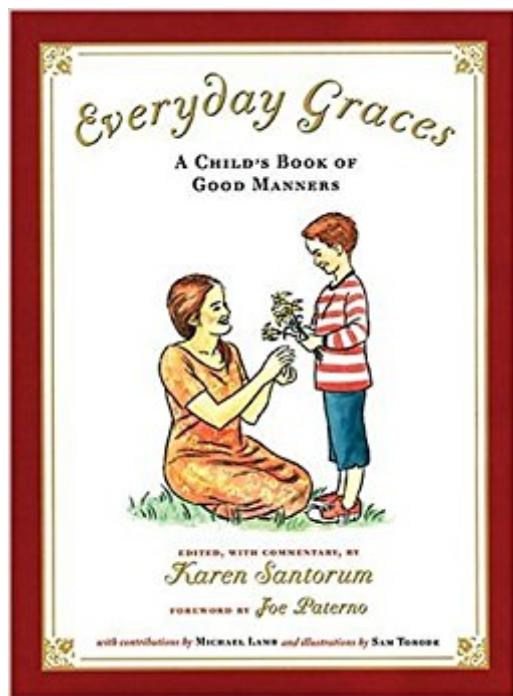


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# Everyday Graces: A Child's Book Of Good Manners



## Synopsis

The regrettable fact is that the subject of manners is not much discussed anymore, and good manners seem practiced even less. But good manners are a prerequisite for the growth of moral character; they are the habits of conduct and behavior by which we express in the most ordinary circumstances our fundamental respect for others, whether parents, friends, colleagues, or strangers. Fortunately, Karen Santorum has produced for parents and teachers a wonderfully rich and instructive anthology to help instill good manners in our children and stand against a decline of civility and a coarsening of our common life. Under such headings as "Honor Your Mother and Father," "Please and Thank You," "No Hurtful Words," "Good Behavior in Sport," and "Showing Respect for Country," *Everyday Graces* features stories and poems that will develop and enrich the moral imagination. This marvelous anthology features classic selections from such well-known authors as Hans Christian Anderson, Beatrix Potter, Mark Twain, Frances Hodgson Burnett, C. S. Lewis, Max Lucado, and Arnold Lobel, as well as forgotten gems that deserve a new hearing. Mrs. Santorum writes that this anthology grew out of the frustration of not being able to find a book on manners that instructs through stories rather than by rules of dos and don'ts. She and her husband tried and tested many of these selections on their six children. Each of the selections is briefly introduced with a thoughtful commentary at the close, producing an informality and intimacy that is inviting and infectious. Find out why *Everyday Graces* has become a beloved feature in homes, schools, churches, and libraries across America.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 3 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

"A lovely and touching family reading experience. Here is a delightful and poignant opportunity for parent and child to bond in love and wisdom."

In *Everyday Graces: A Child's Book of Good Manners*, Karen Santorum has produced for parents and teachers a wonderfully rich and instructive anthology. Her volume speaks to the regrettable fact that the subject of manners is not much discussed anymore, and good manners seem practiced even less. Yet, good manners are a prerequisite for the growth of moral character; they are the habits of conduct and behavior by which we express in the most ordinary circumstances our fundamental respect for others, whether parents, friends, colleagues, or strangers. It is evident, then, that when we fail to instill good manners in our youth we invite a decline of civility and a coarsening of our common life. Under such headings as "Honor Your Mother and Father," "Please and Thank You," "No Hurtful Words," "Good Behavior in Sport," and "Showing Respect for Country," Mrs. Santorum has arranged a collection of stories and poems that will develop and enrich the moral imagination. Some of her selections are well known; others are forgotten gems that deserve a new hearing. Authors include Hans Christian Anderson, Beatrix Potter, Mark Twain, Frances Hodgson Burnett, M. Montgomery, C. S. Lewis, Max Lucado and Arnold Lobel, to name only a few. Karen Santorum writes that this anthology "grew out of the frustration of not being able to find a book on manners that instructs through stories rather than by rules of dos and don'ts." Each of her selections has been tried and tested on her own children, and each is introduced and concluded by her own thoughtful commentary. The result is an informality and intimacy that is inviting and infectious. *Everyday Graces* will be useful both as a bedside book and as a reference for home, school, and church library. "This book is a treasure chest - every story a gem. The knowledge imparted in this book will, indeed, make the world a much better place." --Elizabeth Dole, US Senator "It's also book of manners for Rock Stars . . ." --Bono, singer/songwriter, U2 "Good manners are a reflection of a person's heart and soul. There is nothing more beautiful to a parent than when a child looks beyond himself in consideration of another. All of the kind deeds and words that come from a wellmannered child add so much joy to the lives of others. *Everyday Graces* is fun, entertaining, and instructive. Without even knowing it, children are learning good manners as they

read through the stories and poems. I highly recommend this book to every parent. It is a book every family should have and enjoy!" --Jane Seymour, actress, author of Remarkable Changes "A lovely and touching family reading experience. Here is a delightful and poignant opportunity for parent and child to bond in love and wisdom." --Dr. Laura Schlessinger, national radio talk show host and author of the children's book Where's God? "Good literature can be an inspiring guide to good behavior. Parents who share this book with their children will thank Karen Santorum for the skill and sensitivity with which she chose its contents. And so will the parents' children when, years hence, they read it with their own children." --George F. Will, syndicated columnist "Karen Santorum touches a raw nerve. The moral decay in American life has led to the coarsening of America. Slothfulness, remember, is one of the seven deadly sins. Through stories, poems, fables and myths, here is a great resource to restore manners." Charles W. Colson, Chairman, Prison Fellowship Ministries "Karen Santorum believes that politeness stems from the nature of a person. As a mother, she also knows the power of stories to shape and mold the nature of our children. In Everyday Graces, Karen has complied a treasure chest of tales that helps us raise the next generation of children into adults of kind compassion. Everyday Graces is a must for families that desire their children to become people of character." --Janet Parshall, nationally syndicated talk show host "A charming collection of stories that will delight children while teaching them important lessons about life." William Kilpatrick, author, Why Johnny Can't Tell Right From Wrong "Among the casualties of the 'culture war' have been civility, manners, and what we called in my grandparents' generation 'deportment.' Karen Santorum mounts a counteroffensive in Everyday Graces, gleaned from classic and contemporary sources that teach what we once held to be common sense and common values. This book belongs in every home in need of reinforcements." --Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist "Everyday Graces represents a valuable contribution to the new national trend to emphasize virtues above information, character over skills. Karen Santorum has provided a useful service for all parents who want to encourage more civilized behavior in their children." --Michael Medved, film critic and national radio talk show host "What I want to say to Mrs. Santorum for giving us this remarkable and stimulating book on the much-neglected subject of manners is: Ma'am, permit me, 'thank you so very, very much.' --William Murchison, Radford Distinguished Professor of Journalism, Baylor University

If I could have only had two books in my children's library as they were growing up, they would have been the Bible and Everyday Graces. It is an excellent book with a variety of stories, excerpts and poems on the different areas that children need to learn about. When I would read them a story from

this book, they enjoyed it so much, they would always ask for another one.

Everyday Graces is a book full of stories and poems about manners, wisdom, kind words ect. We are enjoying these stories and enjoy the discussion about the lessons of what we read. Would recommend

My family loves Everyday Graces! I read stories at dinnertime and my kids get transfixed. My 3.5 year old daughter has even started correcting anyone if they talk with their mouth full or chew with their mouths open. Such a clever and special way to teach manners.

Good

Such a great book for teaching kids manners!

This book has some wonderful, beautiful gems in it. There were many poems and selections from books that I remember from my own childhood, but also some that I have never heard of. The book is mostly too old for my 2 1/2 year old daughters, but there are a few poems and selections that I can read to them and get their attention with. There aren't many pictures - I can't recall any, but think there might be a few small drawings. This is for children old enough to listen as you read aloud. I am thrilled to have this book on my shelf, where my children can read through and explore it when they get older. I appreciated that there was a mix of styles, from whimsical poems by Shel Silverstein to selections from Anne of Green Gables. One of the greatest things about this book is that it calls one's attention to indispensable classics that parents may have forgotten, or never read before. I will be buying some of the books which selections were chosen from, and referring to this book as my children grow up to get ideas for stocking the family library. I do have a few minor complaints. First, many selections are followed up by a 'moral' written in everyday language. I found this potentially trite and the points were overly belabored. Also, sometimes the switch in tone could be jarring after some of the selections. However, I think that these little notes will have the desired effect as long as I don't read them and just leave them for my children to discover when they are able to read for themselves. I'm hoping that they will come across as little treasures and surprises for my children to discover on their own. Second, some of the selections came from novels and needed a lot of prefacing to explain their context, and even then seemed a bit disjointed. Most were fine, but occasionally I just felt like something was missing as I read the selection.

My daughter LOVES this book. She picked it up to read all the time!

This book is truly a classic! Very helpful to parents who are trying to instill good character into their children.

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