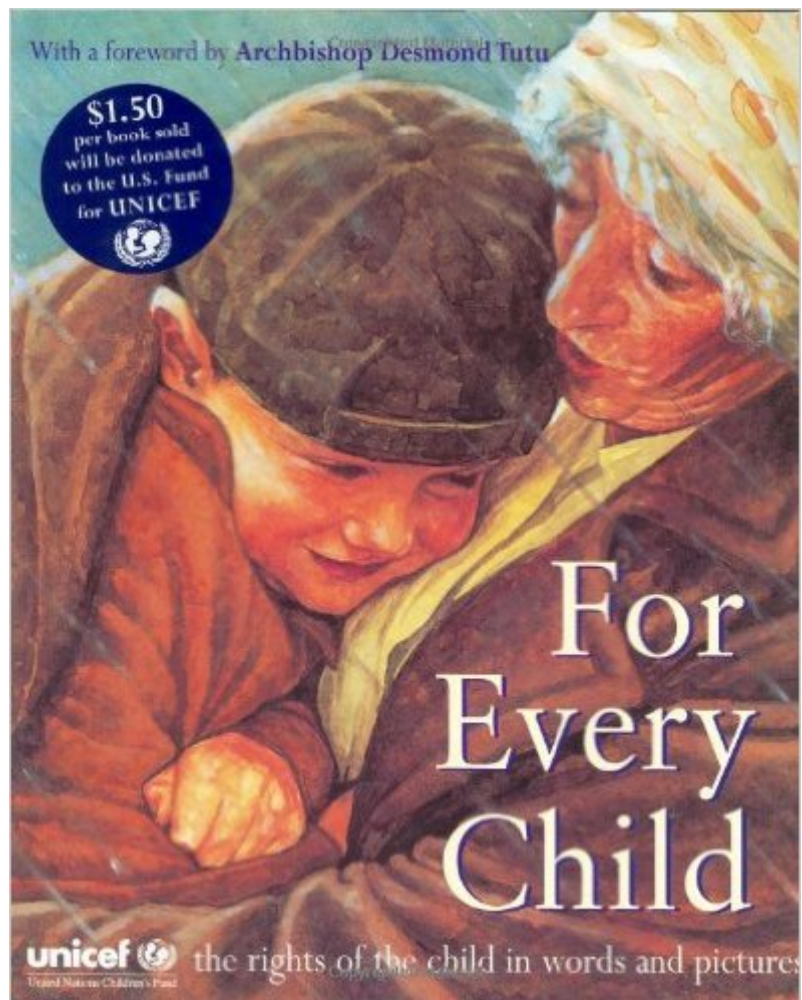


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# For Every Child



## 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, Bette 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

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 . . .

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.

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