

Praise for *Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges*

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“Coon has definitely done her homework, bringing together a solid selection of (mostly) picture books and middle-grade novels by a number of well-regarded children's book authors...A practical guide to finding resources that will help children develop life skills and, perhaps, feel more confident in a confusing, difficult world.”--**Booklist, June 2004**

“Coon...has gathered together suggested fictional titles with fewer than 100 pages and organized them by issue (such as sharing, starting school, siblings, etc)...The bibliotherapeutic belief that some well-chosen picture books can “help children cope with changes in their life” is admirable...”—**School Library Journal, October 1, 2004**

“An invaluable resource for parents that is sensitive to the needs of different age groups, family situations and childhood issues. I will highly recommend *Books to Grow With* to my patients.” --**Jennifer Trachtenberg, M.D., pediatrician, faculty at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY, and regular contributor on ivillage.com.**

“An extraordinarily comprehensive and approachable guide that solves the problem that so many parents face: choosing children's books that solve problems! When it comes to prescribing bibliotherapy, Cheryl Coon has the country's best bedside manner. Thoughtful choices and vivid descriptions are the cornerstones of these recommendations that connect children's literature with the human experience. This invaluable resource is a pleasure for parents to peruse, and will be dog-eared by anyone who works in the service of children.”--**Esme Raji Codell, teacher and New York Times best-selling author of *Educating Esme* (Algonquin; 2001) and *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading* (Algonquin; 2003)**

“You will find countless suggestions for fine picture books that can help kids, and the adults in their lives, deal with sometimes troubling real-life situations. A great guide to good reading!”--**Ginnie Cooper, Executive Director of Brooklyn Public Library, N.Y.**

“What a fantastic resource for parents and those who work with children! Coon's book is a must have resource for every parent, pediatrician, counselor, teacher, and child therapist. I especially appreciated her sensitive guidance on how to use the rich world of literature to help our children grow and change. You'll use it year after year, as the topics are well chosen to enrich the parent child relationship in every way.”-- **Meg Eastman, Psy.D, child psychologist, author of *Taming the Dragon in Your Child: Solutions for Breaking the Cycle of Family Anger* (John Wiley & Sons, 1994)**

“An excellent tool. Parents, librarians, and teachers will be delighted.”--**GraceAnne A. DeCandido, lecturer in Children's Literature, Rutgers School of Information, Communication and Library Sciences**

*Books to Grow With* is a wonderful resource for parents with children who are facing difficult situations from bedwetting to new babysitters, from being the biggest child in a group to building new friendships when best friends move away. It is also a good tool for librarians who are faced with perplexed parents and teachers. The list of titles-- and the inclusion of how to access the books--are great helps for the librarian.”

--**Karen Topham, Professor, Bankier Library, Brookdale Community College, NJ**

“Cheryl Coon has provided a well-researched and parent-friendly guide to books that can facilitate conversations in families about ordinary, everyday issues. The books indexed here present starters for grand and meaningful conversations. Parents who not only bring home the books, but also delight in the reading will discover much wisdom about the tough challenges of parenthood as well.”--**Sarah Borders, Faculty, Appalachian State University, Boone NC, author of *Children Talking About Books* (Oryx Press 1993)**

“Cheryl Coon's book is a smorgasbord of information for the literate parent. I have seen nothing like it in my years as a psychologist for children. It provides a ‘natural’ approach to understanding the myriad situations that a parent and child will, hopefully, face together. Nothing seems to bond a child and parents so much as reading a favorite book together again and again”--**Michael J Fulop, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist, Portland, OR**

*Books to Grow With* takes a complex topic and organizes it very effectively into short, concise reviews with just the right amount of explanation about the story and the book format. I really appreciate the information and reasoning behind the selections. I plan to share it with teachers and parents who come to me with questions about these issues.”--**Barb Swanson Sanders, Children's Literature Consultant, Portland, OR**

*Books to Grow With* will become an invaluable tool for every parent, teacher and librarian who believes that sharing the right books with children can help them find relief from the sometimes frightening and always challenging adventure of growing up. I will place a copy in both the parent and professional collections in my school library. I will share it with colleagues, teachers, parents, guidance counselors, friends—everyone who loves books and cares for the well-being of children.”—**Diane Oesau, Library Media Specialist, Horace Mann Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ**

“Every teacher knows the power of a story. Children find comfort, excitement and challenge and affirmation when the “right” books speak to them. A story can tell a child, “You can do it! You’re not the only one! You have a friend.” Cheryl Coon has done the footwork for teachers and parents searching for that certain powerful book to pull a child through the tough times that are part of every childhood as well as those exceptional challenges that might lead a child to feel isolated and different from her peers. Unlike similar texts, Cheryl has carefully screened the included selections—readers can be assured that only the best quality children’s books are listed in her guide. *Books to Grow With* should be part of every home and school collection. I am sure that the early childhood teachers I work with will turn to this reference over and over again.”--**Ellie Justice, Director, The Helen Gordon Child Development Center, Portland State University, Portland, OR**

## **PRINT REVIEWS**

**Seattle’s Child (May 2005):** “*Books to Grow With* offers fictional help for real life issues. Coon has done the painstaking job of compiling more than 500 children’s books and matching them with more than 100 specific issues children face...”

**Church and Synagogue Library Association (January/February 2005):** “Parents, teachers and librarians will find this an immensely useful book. Cheryl Coon has assembled an annotated bibliography of children’s fiction titles that address problems encountered by the young...Coon makes her information easily accessible via a detailed table of contents and multiple indexes (authors and illustrators, title, subject, multicultural, Spanish language) and has provided additional references and source information. Recommended for all libraries that serve children and their parents, teachers, counselors and pastors.”

***Adoptive Families* (January/February 2005):** “A new guide to fiction that can help children deal with bullies, anger and alcoholism, divorce, death, and scores of other issues. Parents will find this guide much more useful than an Internet search to find fiction on difficult topics...A great gift for teachers, counselors, and librarians.”

***About Children’s Books* (January 6, 2005):** “A helpful guide to children's books. Parents, teachers, librarians, and others can use it to find good children's books dealing with more than 100 issues...”

***About Adoption* (January 6, 2005):** “A wonderful addition to any home library. Cheryl Coon has done a very good job of selecting children's books that may assist a child in dealing with a variety of challenging situations. Foster parents and adoptive parents will be able to find books for a variety of subjects...will help parents choose books that will assist them...on a daily basis in their homes.”

***Knoxville News Sentinel* (December 19, 2004):** “Books can help children get over...hard times.”

***Eugene Weekly* (December 9, 2004):** “If you have a child or grandchild struggling with the trials of growing up, help is on the way. Cheryl Coon assembled this wonderful, useful common-sense guide to direct you to the right books to ease childhood struggles of all dimensions.”

**[www.keepkidshealthy.com](http://www.keepkidshealthy.com) (December 2004):** “*Books to Grow With...* is a great resource for parents who are faced with 100's of topics... I highly recommend this book for all parents. Coon's book is not just for parents though. It can also be helpful for pediatricians, teachers, and other professionals that provide advice to parents on coping with common parenting issues.”

***The Oregonian* (December 9, 2004):** “Coon’s guide includes a...summary of each story and editorial comments so readers learn, for example, that a story...might...spark a good discussion. [The] head of youth services at Cedar Mill Library...likes Coon’s guide because it also addresses lesser-known issues such as foster homes or parents leaving on a trip.”

***Chicago Parent* (December 2004):** “Often when you want to help your child through a difficult situation, you look for a book to read in which the character is experiencing the same problem. It isn’t always easy to find just the right book. Coon has put together a thorough resource with more than 500 entries and 100 topics.”

**Senior Life San Diego (December 2004):** “Coon...has done a service to moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas everywhere. Coon’s guide is a detailed list of references to great books that are beautifully illustrated and delightful to read. And, by the way, these books have a point!”

**Your Stepfamily Magazine (November/December 2004):** “Chronic illnesses and disabilities have a profound impact on family life. Whether your child has just been diagnosed with a chronic illness, is trying to cope with a sibling's disability, or needs help facing the illness of a parent, books can help...Cheryl Coon's reference book, *Books to Grow With*...provides useful summaries of each book, with notes about illustrations, if the book is currently in print (and those books out of print may be found in local libraries and some bookstores), if available in Spanish, and special notes of interest about the story. *Books to Grow With* provides sensitive summaries of over 500 titles, covering 100+ topics, with tips on how to use fiction to help your children develop the skills they need to make their way through often confusing and challenging time. This is a valuable reference book for any home library.”

**Metro Parent of Portland (November 2004):** “Portlander Cheryl Coon has compiled a daunting list of over 500...books...to help us...find the right book for helping children we love get through the inevitable rough times of childhood...Virtually anything you could imagine being an issue for a child is included...Coon has made sure we are not alone in the important task of helping our children become healthy, happy adults.”

**Peoria Journal Star (10/29/04):** “Halloween can be a scary time for young children...Sharing the right book may be the best way to prepare a child for Halloween...In *Books to Grow With*, Coon recommends books that feature characters handling over 100 common problems, from bullying and teasing to alcoholism and divorce.”

**Home Educator Family Times (Nov/Dec 2004):** “A wonderful resource for busy parents. Coon includes only quality fiction books that have literary interest to engage a child's thinking. Homeschooling parents may find this book particularly useful...”

**abc7Chicago.com (10/22/04):** “A good book may be the key to helping children deal with some of the most common and difficult challenges of growing up. To help parents choose the right book, author Cheryl Coon has compiled a guide called *Books To Grow With*.”

**MetroKids of Delaware (October 2004):** “In *Books to Grow With*, Cheryl Coon links children’s fiction to common issues that kids and their parents face...”

**MetroKids of South Jersey (October 2004):** “Coon organizes children’s literature into topics ranging from “Early Childhood Transitions”... to... “Feeling Safe in a Scary World.”

**Grandparenting Today Ohio radio show, WMKV 89.3 FM (October 21, 2004 broadcast):** “A marvelous book for grandparents.”

**Pasadena Star News (10/21/04):** “For some children, fear and fun straddle a thin, gray line during Halloween. Cheryl Coon, author of *Books to Grow With* -- a compilation of more than 500 fiction books recommended for character-building – suggests a softer approach through reading.”

Syndicated columnist Betsy Flagler recommends *Books to Grow With* in her column. Reprinted in *Raleigh NC News and Observer*, *Atlanta Journal*, *Providence RI Journal*, *Charleston SC Post and Courier*, *Akron Beacon Journal* (10/26/04)

**Oregonian (10/17/04):** “*Books to Grow With* is a valuable reference for anyone living with or working with children.”

**Pasadena Star-News (10/7/2004):** “The Book to read before you read a book: a book guide reviewing more than 500 works of children’s literature...they all have one thing in common: a realistic take on social issues affecting youngsters (and their parents) as they grow up...What [Coon] has done is narrow down the search by recommending books that adults will approve and connect with children.”

**KidsVermont (October 2004):** “Cheryl Coon’s book, *Books to Grow With*, is a great resource for finding just the right children’s fiction for helping little ones handle a particular situation.”

**Connection, Parent Child Preschools of Oregon (September 2004):** “*Books to Grow With*...has been designed to help teachers and parents assist their children through developmental milestones and new situations...Sharing the right books can be a powerful tool for teachers and parents.”

**Baltimore Sun, Syndicated columnist Susan Reimer, Feature Section (8/29/04):** “To help the rest of us find children's books that address children's issues, Coon has compiled *Books to Grow With*. It recommends more than 500 books that address everything from learning to swim to divorce, from comfort objects to chores for children up to about age 10.” Reprinted in: *AZ Central (9/5/04)*; *South Coast Today (9/9/04)*; *The Mail Tribune (9/9/04)*; *Fresno Bee (9/3/04)*; *Newsday.com*; *Spectrum Home and School Network*; *The Olympian (October 2004)*; *The Orlando Sentinel (10/12/04)*

**Sarasota Herald-Tribune (9/23/04):** “It helps children to tiptoe in someone else’s footprints, to learn how another person manages to move on. Coon has created a thorough and accessible guide for parents and children.”

**Richmond Parents Monthly (October 2004):** “A wonderful resource for parents, teachers and readers of all stripes...Coon suggests reading material for children of all ages, which truly makes this a book to grow with.”

**Oregon School Counselor Newsletter (Summer 2004):** “A terrific book to help a counselor start or supplement their own or the school library.”

**Blogging Baby (9/4/04):** “Any parent that has ever sung the praises of *The Princess and the Potty* to help with toilet training will agree with author Cheryl Coon: oftentimes, the best way to handle a problem is to tackle it from an outside perspective. And kids trust perspectives that come from their own books more simply than even their parents’ words.”

**Chatham Journal (9/9/04):** “I recommend this book to all parents of young children who want a trustworthy guide to choosing books for their kids. Hopefully I won’t have to consult it for other, more serious topics, like parents getting divorced, alcoholism, childhood illnesses and the death of a loved one, but it’s good to know that sections of *Books to Grow With* addresses them.”