



## The Big Book for Peace

*Ann Durell (Editor), Marilyn Sachs, Lloyd Alexander, Thomas B. Allen...[et al.] (Illustrator)*

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**The Big Book for Peace** Ann Durell (Editor) , Marilyn Sachs , Lloyd Alexander , Thomas B. Allen...[et al.] (Illustrator)

This very special volume was created by more than thirty of the best known and loved authors and illustrators of children's books.

Summary: The wisdom of peace and the absurdity of fighting are demonstrated in seventeen stories and poems by outstanding authors of today such as Jean Fritz, Milton Meltzer, and Nancy Willard, illustrated by famous illustrators such as Paul Zelinsky, the Dillons, and Maurice Sendak.

## **The Big Book for Peace Details**

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Author : Ann Durell (Editor) , Marilyn Sachs , Lloyd Alexander , Thomas B. Allen...[et al.] (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review The Big Book for Peace for online ebook**

### **Christina says**

A treasure. Classic, gifted children's book authors and illustrators. "A Midnight Clear" by Katherine Paterson was particularly moving for me. I may share it with my students this year.

A wide variety of work, all encouraging reflection on struggles with... action towards... a need for peace: poems, beautiful artwork spreads, a song, fables, whimsical tales, historical accounts of internment camps and the civil rights movement.

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### **Patricia says**

What an interesting and eclectic collection of written and art work for children all on the subject of peace. For the most part, Emma and I enjoyed reading it aloud together. Published in 1990, it contains three picture book stories, four short stories, four historical stories, two poems, one historical treaty, one piece of artwork by Maurice Sendak, and one song called "One More Time."

At the end of the book the editors wrote,

#### **"How This Book Came to Be**

At a conference not very long ago, a young librarian remarked angrily that she had just come from a book-selection meeting at which some of her colleagues had enthused over a new "war" book containing numerous photographs of German tanks used during the Second World War.

"The kids will love this one," somebody said. "I'm going to buy multiple copies for my library."

"But there are no photographs in the books," our angry librarian retorted, "showing what these tanks did to people. Why do we have to keep pushing war in our books for children?"

Out of her anger, and the strong antiwar feeling of others in the children's book community, the idea of this big book for peace was born.

Dutton Children's Books offered to publish it, and a letter was mailed to a group of distinguished children's book authors and illustrators, asking them to contribute. We felt proud and elated that so many talented, busy people were eager to be part of this book.

Their royalties and income from the publisher's sale of the book will be donated to the following organizations to help in their work for peace: Amnesty International, The Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program (Emory University), Greenpeace, The Lion and the Lamb Peace Arts Center, and SANE/FREEZE: Campaign for Global Security."

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## **Sandeq says**

The book I chose to receive at graduation.

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## **Maureen Weiner says**

This book is full of short stories. I've read some of them, but since we moved, I'm not sure where the book is. I'm sure I'll finish it if/when I find it again.

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## **Julia Jasztal says**

Mommy's review from 10/23/11 -

The only reason I'm giving this two stars is because there was one or two stories in the first few that we liked. But we actually stopped reading this just before the halfway mark because it's just not for Julia. I don't get who this is really for. It seems like the editors wanted to make sure there was something for everyone. I'm not sure that approach works with something like this.

When I read a book I want to read all of it. I don't want to read some of it. But some of the stories here are for older kids, some for younger kids, some for who knows. One poem or poem-like writing made no sense whatsoever.

Julia's a trooper though, she wanted to keep going just for the sake of finishing but I was concerned about an upcoming story called Letter from a Concentration Camp by Yoshiko Uchida and illustrated by Allen Say. I'm a big reader of Holocaust related material but I don't want my daughter to learn about it just yet. Not yet, not in any detail. In a few years to begin to learn I think that's fine but 6 is just too young in my opinion. Anyway, upon giving up with this one I had planned to maybe take it out at a later date to see if we'd like it then but unless I actually see it again I doubt it'll happen because I don't see myself actively searching for it. It's a shame and I wish it would have been more age specific because I love the premise. :(

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## **Julia says**

Beware, the age group intended for this anthology is...ambiguous. I recommend reading each story carefully before reading it aloud to children. While some stories are charming and perfectly appropriate for younger kids, others contain subject matter far too mature for anyone under the age of 13.

I bought the book at a used bookstore mainly because of the Maurice Sendak illustration on the cover of the book. I soon realized there was no Maurice Sendak story in this book. What a disappointment!

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## **Paul Hankins says**

Some very nice verse tucked inside this volume of short stories and poems presenting a theme of peace. I saved this one from the bins in the warehouse, quite possibly because I wanted the Maurice Sendak illustration inside.

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### **Maricar says**

a compilation of different stories pertaining to peace.  
every kid should have this

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### **Kym says**

This was one of my favorite books as a child. I wanted to buy my godson a copy for Christmas and was heartbroken to find that it's out of print. Some of the stories in here have challenging themes, but they present children with a chance to think about really important ideas that they will encounter the rest of their lives.

In general, I think we underestimate children's ability to grasp tough concepts like war and violence, when they actually have more a more rational perspective on these things than many adults. This book tackles these subjects in beautiful, inspiring ways. I'd certainly recommend it for the older elementary crowd, and I'd urge families to read and discuss it together.

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### **Cosmic Sher says**

Overall, this book was kinda depressing and very activistic. I read it with my 7 year old daughter, and felt the need to skip a few of the stories because they were about war & really downtime. I loved the stories about the Native Americans, and even the one about the two little girls and their treehouses, but couldn't bring myself to read the one about a Letter from a Concentration Camp.

One story actually scared my daughter because she didn't realize that there could be the potential for her Daddy to go to war. The best part of the book were the infrequent pictures that depicted happy, peaceful places.

I know we need to teach our kids to know peace, and the opposite, but can't we do it in a positive & appropriate way?

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### **Jess says**

A collection of peace-related stories--some happy, some not--by a collection of recognizable authors.

A neat idea presented in an uneven collection of OK stories. Nothing wowed me.

The backstory provided by the book explains that the idea came about when a young, angry librarian

complained that the new war books other librarians were excited to purchase for their students didn't have photos of the devastation caused by the wars. She didn't want to get excited about war books.

Fine. That's a decent way to get an idea for a book. The problem is that there's no way this book appeals to kids the way war books do. It's the sort of thing that'll be used by teachers or purchased by parents, not the sort of thing kids will seek out. That's OK, as long as you don't set it up as a replacement for war books. This can't live up to that.

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

This is a worthy addition to the library of all children, but I think they could have done even more with it. It's such a great premise though. Uneven, although some really worthy parts. I wish it was a much longer book!

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### **Maureen says**

This anthology is a great resource containing inspirational stories by such illustrious authors as Jean Craighead George, Natalie Babbitt, Steven Kellogg and many more. It features stories about peace from different lands, next door neighbors, brothers, and sisters, and people of different races. It is an excellent book to use when introducing theme, and invites the reader to compare and contrast the different perspectives.

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### **Marcus says**

A solid book with a noble purpose. I bought this as soon as I scanned the list of contributors. My favorite selections were from Lloyd Alexander, Lois Lowry and Katherine Paterson. It is definitely the story from Paterson (which closes the book) that caused me to give this 5 stars. It's a profound short tale about the power of love to drive away fear.

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### **Rachel Garcia says**

This is a really neat book, and I enjoyed all the different styles of writing from the many writers and poets. It's a big book that emphasizes the need for peace. I like how all the stories are a different kind of peace--whether it be kindness towards neighbors or kindness in times of racism. You can tell its an older book because of its mention of a possible nuclear war, but the need for peace is still relevant today.

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