will be a lovely addition to that.

"Kindness" was a used book. I was extremely please with the condition of the book ... to us an old phrase ... "It was like new." The stories are classic ... interesting how many of these stories have been adapted to Judo/Christian stories.

Stories that nicely convey Buddhist thought and ethics. It's aimed at adults but can be read to children, probably with a little additional explanation.

one of our families favorites for years

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