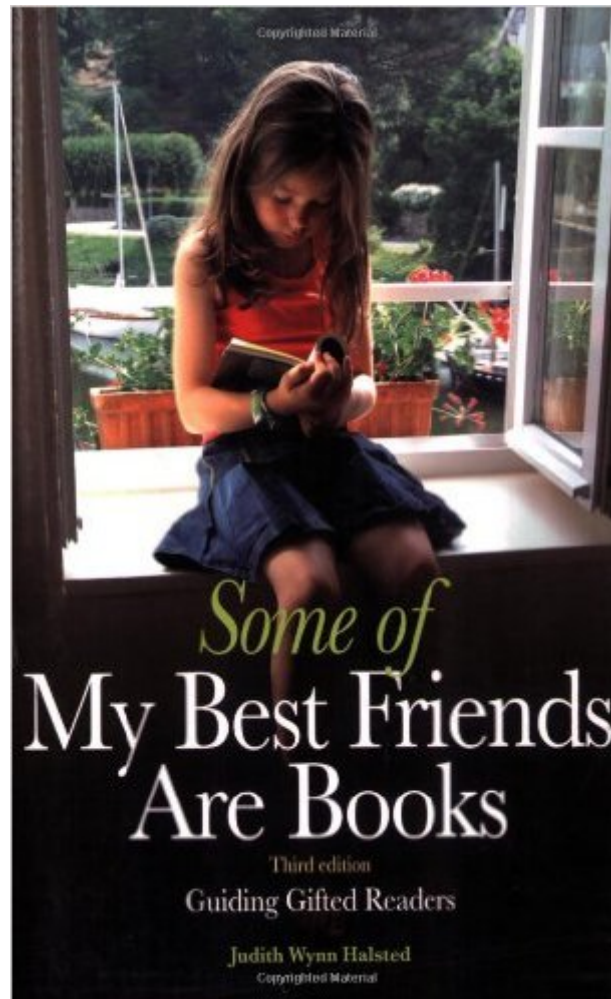


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# Some Of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers (3rd Edition)



## 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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Worried that her gifted child was spending too much time reading by himself, a mother admonished her son to go play outside. "But Mom," he replied, "some of my best friends are books!" Thus the name of this wonderful book which describes the role of books in a child's development, and summarizes the social and emotional needs of the gifted reader. In Part Three of the book, Halsted gives an annotated bibliography of over 300 books, each dealing with issues for gifted children. She

then presents a set of easy-to-use indexes of the books by grade level and by topic, as well as by author and title. Topics include aloneness, creativity, differentness, intensity, moral concerns, etc. This book truly is "an excellent resource for selecting the right book to guide a child to better understanding of self and situations," according to the California Association for the Gifted Newsletter, and I agree. It is a must-buy or must-borrow book for the parent of any bright child from kindergarten through high school.

It is wonderful to find a book that helps you guide your child - ANY child, gifted or not - to exceptional reading material. I loved the books it recommended for my 4 yr old - we picked up several of them at the library and some here on . The book also pointed out what the exceptional qualities for each book were, so that you could have a better discussion about the book with your child. It was worth the money, since it gives recommendations for ALL ages of child and I will reference it as he grows older.

I bought this book mainly for the annotations of the books and, for me, the theory and application to classroom situations is a bonus. The part I will use the most is the annotation section, where the book is discussed and pointers are given on what types of issues are addressed. Discussion points, always useful for teachers, are carefully addressed for each book. I wish more books could have been included, but, of course, there are trade-offs in that - longer ==> more expensive.

....It should be this one.What a wonderful find! This is the road map for everything regarding the intellectually gifted child. Guiding the parent or teacher through both the heart and mind of the gifted child.I was one of the parents in the book who always felt my gifted son was missing out on something by spending time alone, or playing alone at school. I would very much encourage him to spend more time with friends, make new friends, invite friends over. Now I have a much better understanding on why he needs so much "alone" or "down time".I definite must for parents of gifted children age Preschool to High School! Although it even helped me figure out my gifted husband!

Books are wonderful bridges for communication about feelings, values, & decisions. Books can save lives by allowing Readers a way to use their minds in a safe, broadening & nurturing way. Literacy doesn't simply mean being able to scribble signatures, read shopping lists & understand highway signs, it means being able to read fluently, engaging the mind in an adventure of self-discovery. Packed into our brains, from conception on, is a universe of experiences, learning to

read gives that universe language. **SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE BOOKS** is a super guide on how to set your children on their road to a lifelong passion. Take the bibliography to your library & recruit the librarians in your hunt for good books. Everything you want to know about what the ability to read can do for your children's minds, when it can do it & how you can help train & encourage a lifelong love of reading. Just remember to add Reading Time to your schedule & the mix.

This is an excellent resource for helping gifted children deal with the special problems that accompany giftedness. One reviewer complained about the lack of academic books in the bibliography, but the author clearly states at the beginning that the main thrust of the work is to offer books that help gifted children with emotional issues surrounding their giftedness. Intellectual needs are a part of that, but the author did not try to provide a complete bibliography for this but chose to focus more on the emotional needs. I found the book most helpful in the first chapter discussion about the unique qualities and needs of gifted children. Although I got the book to help my gifted 4yo, I read descriptions of issues I have struggled with my whole life. In this book, I found my own struggles articulated for the first time, and it was a very emotional experience for me. My main problem with the book is that it is written a bit immaturely--ignoring the complexities of gifted children and of human nature in general. The author frequently oversimplifies a problem and its solution, and also states opinion or probability as fact. For example, she frequently says that a child had a particular problem, and had the parents responded in a particular way, the child's problem would have been solved. Of course, human nature is much too complex to assume that all of our problems could have been resolved during our childhood by our parents. But the author's insights are nevertheless helpful if you can get past the oversimplification. This book is very helpful just for the bibliography. Another reviewer complained that books were listed under the grade levels of average students, but I don't see how else they could be categorized, since every gifted child is at their own unique level. I am using the books that correspond to (1) my child's age, (2) my child's reading level, and (3) my child's level of understanding (so these may be read-aloud books).

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