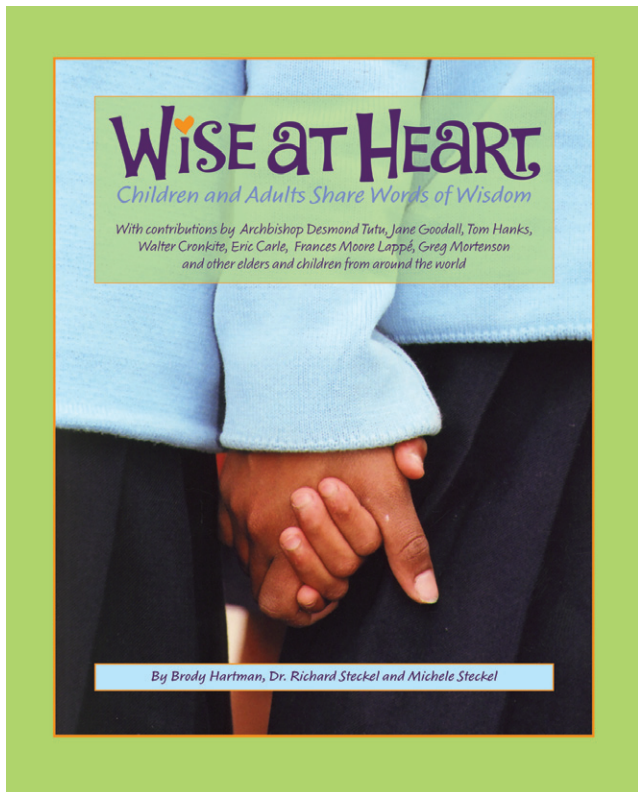


How to Use This Book in Your Classroom or Library for grades 5–6



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Wise at Heart:

Children and Adults Share Words of Wisdom

By Brody Hartman, Dr. Richard Steckel and Michele Steckel

Illustrated with photographs of children from 18 countries, *Wise at Heart* is a compilation of quotes from children and adults organized around three themes: Wise Inside, Peace Wise and Nature Wise.

Wise at Heart is an excellent way to spark discussions in the classroom. It invites the sharing of thoughts about what is important in life and can play a strong role in values education.

Dr. Richard Steckel and **Michele Steckel** are co-founders of the Milestones Project (www.milestonesproject.com), a collection of their photographs of children all over the world. Milestones photos and teaching resources, with their messages of mutual respect, understanding and acceptance, have touched more than 200 million people worldwide through a series of exhibits. The Steckels live in Littleton, Colorado.

Brody Hartman is a creative catalyst, writer, designer and environmental artist dedicated to inspiring cultural change through the social and business marketplace. His work ranges from crafting a corporate mission, vision and CSR platform for a Fortune 50 company to directing a multimedia installation for the International Museum of Woman. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Activities and Discussions

1. One Person, Singular

Wise at Heart contains many quotations about the value and importance of each and every human being. For example, on page 50, a six-year-old named Jonathan says: “It only takes one person to change the world.” Ask your students whether or not they agree with this statement. Have them research some examples of individuals who have made a big difference in the arts, the sciences or in society as a whole. Ask them to present their findings to the class.



Wise at Heart: Children and Adults Share Words of Wisdom © 2011.

Written and photographed by Brody Hartman, Dr. Richard Steckel and Michele Steckel.

This guide is available as a free download from www.kidscanpress.com.

2. Words into Pictures

“A picture is worth a thousand words,” or so the saying goes. Working in pairs or groups of three, ask your students to choose one of the nature quotations from pages 52–63 and then illustrate it with photographs from magazines, their own artwork or both. Mount the quotations and the art on a bulletin board for all to see.



3. Finish That Sentence

Wise at Heart is about the things that are important to people. It is a way of “catching wisdom” and passing it along. To find out what’s important to your students (and to stimulate discussion about “the big topics”), ask them to complete this sentence:

I would like the world to know that

Have students write their quotations on index cards and mount them on the bulletin board. Invite parents or another class to see the results.



4. Other Voices

In the introduction to *Wise at Heart*, the authors write: “Wisdom usually points to universal truths found in many traditions and cultures around the world.” Ask each student to find one saying or piece of wisdom from another culture or country. They can ask people of different backgrounds for sayings or proverbs, or they can consult books or the Internet. For example, to find wisdom from Germany, enter the phrase “German proverbs” in a search engine. Announce a “Wisdom-sharing Day,” and have students present their piece of wisdom and where it came from.

Here’s one example to get students motivated: “If you think you’re too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito.” — African proverb

