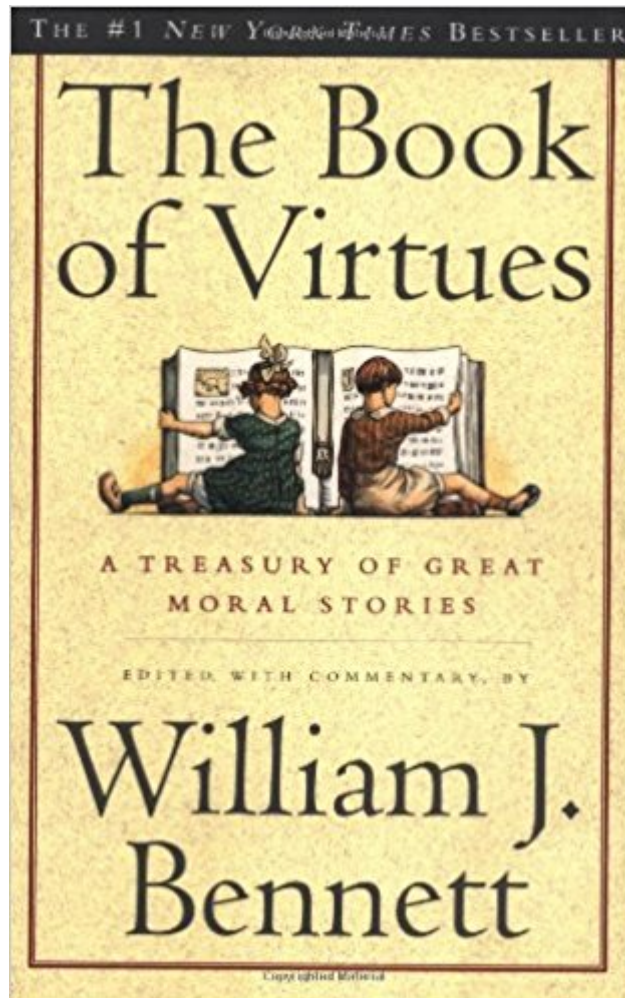




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# The Book Of Virtues



## Synopsis

Responsibility. Courage. Compassion. Honesty. Friendship. Persistence. Faith. Everyone recognizes these traits as essentials of good character. In order for our children to develop such traits, we have to offer them examples of good and bad, right and wrong. And the best places to find them are in great works of literature and exemplary stories from history. William J. Bennett has collected hundreds of stories in *The Book of Virtues*, an instructive and inspiring anthology that will help children understand and develop character -- and help adults teach them. From the Bible to American history, from Greek mythology to English poetry, from fairy tales to modern fiction, these stories are a rich mine of moral literacy, a reliable moral reference point that will help anchor our children and ourselves in our culture, our history, and our traditions -- the sources of the ideals by which we wish to live our lives. Complete with instructive introductions and notes, *The Book of Virtues* is a book the whole family can read and enjoy -- and learn from -- together.

## Book Information

Paperback: 832 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1 edition (September 5, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684835770

ISBN-13: 978-0684835778

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 224 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Reference](#) #193 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Homeschooling](#) #317 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Inspirational](#)

## Customer Reviews

Believing with Plato that "tales which the young first hear should be models of virtuous thought," former Secretary of Education Bennett ( *The De-Valuing of America* , LJ 4/1/92) has produced a McGuffey's Reader for the Nineties. The author draws upon a variety of literature ranging from biblical stories to political legends and speeches to illustrate the catalog of virtues--self-discipline, compassion, work, responsibility, friendship, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, faith--that he believes are foundational to strong moral character. Most selections are introduced by a short thematic note, e.g., "an honest heart will always find friends." Bennett's elevation of these virtues to

moral absolutes renders the book's view of morality rather simplistic. In addition, the collection's lack of attention to women's and non-Western voices encourages the view that the experience of virtue belongs primarily to Western males. Still, this anthology will prove popular with some readers. Recommended for public libraries.- Henry L. Carrigan Jr., Westerville P.L., Ohio Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The principled former secretary of education has culled a selection of poems and stories to be read aloud in hopes of passing on specific virtues to the younger generation. The selected works appear under chapter titles such as "Compassion

“Moral education is the training of heart and mind toward the good involves many things. It involves rules and precepts the do's and don'ts of life with others as well as explicit instruction, exhortation, and training. Moral education must provide training in good habits. Aristotle wrote that good habits formed at youth make all the difference.” William J. Bennett, author of *The Book of Virtues: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories* The premise of Bennett's books is quite simple: “The purpose of this book is to show parents, teachers, students, and children what the virtues look like, what they are in practice, how to recognize them, and how they work.” (1) To provide a moral compass for the young, Bennett utilizes stories from the Bible, American history, poems, fables, Greek myths, philosophy, fiction, and fairy tales to teach the virtues of self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith.

I grew up reading this anthology of virtues as a child. Bennett pulled together a wonderful collection of stories and classic examples through which important morals are illustrated for the reader. This book made such an impression on me that I have bought copies for each of my nephews and nieces so that they too can read and learn what it means to be a person of strong moral character.

This book is a must have for all families to learn what is most important in life. This book teaches about the importance of responsibility, courage, compassion, loyalty, honesty, friendship, persistence, hard work, self-discipline, and faith. This book would be a valuable tool for parents to be able to answer all those most difficult questions that children tend to ask. It will help children develop a strong and moral character as they grow. This book has stories, commentaries and

poems from some of the greatest classical authors of all time ranging from simple stories of philosophy from Aristotle and Plato to stories of Booker T. Washinton, and poems fro Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson and fables from Greek mythology and Aesop. These are some of the greatest works of literature.

The collection of stories compiled and presented is a reasonable collection of very moral, long held historically representative, and significant teachings. The collection is a cross section from many incoming cultures to the Western World and the eventual melting-pot called america, but there are deep lessons and salient central truths upheld in all. A veritable strong hold in the field of "Self-Help" and also the basis for relationship between individuals, individual to groups, almost every role and responsibility receives representation and guidance. Refer to the table of contents: Self-Discipline; Compassion; Responsibility; Friendship; Work; Courage; etc...Who, upon any reasonable self-encounter or introspection could not use a shot in the arm with such fundamental characteristics. This compilation by Mr. Bennett is a gem made of gems, indeed a treasury overflowing and edited with careful considerations. Knowledge Worth far beyond the price. Sit down and have a fulfilling read, share with your best friends. Practice on some who are not so close today and see what great culminates from an exercise of good knowledge, and experience. Daniel Grise -Dickinson, TX

As we live with our rather small wallet in a rather small apartment, we are always trying to find ways to live minimal and frugal. A book such as this, which holds within its covers Aesop's Fables, historical documents, speeches by prominent historical figures, fairy tales, folk tales, and poems which are easy to memorize and a delight to hear your barely-three-year-old rattle off as she sings to herself in play...I can only encourage it further. We have it on the shelf by her bed, and each night she asks for a story from it. Last night was "The Frog Prince" from Hans Christian Anderson, and I can hear her re-enacting it with her figures in her room as I write this. I look at this book as a sort of springboard for further reading. If this-or-that author interests us, we make a library trip out of. I have delighted in reading the Edgar Guest poem collection, for example, and discovered a new appreciation of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In school, when we HAD to study him, I had no appreciation, of course. I was so ungrateful, hah.)

This is a very valuable book for anyone. Its reputation stands by itself. I honestly wish adults would read this book. I do not see many of these virtues present in adults. I believe children should be

taught them but I do not see how adults can grow up and be so absent from their lives. I am reading it by myself, apart from my children, and I still see areas I need to 'mature'

This is a classic. I've loved this book for years. Getting it a gift now.

I've read this book and consider it a classic and a great book for parents or grandparents or aunts and uncles to share with the young ones in their lives. It can be used as a story book to share with children or as something that a child can read themselves and learn valuable lessons about life. I have bought this book twice, once for a nephew and again for his daughter. I know she will love this book for a long time and she may even read it to her younger brothers until they are old enough to read it themselves.

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