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Some Of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

Good books are often good friends. Because gifted readers often intensely identify with characters, good books can provide bridges to new insights and better communication of feelings, values, and decision making, while also fostering intellectual and creative development. Now in its third edition, *Some of My Best Friends Are Books* describes: Intellectual and emotional needs of children of high ability; Typical and advanced reading patterns for grades K-12; How parents and teachers can give reading guidance and discuss books with young readers; A well-indexed annotated bibliography of more than 300 books for readers of all ages, carefully selected to promote intellectual and emotional development; Books that deal with themes such as Achievement, Aloneness, Arrogance, Developing Imagination, Intensity, Introversion, Perfectionism, Relationships with Others, Sensitivity, and Resiliency; and An index with suggested titles for each theme and the page numbers for short summaries of these titles

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Customer Reviews

A good book can give a child so much. Now in a newly published third edition, (this book) is an advice manual for parents and educators of gifted and talented children who have taken a liking to the world of reading. Aimed primarily at parents, it discusses the social and emotional needs of these children, as well as ways to mentor them and help them find more books that they would enjoy. Well-organized with indexes for easy reference, *Some of My Best Friends Are Books* is a fine

and very much recommended read. --Midwest Book Review
With an easy to read narrative and informative overview and suggestions for supporting these readers to be lifetime readers, this book is a must for teachers, parents, and librarians. Although I already have copies of all the older editions, I will DEFINITELY add this most recent edition to my collection! --Susannah Richards, Associate Professor, Eastern Connecticut State University
This is a terrific resource and I'm quite pleased to recommend it. Fans of the older editions should put it on their wish lists, as it has a great deal of valuable new content. --Lorel Shea, BellaOnline Gifted Education Editor

Judith Wynn Halsted retired recently from a long career in education. After majoring in English and earning a teaching certificate, she completed a master's degree in Library Science at the University of Illinois. When her family moved to Traverse City, Michigan, she became the librarian at Pathfinder, a small private school which is now a part of the nationally known Interlochen Arts Academy. At Pathfinder she also developed and directed a program for gifted students. Her interest in the social and emotional development of gifted children rose from her experiences as the parent of two gifted sons. At the suggestion of Dr. James T. Webb, she combined the twin threads of her career path--gifted children and books--and published the first edition of her book, *Guiding Gifted Readers*, in 1988.

I was really just wanting the list of books in the latter chapters. BUT, I read it. Shocking, I know! I think this is a valuable book for any parent, gifted child or not. Why? Because it encourages parents, or any supportive adult, to help their child dig deeper and develop on a level that isn't necessarily required in the classroom setting. The book demonstrates appropriate ways to ask questions, encourage emotional and intellectual growth, build groups, and touches on bibliotherapy as well. This is a very simplified view, just know that as a parent of a gifted child I spend a large amount of time wondering what to even do with her to keep her busy. This book helped me feel like I am moving in a good direction.

This book has a wealth of information for educators of gifted students and school librarians (as well as public librarians). Though the first two parts are only 74 pages, there is a lot of condensed and easily digestible information and background knowledge in these portions. As a school librarian, I was a bit afraid that these two portions would outweigh the bibliography portion, but I was wrong. The information provided is in brief parts that really hits the important details without going on too much about them. I found myself placing over 15 sticky notes through the first two parts of the book

for important notes. I highly recommend this book for those with an interest in selecting reading material for gifted students of all ages. The book often breaks out the subject matter based on age level, especially helpful since reading development and recommendations change so much as kids grow. The bibliography doesn't have the brand newest materials as it's bibliography was created in 2009, but the recommendations are all solid choices and provide a description of the books, some guiding questions, and moral discussions to accompany each title. Well worth the investment and will become a referenced book on my shelf.

Great book if you struggle to find good quality books that are age appropriate for your gifted child. There are books listed I would never have known about or found that were great for my child. I have shared this book with several friends with gifted children and have even bought a second copy for a close friend. Well worth it.

I found the psychology portions of this book the most helpful. Prior to reading this book, I thought we were failing our son because he seemed to need so much alone time. Now I realize he needs this time to process his thoughts and unwind. Once we relaxed and let him do his own thing, his confidence soared and he is now spending more time with friends and enjoying his peer group. I haven't found the bibliography of books to be very helpful yet, but will definitely look to it for help when an issue arises. Great guide for how to navigate the waters with a child that is driven by academia, not sports. I highly recommend it.

Very informative for helping gifted children who struggle with emotional and social issues. The resources are especially helpful.

Excellent resource understanding high ability readers. The bibliography of 300 suggested books is very useful.

I am a Gifted/Talented coordinator for a small school district in a rural area. I have found this book to be incredibly useful as a resource as I work with teachers and parents. The comprehensive and carefully compiled book lists are very valuable to me.

I have been very happy with this purchase and my son has also enjoyed looking through it for the synopsis of the books that may interest him. He's found several additional books from authors he's

already read to look for and enjoy. This has been especially helpful for me to stay one step ahead of his voracious reading!

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