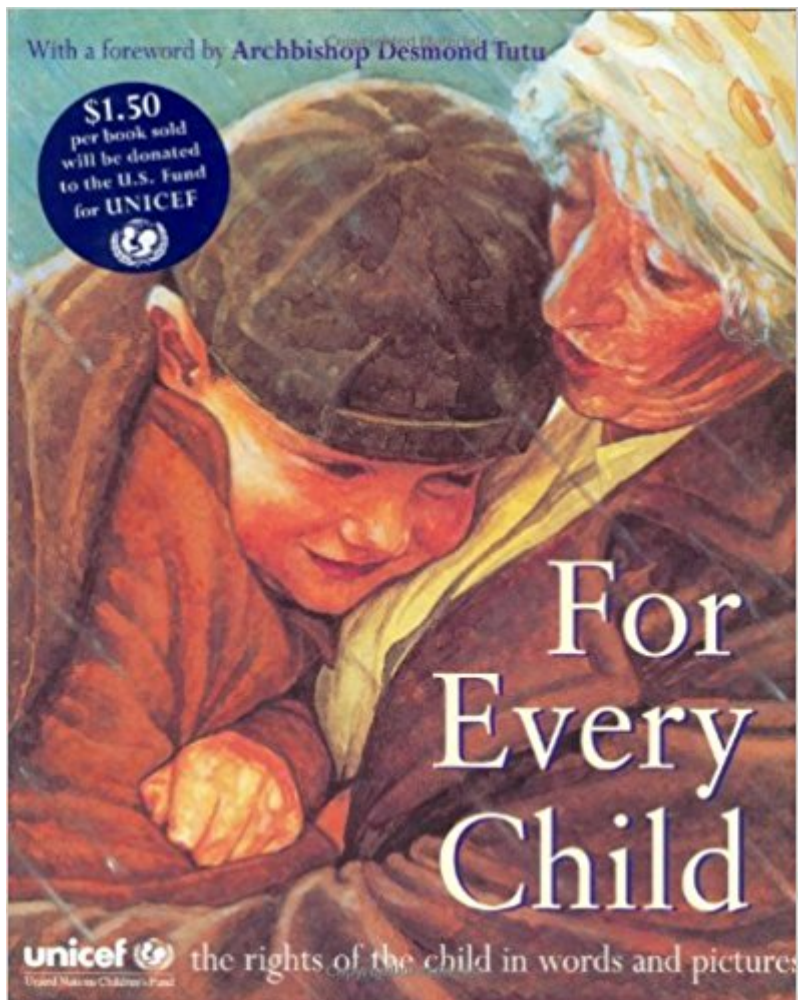




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# For Every Child



## Synopsis

In 1989 the United Nations formally adopted fifty-four principles that make up the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. For this breathtaking picture book the fourteen declarations that are most relevant to children's everyday lives have been retold by Caroline Castle in a simple, evocative text, each one interpreted in a stunning double-page illustration by a different artist from around the world. These well-known contributors include two Americans, both major award-winners: Jerry Pinkney and Rachel Isadora. UNICEF has declared that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child "stands alone as the single most comprehensive instrument of human rights law." However, not nearly enough people know of this important document's existence, and the new Millennium has presented the opportunity to draw attention to these rights. Contributing Artists: John Burningham, Babette Cole, Philippe Dumas, Shirley Hughes, Rachel Isadora, Satoshi Kitamura, P. J. Lynch, Claudio Muñoz, Jerry Pinkney, Henriette Sauvant, Amrit & Rabindra K. D. Kaur Singh, Peter Weevers, Ken Wilson-Max, Yang Tswei-yu

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

Published in association with UNICEF, this book presents 14 of the 54 principles adopted at the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and pairs each with illustrations by an international cast of all-stars. On the first spread, text beginning with "Whoever we are, wherever we live, these

rights belong to all children under the sun and the moon and the stars" accompanies Rachel Isadora's picture of a multicultural lineup of children. Rendered in black and white, the children each hold an instrument in their hands, and above their heads hovers the "music" Aa brightly colored array of abstract shapes. On the next page, Henriette Sauvant supplies a surreal oil painting for "Understand that all children are precious...." Also represented are Babette Cole, with a sprightly watercolor and pastel composition featuring her signature slyly humorous nudies, and Jerry Pinkney, who crafts a contemplative seaside study. From John Burningham to Satoshi Kitamura, Shirley Hughes to P.J. Lynch, the artists present distinctly different styles. In theory, the range of stylistic approaches seems compatible with the global reach of the text; unfortunately, the striking differences tend to detract from the strengths of each composition. The work seems fractured, not in harmony with the unifying message of the text. All ages. (Jan.) FYI: \$1.50 per book sold will be donated to UNICEF. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

PreS-Gr 3-Fourteen of the rights that were formally laid out by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are highlighted. The book begins with an introduction by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who asks readers to help make a difference. One double-page spread is devoted to each featured tenet, which is illustrated by a different artist. Some of the pictures are bold and dramatic, while others are quiet and subdued. Some are whimsical and others are serious. All bring home the point. Each illustration covers almost the entire spread, with the text on a small strip of white at the bottom. The artists include John Burningham, Shirley Hughes, Rachel Isadora, Satoshi Kitamura, and Jerry Pinkney. The book concludes with biographical sketches of the artists and additional details about the rights.-Kathleen Simonetta, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling, IL Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

A simple and true book. My child likes the pictures and asked to be read it again. Even my husband who was initially cynical of what he saw as UN propaganda softened his tone as he read it.

I shared this book with the children of my church during our Children's Sabbath service. Many people were touched by it and it has since been checked out of the church library for families to read. It is not specifically Christian. It affirms every child's rights including freedom of religion and cultural expression.

Used overseas especially in "third world" to reinforce the rights of children and encourage others to

work towards a better provision for children even in the most difficult of situations - every school and library should have a copy

good experience

Indeed, this is a beautiful book; the work of the superb illustrators in this book (for example, Rachel Isadora, Jerry Pinkney) have graced many wonderful picture; here these extraordinarily talented artists use their precious gifts to convey a supremely important message. Herein lies the book's true value, the central tenets of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1989, a decade after the 1979 UN Year of the Child, in honor of Janusz Korczak, the Polish pediatrician, children's book writer, orphanage director, and educator, who literally invented the phrase of acting "in the best interest of the child," upon which this ground-breaking international treaty is based. The central tenet of the UN Treaty and the tenets of Dr. Korczak, which inspired them, is "The Child's Right to Respect," to borrow the title from one of the Old Doctor's books. In addition to basic physical needs, the emotional needs of children must be taken into account. Children have a right to explore and define themselves in their own terms, for children, according to Korczak, "are people - not people-to-be, not people of tomorrow, but people now, right now-today." The child has a right to "be allowed to live and grow.. and grow... and grow... until we are grown up and can decide things for ourselves" (Right no. 6). In other words, we must accept children on their terms. Right 23 speaks to children with disabilities, while Right 31 proclaims the right to have time to play, in other words, to use their imagination and define their world. I cannot think of any message more important for adults to share with children - parents, teachers, and caretakers alike. To quote Janusz Korczak one more time, "The child? Already human." "The society? Not yet humane." This critically important book is a critically important step in reversing this situation; anyone who cares about justice, about morals and ethics, about the future owes it to him- or herself to read this book and then share it with at least one child.

In 1989, the United Nations adopted 54 principles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. If you are like me, you are probably unaware of what these rights are. This beautifully illustrated book captures almost a third of the rights in a way that will help your child expand her or his awareness of the problems that other children face. In the process, you can help your child to learn how to become an effective, caring person. In the United States, each sale will generate a donation of \$1.50 for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes in his foreword

about the purpose of the book which is " . . . to create a new kind of society . . . where children's rights are respected and protected." He cites many of the horrors we have all seen about children, including the napalmed little girl in Viet Nam whose photographic image will always haunt our dreams. What are some of these rights? Here are a few: " . . . [A]lways do your best for us whenever we are in your care." Right Number 3 "All children should be allowed to live and grow . . . until . . . we can decide things for ourselves." Right Number 6 "Every one of us shall have a name and a land of our own." Right Number 7 "Keep our families together . . . [or] look after us and love us just the same." Right Number 9 "Allow us to tell you what we are thinking or feeling." Right Number 13 "No one on Earth has the right to hurt us . . . ." Right Number 19 "If we are disabled . . . treasure us especially and give us . . . care." Right Number 23 "Teach us all to read and write . . . ." Rights Number 28 and 29 "Allow us to say our prayers in our own words . . . ." Right Number 30 "In times of war . . . shelter us and protect us from all harm." Right Number 38 While you may not agree with each nuance of the wording, the book provides the opportunity for your youngster to discover that other children face fundamental challenges. That can lead to a natural inquiry into what can be done to help. You can discuss this in your own way, but you may find it valuable to help your child know what his or her choices are. These could include helping other children in your own community who need care, learning to be a good parent, and raising money to share with less fortunate children wherever they live. Archbishop Tutu's comments are more appropriate for adults than for children, so you will probably want to wait to discuss what he has to say until your child is of an appropriate maturity to know more about the horrors of when children's rights are violated. The reading level for that material is beyond young children, so you are unlikely to have your child reading and comprehending this material before age 7. It is neutrally written, but will probably generate pointed questions. In a way, it is valuable to you in being able to create an opportunity to provide reassurance for your own child that she or he is safe and loved. Many children have vague fears in these areas that they are reluctant to raise with adults. No review of this book would be complete without mentioning the many beautiful two-page illustrations in the book. These were done in many different styles, and create a bright, optimistic setting for the principles described here. Each page has very few words, just a few more than I am permitted to quote in this review. Excluding Archbishop Tutu's comments, the whole book probably has no more than 450 words. So your child will be spending time with the illustrations as much as with the words. When your child sees something that is harmful to children happening, encourage her or him to discuss it with you. Then channel that discussion into thoughts about what appropriate actions are from an adult and a child. Each of us has our own ideas in the area, and these occasions can become opportunities for you

and your child to learn together in loving companionship. May the spirits of respect and caring for one another grow ever stronger amongst all humanity!

This book is gorgeously illustrated - I love how each right is illustrated by a separate artist. Even though it is a picture book it is most appropriate for older kids - at least 7 or 8 I think. Younger children will most likely have difficulty understanding the concepts in the book. When I taught I would use this book with 3rd-5th graders.

The illustrations in this book are very colorful and lively. I liked that each page had a different illustrator, so there is a good variety of visual attraction. However, the language could be simplified so that the content is more appealing to the average young child. As it is, the language seems more geared to an adult audience.

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