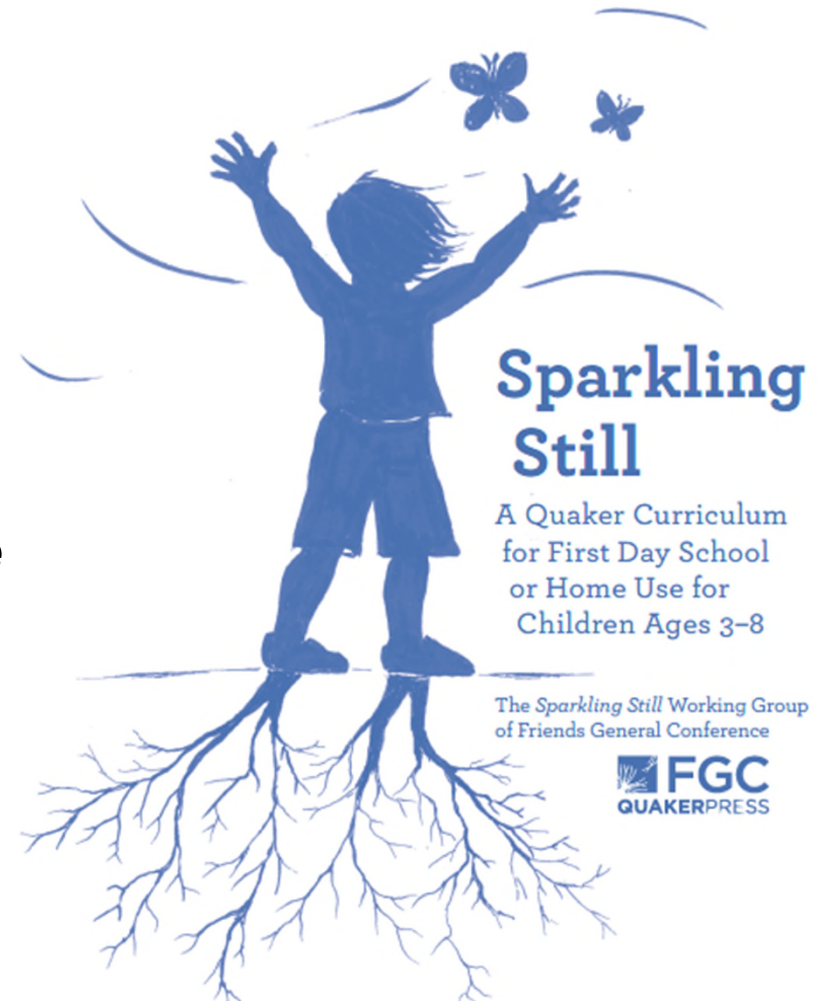


Sparkling Still

**A Quaker Curriculum
for First Day School or Home Use
For Children Ages 3 – 8**



Sparkling Still



Is a resource that can help **adults**

- (including those without teaching experience)
- to have the confidence to work with a group of children
- to share high-quality children's literature
- that demonstrates our Quaker faith and values and
- to have conversations with the children

We have discovered that older children respond well to this format with stories that are of interest to them.

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- Preface: A New Style of Curriculum for a New Day
- A Welcome to First Day School Teachers and Parents
- On Wondering with Children In Godly Play® and Faith & Play™
- Using Stories and Wondering Questions to Create Your Own Lessons
- About Teaching
 - Tips from our combined 100+ years of teaching; preparing child-friendly/welcoming classroom space for children;
- Sample Lessons: Ready to Use
 - Seven lesson plans
- Suggested Books by Topics
 - Nine topic lists, How to find and evaluate more books
- Appendix
 - Teacher resources

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Queries for Planning a Lesson

Queries for planning lessons

Lessons evolve out of a perceived need or spiritual leading. It is important to be authentic in your teaching ministry. Use these questions as a guide.

What are the children's and your interests or concerns?

What is the main concern of your meeting?

What are the concerns of the parents in your First Day School?

What are the concerns of your geographical community?

What topics scare you?

Because?

What topics are you uncomfortable teaching? (Bible, Easter, etc.) If you can't teach a topic authentically, find a guest teacher who can.

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<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Sparkling-Still-Queries-for-planning-lessons2024.pdf>

About Wondering Questions

- Wondering Questions are a way for children to
 - re-visit a story and
 - learn about themselves and others.
- Wondering questions do not
 - ask for facts about the story
 - have answers that are right or wrong
- Wondering questions do
 - ask about feelings and imaginings from our hearts
 - have meaning to the child and to the story

Learn more about Wondering Questions

<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Wondering-Questions-FPT-Feb2021.pdf>

Sample Lesson Plans

Lesson 6: *The Knight and the Dragon*

Date: _____

Teachers: _____

Title: *The Knight and the Dragon* by Tommie dePaola

Topic: Bible and Quakerism Concepts: Quakerism, Sense of Self

Testimony: Peace

Spiritual Reflection: George Fox to William Penn, "I advise thee to wear it (his sword) as long as thou canst." *The Life of William Penn; With Selections from His Correspondence and Auto-Biography*, by Samuel M. Janney, 1852. Philadelphia, Hogan Perkins and Company. Chapter 3, pp. 42 and 43. This book may be found in the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.

"Every human being is a child of God with a measure of God's Light. War and other instruments of violence and oppression ignore this reality and violate our relation with God." *Advices IV (3), Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, p. 85.
www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/extracts-from-the-writings-of-friends/advices/

Several Sample Lesson plans are available at:
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/spiritual/resources-for-children/sparkling-still-the-book/how-to-use-sparkling-still/>

First Day School Plan on: Speaking Truth to Power

Spiritual Reflection: Corinthians 13: Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not charity...

Songs: #266 This Little Light of Mine, #255 Valiant for the Truth

Story: *Chicken Sunday* by Patricia Polacco

Opening: Our story is about children who are good friends, and how they speak the truth and seek to right a wrong.

Teacher Notes: Speaking Truth requires courage. Help your children understand that it isn't often easy to tell the truth.

Wondering Questions:

1. I wonder how we know these children are brave? (check with children that they understand what "brave" means)
2. I wonder what you would do if someone accused you of something you didn't do?

Blank Lesson Plan Form

Blank Lesson Plan Template
for Reflective Response or Teacher Directed Lesson

This PDF form is available for download from the FGC website here:

<https://friendsgc.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Blank-Lesson-Plan-Sparkling-Still-Template-6-9-2016.pdf>

Notations in **RED** refer to pages in Sparkling Still for expanded explanations.

Teachers often plan a specific activity to complement the book. Sometimes, as is used in the Godly Play method, children may be given the option to sit quietly with a variety of art materials to draw, paint or construct something that expresses their feelings or imagination with the story as the jumping off point. This master lesson plan accommodates both types of activities.

Date of lesson:	
Teacher(s):	
Book Title and Author	
Location of Book	Meeting book Owned by individual Library book Other:
Category: <i>[See pages 49-72]</i>	Sense of Self Family & Community Natural World Bible & Quakerism Children & Worship Celebration Other:
Scripture verses Quaker Quotes <i>[See page 4]</i>	
Preparing the Classroom <i>[See pages 18-19]</i>	Materials needed: Room Set-up: Other

Sparkling Still Booklists Topics

Quaker Testimonies

It has been our experience that new First Day School teachers often ask about books that exemplify one or more of the testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality. Here are some choices to get you started.

Community

Ain't Nobody a Stranger to Me by Ann Grifalconi. Hyperion Book CH, 2007. ISBN: 0786818573

The Best Gift of All by Jonathan Emmett. Candlewick, 2008. ISBN: 0763638609

Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, BYR, 2003. ISBN: 0374309221

Crossing Bok Chitto by Tim Tingle. Cinco Puntos Press, 2006. ISBN: 0938317776

Heartprints by P. K. Hallinan. Ideals Childrens Books, 2002. ISBN: 0824954505

I Know a Lady by Charlotte Zolotow. Greenwillow Books, 1992. ISBN: 0688115195

Jack's Talent by Maryann Cocca-Leffler. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, BYR, 2007. ISBN: 0374336814

This list is available at:

<https://friendsgc.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SparklingStillTestimoniesBooklists.pdf>

Sense of Self

Family and Community

Natural World

Bible and Quakerism

Children and Worship

Celebrations

Coping with Hard Issues

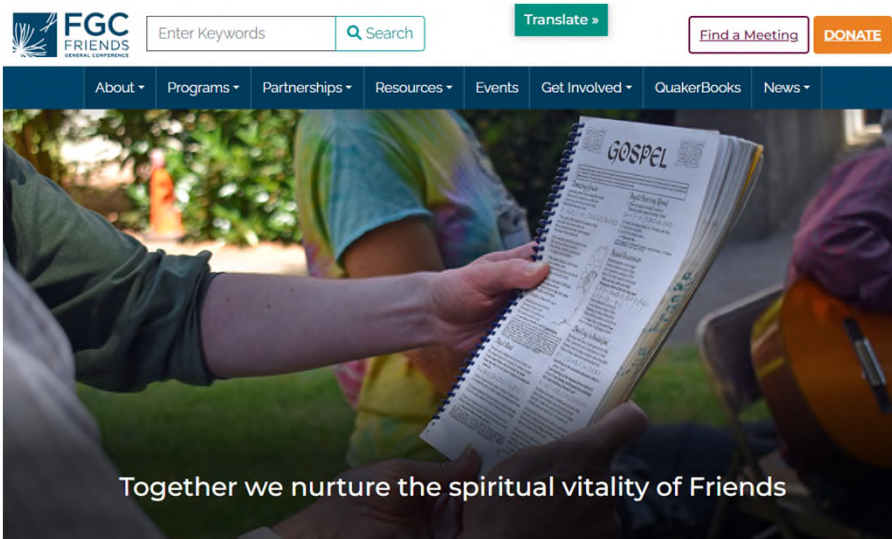
Empowering Children

Quaker Testimonies

Websites for More Book Lists

Favorite Authors

Finding Sparkling Still Resources @FGC and QREC



<https://www.fgcquaker.org/>



<https://quakerrecolaborative.org/>

Finding and Choosing Books for FDS

Books go out of print

Books may not be available in your meeting or public library

New books are being published all the time

Publishers have recently made huge strides in providing **inclusive/diverse** books

Evaluating books for relevance and suitability takes practice

Here are two documents that will help you locate and evaluate books for your use:

Considerations When Choosing and Using Books in First Day School by Gail Thomas

<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ChoosingFirstDayBooks.pdf>

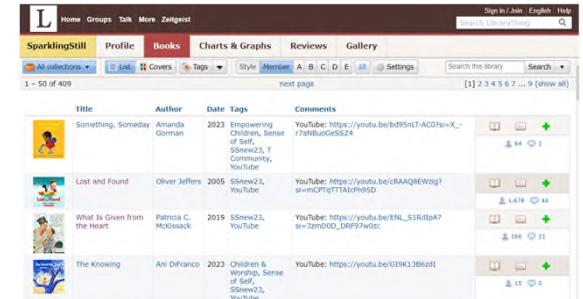
Choosing Books for First Day School:-Guidelines for Selecting Books by Sparklers

<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Choosing-Books-for-First-Day-School-SS2024.pdf>

Sparkling Still LibraryThing Collection

Sparklers are always on the lookout for good books, and we subscribe to many of the email lists that are mentioned in the previous links.

How do we keep track of all of them?



The screenshot shows the LibraryThing website interface for the 'SparklingStill' collection. The page displays a list of books with columns for Title, Author, Date, Tags, and Comments. The books listed are:

Title	Author	Date	Tags	Comments
Something, Soneday	Amanda Gorman	2023	Empowering Children, Sense of Self, SSnew23, T Community, YouTube	YouTube: https://youtu.be/bd95nET-ACD?si=x... 778n8usGeSS24
Lost and Found	Oliver Jeffers	2005	SSnew23, YouTube	YouTube: https://youtu.be/cRAAQ8E?wq?si=mCP1gTTTALP9SSD
What Is Given from the Heart	Patricia C. McKissack	2019	SSnew23, YouTube	YouTube: https://youtu.be/E9L_S1RdtpA?si=3m00GLD9F7vzoc
The Knowing	Ali DiFranco	2023	Children & WY950, Sense of Self, SSnew23, YouTube	YouTube: https://youtu.be/G1EK126kz0I

LibraryThing! <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/SparklingStill>

Instructions: https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SparklingStillLibraryThing_Instructions2024.pdf

One more thing before we go...

If anyone has (or will be purchasing) *Sparkling Still* through QuakerBooks

This is the Internet Age and things change!!



We have reviewed all of the links we put in the print document and have updated them wherever possible. You can get the list of updated links here:
<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Sparkling-Still-published-links-Update-2024.pdf>

The Sparklers

Sally Farneth (the original)
sallyfarneth@gmail.com

Susan Hopkins (peace educator)
susandhpeace@gmail.com



Anne Collins (clerk)
adcollinsq@gmail.com

Erika Mittag (librarian-techie)
erika.mittag@gmail.com

Beth Collea (faith guide)
bethcollea@aol.com