

Margaret Wallace, a Colorado teacher of the gifted asked for help in finding appropriate books that promote positive thinking for a highly gifted eleven-year-old experiencing existential dread. She noted that many books at the appropriate reading level were inappropriate in emotional content—the social ills of the world were just too overwhelming and depressing. Wendy Leader responded below.

“After having listened to Barbara Kerr at the state Gifted Directors’ Meeting last week, I think it is important to deal with depression head-on. When insightful children realize that the world is in a bad place, they feel hopeless and helpless. Barbara pointed out how important it is not just to cheer them up, but to help them understand how their unique strengths and gifts can be used to help heal the world. This can be done by introducing them to the stories of people who used their gifts to find solutions or to press on. My district’s amazing library coordinator, Donna Miller, put together this list of books about hope.”

Wendy Leader, Gifted Education Coordinator
Mesa County Valley School District #51
Grand Junction, CO

Books About Hope

Title	Author	Publisher
<i>“95 Pounds of Hope”</i>	Anna Gavalda	Viking 2003
<i>“Aarvy Aardvark”</i>	Donna O’Toole	Mountain Rainbow Publications, 1988
<i>“Armando and the Blue Tarp School”</i>	Edith Hope Fine	Lee & Low Books 2007
<i>“Ashleigh’s Hope”</i>	Karen Bentley	Harper Paperbacks 1996
<i>“Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan”</i>	Mary Williams	Lee & Low Books 2005
<i>“Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul: 101 Stories of Courage, Hope & Laughter”</i>		Health Communications 1998
<i>“Christopher Reeve : Don't Lose Hope!”</i>	Sunita Apte	Bearport Publications 2006
<i>“The Color of Absence: 12 Stories about Loss and Hope”</i>		Simon Pulse, 2003
<i>“Elsie’s Great Hope”</i>		
<i>“Hope is an Open Heart”</i>	Lauren Thompson	Scholastic Press 2008-08-23
<i>“Jane Goodall: Finding Hope in the Wilds of West Africa”</i>	Diana Briscoe	Red Brick Learning 2005
<i>“John F. Kennedy: Voice of Hope”</i>	Marie Hodge	Sterling Publications 2007

<i>“Lance Armstrong: Cycling, Surviving Inspiring Hope”</i>	Christine Hill	Enslow Publishers 2008
<i>“Land of Hope”</i>	Joan Lowery Nixon	Doubleday Dell Books
<i>“Letters from Katrina”</i>		Growing Field 2007
<i>“Little sisters, listen up!”</i>	Ruby Asugha	Boys Town Press 2004
<i>“On That Day: A Book of Hope for Children”</i>	Andrea Patel	Tricycle Press
<i>“Martin Luther King Jr: A Dream of Hope”</i>	Alice Mulcahey	Sterling 2008
<i>“Mary McLeod Bethune: Voice of Black Hope”</i>	Milton Meltzer	Puffin 1988
<i>“The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane”</i>	Kate DiCamillo	Candlewick Press 2006
<i>“The Optimistic Classroom: Creative Ways to Give Children Hope”</i>	Debbie Hewitt	Redleaf Press 1998
<i>“Out of Bound: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope”</i>	Beverly Naidoo	Harper Collins 2008
<i>“Pier 21: Gateway of Hope”</i>	Linda Granfield	Tundra Books 2000
<i>“Rosa Parks: Meet A Civil Rights Hero”</i>	Edith Hope Fine	Enslow Publishers 2004
<i>“A Season of Hope”</i>	Lauren Brooke	Scholastic 2004
<i>“Stories of Hope & Spirit: Folktales from Eastern Europe”</i>	Dan Keding	August House 2004
<i>“Tapestry of Hope: Holocaust Writing for Young People”</i>		Tundra Books 2003
<i>“Terry Fox: A Story of Hope”</i>	Maxine Trottier	Scholastic Canada 2005
<i>“Wing Nut”</i>	Mary Jane Auch	H. Holt 2005
<i>“Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made A Difference”</i>	Joyce Hansen	Scholastic 2007