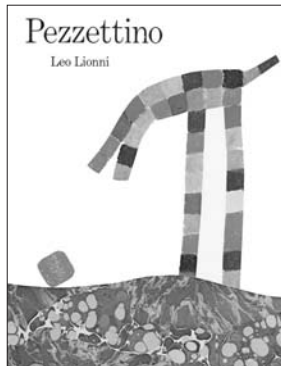


CELEBRATE THE WORLD OF LEO LIONNI

Over four decades since his first picture book was published, Leo Lionni's universal themes—individuality, sharing, beauty, peace, cooperation, community, diplomacy, and friendship—remain as fresh and relevant as ever. Lionni (1910–1999) was a four-time Caldecott Honor winner and the acclaimed author-illustrator of more than 40 children's books. His world is one of magic, beauty, and the importance of appreciating the gifts you already have.



Pezzettino, originally published in 1975, is “a little piece” from Leo Lionni’s collection and is back after being unavailable for the past 20 years. It is a delightful, reassuring tale for little children who wonder how they fit into the big world.



Classroom Lesson Ideas Based on the Themes of Leo Lionni

INDIVIDUALITY—In *Pezzettino*, the main character is trying to find his place in the world, only to find out that he is not a smaller piece of someone else. Instead, he realizes that he is simply himself and how wonderful that is. Allow students to explore their individuality by having them stamp their fingerprints onto a piece of paper and then using a magnifying glass to compare similarities and differences with a partner.

SHARING—After reading *Tico and the Golden Wings*, ask students how Tico felt to be different at first. How did he overcome those feelings? How did Tico feel after helping others? Then discuss ways students can share their qualities to help others.

BEAUTY—In *The Biggest House in the World*, the little snail thinks that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn't always mean better. Discuss with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and have them list the problems little snail encountered as a result of having the “biggest house in the world.”

PEACE—*It's Mine* is a story about peace, sharing, and friendship. Three frogs selfishly bicker all day long, yelling out “It's mine!” until one day a big storm scares them and forces them to work together. Afterwards, they realize how much more they enjoy everything when they share. Discuss with students why it is important to share. How do they feel when someone shares and when someone doesn't share? Have students share an object with a classmate for a short time. Is it a peaceful time or not? Allow time for students to orally share their experiences with the class.

COOPERATION—In the story *Swimmy*, Swimmy teaches his new friends a way to work together to overcome their biggest obstacle—the big fish. When the fish swim together in the form of a big fish, with Swimmy as the “eye,” they are able to stay

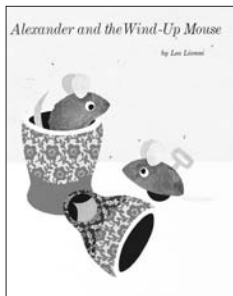
safe and experience all the wonderful sites in the sea together. Discuss the word *cooperation* and what it means. Then, have students work in small groups to put together a puzzle, create a mural with sidewalk chalk on the playground, or create an art project using various items given to them in a shoebox (buttons, string, paperclips, etc.).

COMMUNITY—In *Frederick*, Frederick is a mouse whose community is working together to prepare for the difficult winter months. But as the others are working hard physically gathering corn, nuts, and straw, they question Frederick as to why he is not working. Frederick replies that he is working, however he is gathering sun rays, colors, and words. When the food runs low, they ask Frederick to share his “supplies” and when he does they are just as helpful. Discuss with students that, although Frederick has a different way of contributing to the community, it is just as important. Take students for a walk around the community. Discuss what was important to keep their community functioning smoothly and in what ways could they contribute. Make a list of their ideas.

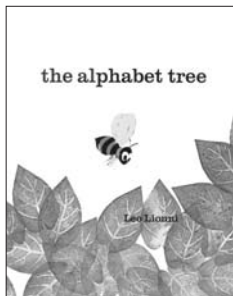
DIPLOMACY—The letters in *The Alphabet Tree* have to work together to survive. They learn how to do that with the help of a word bug and a caterpillar who convince them they need to work together more to be meaningful. Discuss with students ways to work together for a greater good. Have students make cards and send them to a local nursing home or hospital to cheer up others in their community.

FRIENDSHIP—*An Extraordinary Egg* is a story about two unlikely friends, a frog named Jessica and a green “chicken.” Despite their differences, these characters become inseparable friends when Jessica is saved by the “chicken.” Discuss the importance of friendship and how nice it is to share experiences with friends. Have students sit in a circle and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend to their right.

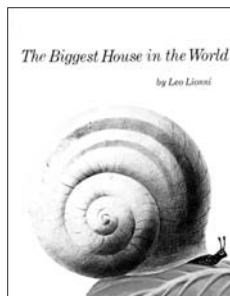
How many of Leo Lionni's classic titles have you read?



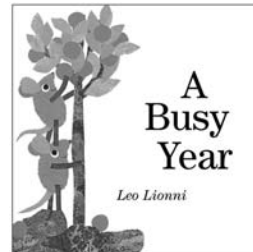
ALEXANDER AND THE WIND-UP MOUSE
PB: 0-394-82911-5



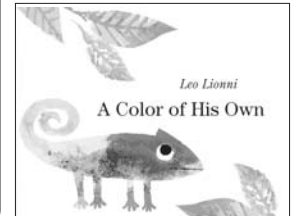
THE ALPHABET TREE
HC: 0-394-81016-3
PB: 0-679-80835-3
GLB: 0-394-91016-8



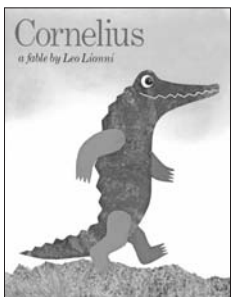
THE BIGGEST HOUSE IN THE WORLD
PB: 0-394-82740-6



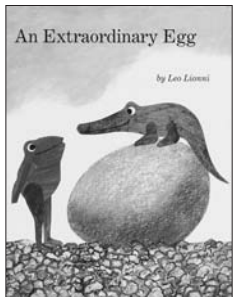
A BUSY YEAR
BR: 0-375-82737-4



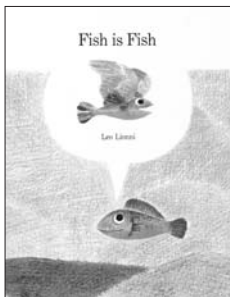
A COLOR OF HIS OWN
PB: 0-679-88785-7
BR: 0-375-81091-9



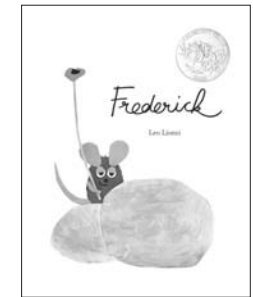
CORNELIUS
PB: 0-679-86040-1



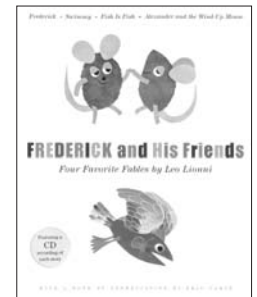
AN EXTRAORDINARY EGG
PB: 0-679-89385-7



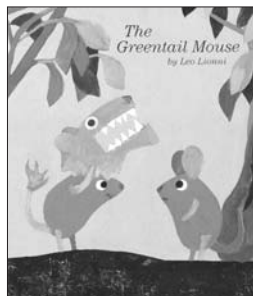
FISH IS FISH
HC: 0-394-80440-6
PB: 0-394-82799-6
GLB: 0-394-90440-0



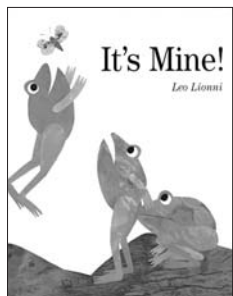
FREDERICK
HC: 0-394-81040-6
PB: 0-394-82614-0
GLB: 0-394-91040-0



FREDERICK AND HIS FRIENDS
HC with CD: 0-375-82299-2



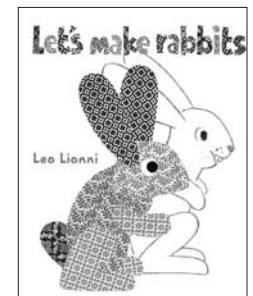
THE GRENTAIL MOUSE
HC: 0-375-82399-9
GLB: 0-375-92399-3



IT'S MINE!
PB: 0-679-88084-4



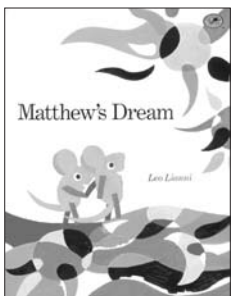
LEO LIONNI'S LITTLE MICE TALES
BX: 0-375-82615-7



LET'S MAKE RABBITS
BR: 0-375-81564-3



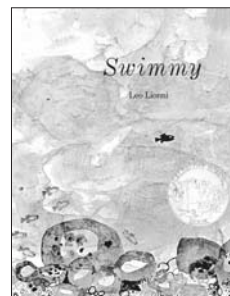
LET'S PLAY
BR: 0-375-82528-2



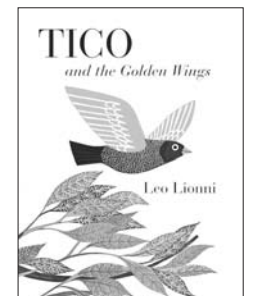
MATTHEW'S DREAM
PB: 0-679-87318-X



PEZZETTINO
HC: 0-394-83156-X



SWIMMY
HC: 0-394-81713-3
PB: 0-394-82620-5
GLB: 0-394-91713-8



TICO AND THE GOLDEN WINGS
PB: 0-394-83078-4

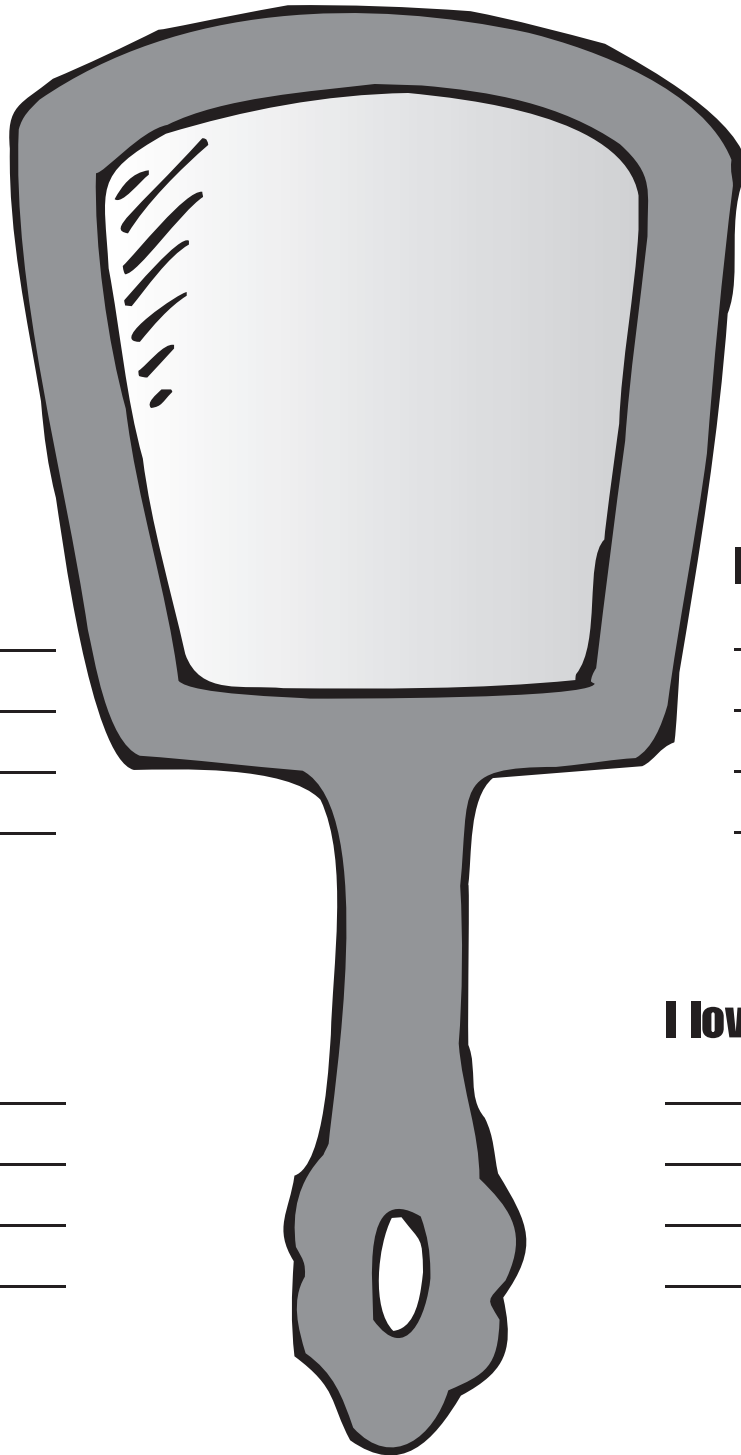
HC=hardcover
PB=paperback
BR=board book
BX=boxed set
GLB=reinforced library binding

To read all the books in the Leo Lionni collection, visit your local library or bookstore.

NAME: _____

I Am Special

**Pezzettino realizes that just being himself is what makes him special.
What makes you special? Draw a picture of yourself in the mirror.
Write what special qualities you have on the lines below.**



I am . . .

I have . . .

I can . . .

I love . . .

To read *Pezzettino* and other books by Leo Lionni, visit your local library or bookstore.

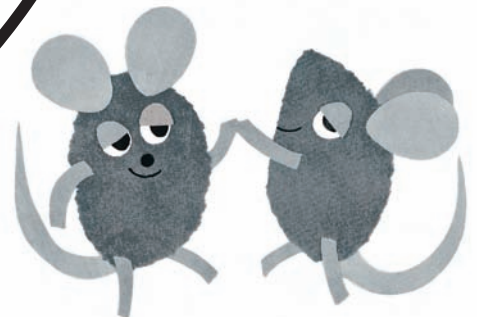
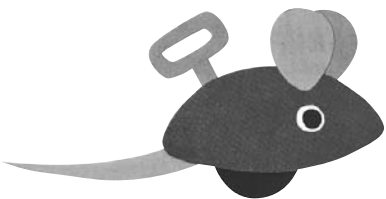
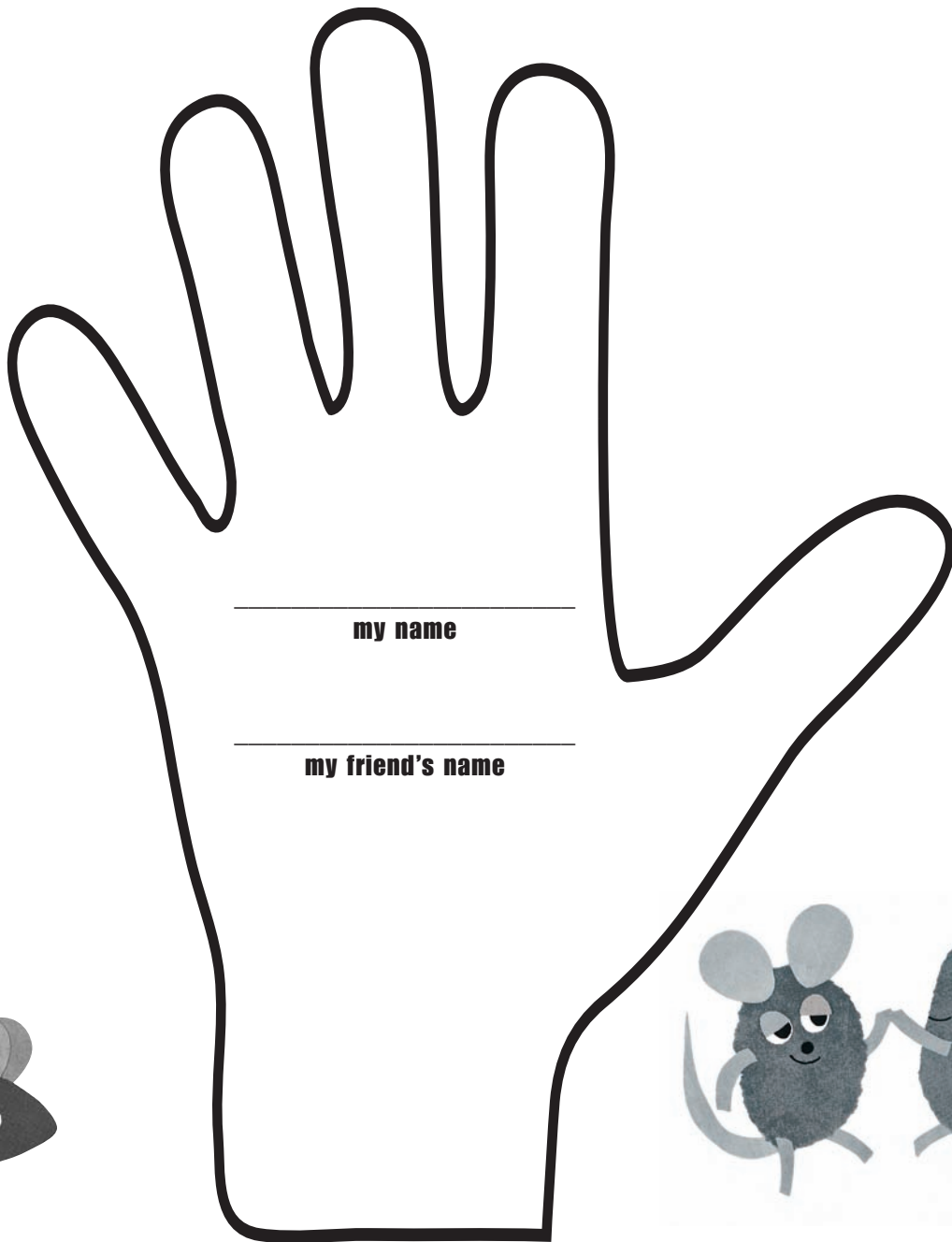
NAME: _____

A Rainbow of Friends

Alexander and Willy are true friends to the end in the story *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*. Alexander wishes he could be a toy like Willy so that he will be loved, but Alexander makes a surprising choice so that the friends can remain happily together.

Who is your best friend? Write your name and your friend's name on the hand.
Then color the hand in your favorite color and cut it out.

Your teacher will collect your hand and use it to create a classroom rainbow of friendship.



To read *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse* and other books by Leo Lionni, visit your local library or bookstore.