

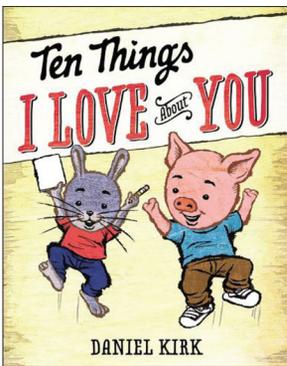


A Page in a Book

by Gerry Paige Smith

Discovering Friendship

As very young and open-to-anything social creatures, children are typically quick to discover friends. But it's less common for them to think about the dimensions of a special friendship, to look at their friendship through a different lens. While this concept is easier for adults who have the experience behind them to plumb the depths and dimensions of various friendships, children are just beginning to navigate the landscape of having a special friend and understanding how their buddy connections work. The following titles are sweet introductions that gently explore the layers of friendship that give them depth, meaning and hopefully longevity.



Ten Things I Love About You

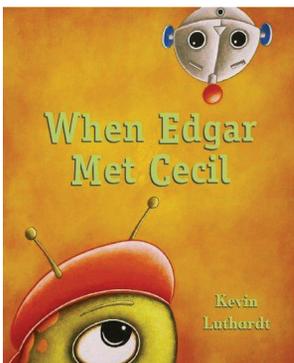
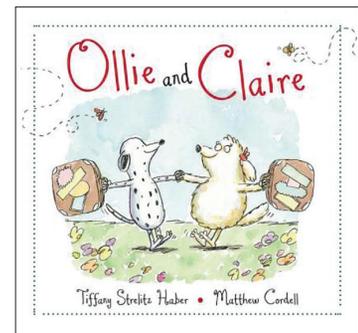
by Daniel Kirk (Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin)

Rabbit is so happy that Pig is his best friend that he decides to make a list of ten things he loves about Pig. He makes a special trip to Pig's house to announce his plan, and show off his first entry on the list ("I love Pig because he is very pink."). Rabbit also asks for help with his list, but Pig is very busy. As Pig leads him to the door, Rabbit gets more good ideas to add to his list. As Rabbit returns for more help, Pig gently tries to send him elsewhere to work. But each nudge away just generates more 'Things' for Rabbit's list. Just when it seems that Pig is about to lose patience, Rabbit discovers why Pig was so busy – he finds a list of "Ten Things I Love about Rabbit". Their lists are very different, yet perfectly paired for two special friends. When children read the lists side-by-side, the yin and yang, the balance found in good friendships is clear to even the youngest hearts.

Ollie and Claire

by Tiffany Strelite Haber and Matthew Cordell (Philomel / Penguin)

Ollie and Claire are almost inseparable friends. They do everything together; from yoga and running to picnics and swimming. Their daily routines are perfectly synchronized for bosom buddies, until Claire spots an advertisement for a "travel friend" to seek adventure and explore new places. She knows Ollie would never be bold enough to go, so she plans to arrive alone at the appointed time to meet a new friend and go on bold adventures without her best friend. But sometimes there are surprising layers to be discovered in a best friend. This comically illustrated picture book highlights the missed connections even good friends can have while it shares the joy of discovering new dimensions in an old friendship.



When Edgar Met Cecil

by Kevin Luthardt (Peachtree Publishers)

Edgar had the best friend in Quincy. They loved to watch scary movies and to build things together. But when Edgar's family has to move far away, he's sad to leave Quincy behind and he worries about making new friends. Edgar's fears seem to be coming true when he finds his new school populated by kids who are very different from him. All the kids seem strange...and the biggest, weirdest kid in his class won't stop staring at him. Edgar's anxiety grows as this big, scary kid stalks him around the school. But when they inadvertently startle each other on the playground, the big kid introduces himself as Cecil – and they quickly find common ground for a new friendship. Celebrating the ease of making a new friend even when the landscape changes, "When Edgar Met Cecil" is a great read for kids on the move.

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