



# How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids

*Tom Rath , Maurie J. Manning (illustrator) , Mary Reckmeyer*

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An illustrated adaptation of the long-running bestseller *How Full Is Your Bucket?* (more than 400,000 copies sold) for kids — told through the story of a boy who learns a valuable “bucket filling” metaphor and watches it come to life as the day unfolds.

Every moment matters.

Each of us has an invisible bucket. When our bucket is full, we feel great. When it’s empty, we feel awful. Yet most children (and many adults) don’t realize the importance of having a full bucket throughout the day.

In *How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids*, Felix begins to see how every interaction in a day either fills or empties his bucket. Felix then realizes that everything *he* says or does to other people fills or empties their buckets as well.

Follow along with Felix as he learns how easy it can be to fill the buckets of his classmates, teachers and family members. Before the day is over, you’ll see how Felix learns to be a great bucket filler, and in the process, discovers that filling someone else’s bucket also fills his own.

## How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids Details

Date : Published April 1st 2009 by Gallup Press (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9781595620279

Author : Tom Rath , Maurie J. Manning (illustrator) , Mary Reckmeyer

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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# From Reader Review How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids for online ebook

## Heather says

### Text-to-Teaching

After reading this book to a class, a teacher could have the class brainstorm ways to incorporate kindness into the classroom and use it as a writing/art assignment. Students can use materials to create a 'Bucket Book'. This would be a book of ideas on how to be kind, respectful, helpful, compassionate. The students could illustrate it using a variety of art supplies, and write it using proper procedure depending on their grade level. Students can also decorate their own small buckets that can hang around the classroom and use those to put "drops of water" (maybe pieces of paper or puff balls) into another's bucket when they've done something kind, etc. This may need to be tweaked according to the room/students/etc, but could be a jumping off point for actual buckets being filled!

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## Bvlmc Buchanan Verplanck Elementary School says

In this story of a 36 hour period of a boy's life, Felix discovers the principles of how to fill or empty his own bucket as well as those around him with feelings of happiness or sadness. As the events of the day unfold and he interacts with family, friends and classmates Felix learns to recognize those whose buckets need refilling and how helping those in need of a boost also fills his own bucket with positive feelings. Try this story first as children love to relate to the message of the story through it's telling, and then if your child needs more explicit examples of behaviors that help or harm read "Have you filled a bucket today?" by Carol McCloud.

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## Keri says

Category: Grades K-3, Book #25

This book set the tone for my entire school year. The premise is to teach children about what their actions can do to help someone or to put them down. All of our conversations when it comes to behavior are about "bucket filling behaviors." The children can easily understand the concept and apply it to their own behavior.

Critic Review from Barnes and Noble.com:

School Library Journal

- K-Gr 2—Based on the author's adult work *How Full Is Your Bucket?* (Gallup, 2004), this book explains that we all have invisible buckets of water over our heads. The negative actions of others toward us can empty the buckets, and our own meanness toward them can deplete their vessels, too. Positive actions reverse the process. Felix refuses to allow his sister to play blocks with him. When she angrily kicks over his tower, his grandfather explains that Felix dipped from his sister's container. The next morning Felix actually sees a bucket floating over his own head, and during the course of the day, as he is alternately bullied and praised, he realizes what causes it to be empty or full. This story is so heavy-handed and didactic that children are likely to find it laughable. Neither Felix, his sister, nor even their dog is a likable character, and the floating buckets over everyone's head look just plain silly.—Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School,

### **Lindsay says**

With creative use of metaphor, Felix's grandpa helps him to understand that everyone has an invisible bucket that follows them around all day. When bad things happen, the bucket slowly loses its water. When good things happen, water is added to the bucket. Felix wakes up one morning able to see everyone's previously invisible buckets and realizes how his actions affect them and their buckets. He changes his behaviors to become more of a bucket-filler than a bucket-emptier. He finally notices how not only is he able to fill the buckets of others, but in doing so, his own bucket is filled up as well.

The colorful illustrations in this book help to tell the story and explain why the characters' buckets are either filling or emptying. This helps to explain that the buckets are metaphors for a person's feelings and that by being kind to someone, it makes you feel good at the same time. The pictures also give great detail to the feelings and emotions of the characters that I am sure all kids will be able to relate to, from a rushed morning at home, to kids being rude at school, to someone finally saying something nice after a long, hard day.

This book would make an excellent contribution to any elementary classroom's management plan. It could be read and discussed on the very first day with follow up activities all year long. Students could help to make bucket-filler posters, giving ideas on how to be a bucket filler. The teacher could send thank-you notes home to students he/she observes as being a bucket filler. What a great way to emphasize the positive and teach students about how their actions affect others!

After a quick search, I found this really great classroom bucket-filler activity on the scholastic site and it was so interesting, I thought I'd post a link to it in its entirety here instead of trying to explain it:  
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/to...>

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### **Danna says**

I LOVE this book. We all need to remember that we have a choice each time we encounter someone. We can choose to "fill" their bucket with our kind words or deeds. Or "empty" their bucket with unkind words or actions. It is such a simple thing to give a smile or a thoughtful gesture that can make someone's day.

So remember to "fill" the bucket of those around you.

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### **Melanie says**

I loved the adult version of this book. I did like this one, however I felt like it wasn't as child friendly as it could have been...I was hoping for more examples and it seemed a little too obscure for my 5 year old. However, I still like it and would recommend it. We talk a lot about filling buckets in our family :)

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## **Shellie says**

illustrated by Maurie J. Manning

EVERY person who breaths air should read this book!

It is seriously an amazing little book.

As you go through your day and life are you filling or emptying your bucket?

As you go through your day and life are you filling or emptying other people's buckets?

It's that easy. Everything we say and do will either fill or empty joy in your bucket or other's.

You DO make a difference!

And yes the illustrations are as good as the book.

This is just my opinion, read the book to form yours.

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## **Dyan says**

Awesome book teaches about the link between self-esteem and kindness and respect to others via the metaphor of full and empty bucket...a must read! (Bullies are bucket dippers because their buckets are empty!)

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## **Chardell says**

This book is a winner when it comes to showing that sometimes people need to make one another feel better. It's about making everyone feel better by using the idea of a bucket. The idea is to keep everyone's bucket full, which is a way of cheering others up. I say it's perfect from grades pre-k to 3rd grade.

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## **Lori says**

What a great book written to help people to understand the idea that if you help or give to another soul, you will reap a reward for your kindness. Many times more than you give. Each good deed fills your bucket another drop. Their good deeds to you fills your bucket as well. But if they do something mean to you it takes a drop away. Cleverly written and great for children of adults!

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## **Beverly says**

Good book for helping to teach children to be positive.

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## **Tim Vandenberg says**

An important & beautiful message for all kids (and adults).

However, the execution of this book (both in its text AND art) really fell short for me. I think a better (and much more powerful) rendition could have, and should have, been delivered.

For example: "Each Kindness" by Jacqueline Woodson & E. B. Lewis.

Recommended for its message alone. Don't expect much from the predictable story & lackluster art.

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## **Tori Webster says**

This is a wonderful book about a boy that comes to the realization that how he treats others can have an effect on them. The metaphor of a "bucket" is used to show how others (including the dog) feel when they are treated good/bad by others.

In the classroom, I use this book at the beginning of every school year. I do a lesson about how to empty/fill a bucket and discuss with the class how we should be filling one another's buckets everyday. It is a great classroom management/community tool.

This was a wow book for me because it presents a problem that everyone faces at some point in life in a way that can be understood by children. It also made me think of how I "fill" my student's "buckets," and created a more positive classroom environment for me. It's just a wonderful book for any K-2 teacher!

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## **Beth (YA Books Central) says**

*"When Felix wakes up one morning, he finds an invisible bucket floating overheard.  
A rotten morning threatens his mood-and his bucket- drop by drop.  
Can Felix discover how to refill his bucket before its completely empty?"*

How Full Is Your Bucket is an inspirational children's book that is filled with metaphors to help children to see how to view right and wrong. Felix's grandfather explains to him that everyone has a bucket and depending on his and other's actions...his bucket can either be full or empty and it is up to others to help fill or remove the water from your bucket.

I thoroughly enjoyed how this book teaches kids to see how their words and actions can affect other people and how by just one kind word a person can change someone's entire outlook for the day.

How Full Is Your Bucket explains how being nice and honest can make such a huge difference in someone's life.

I loved the illustrations in this book as well...they were so bright and colorful and full of emotion. You can see the genuine emotion on all of the characters faces both when they are happy and when they are sad. I recommend this book to all parents who have young children in school. This is a perfect book to help them learn right and wrong and how their actions affect others.

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## **Lexi says**

This is a book about filling each others invisible buckets. making people feel good about themselves through encouragement and positive feedback.

I taught a lesson in a third grade class using this book with cutout buckets. The students loved the idea that they could write nice notes to their friends and help everyone's buckets fill up.

I recommend everyone read this book or the more adult version because it is something we as a society can do for each other to make living a little easier.

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