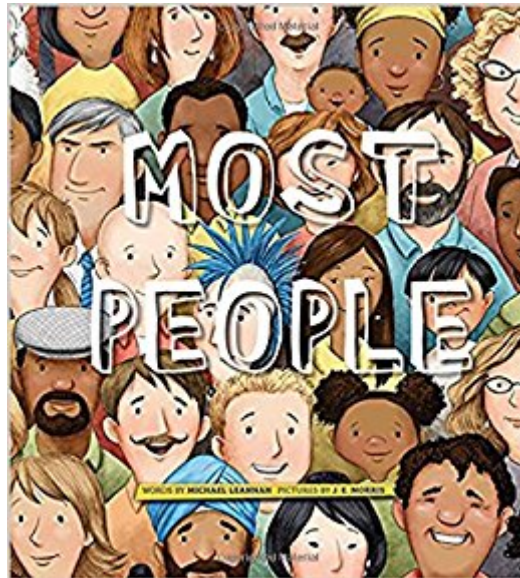


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# Most People



## Synopsis

The world can be a scary place. Anxious adults want children to be aware of dangers, but shouldn't kids be aware of kindness too? Michael Leannah wrote *Most People* as an antidote to the scary words and images kids hear and see every day. Jennifer Morris's emotive, diverting characters provide the perfect complement to Leannah's words, leading us through the crowded streets of an urban day in the company of two pairs of siblings (one of color). We see what they see: the hulking dude with tattoos and chains assisting an elderly lady onto the bus; the Goth teenager with piercings and purple Mohawk returning a lost wallet to its owner; and the myriad interactions of daily existence, most of them well intended. *Most People* is a courageous, constructive response to the dystopian world of the news media. Fountas & Pinnell Level M Color throughout

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tilbury House Publishers; 1 edition (August 15, 2017)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.5 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,506 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #20 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World #34 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

"When you read or watch the news, sometimes it can feel like the only things reported are terrible, depressing events. Am I right? Typically the media tends to concentrate on the negative events and bad people in life, rather than the good. Despite that, I still believe most people in this world are kind. Do you? That's the overall message of this heartwarming book. Little readers follow two families (one Black family and one White family) from sunrise to sunset

interacting with various other people in their community. Along the way they see people doing both good and bad things until they finally arrive back home again. The families enjoy dinner and dessert together on the rooftop of their apartment building where all the people from their community also live. This picture book is filled with various diverse characters of different skin tones and physical abilities. There is even a blind person shown along with their guide dog. I love the sense of community and messages of kindness. I also like how the book explains that people who do bad things can change. Because deep down aren't all humans good people? I like to believe so or at least hope this is true. As the book states, "there is a seed of goodness inside waiting to sprout." The author's note acknowledges that while children need to be careful of strangers, they also need to know that most people are good, kind and helpful. Our children don't deserve to be overly fearful of the world no matter how much the media communicates this. I think this book can help spark lots of great discussions with smaller children whenever tragedies strike as it's easy enough to understand. A great book to add to your home or school library.

- Mrs. G, Here Wee Read  
 "I love this book! It is a perspective not often found in children's books so directly, that most people in this world are good. I can't wait to order this for our library, and I will be recommending it to patrons."

- Librarian, Lakes Region Library  
 "Most People is a lovely book that addresses the issue of people not always being good. No parent wants to see their child become disillusioned with the world, and this book helps deal with this concept in a kind and gentle manner. The lovely illustrations support the text, nicely depicting "not good" actions in ways a young child can grasp, such as stealing and vandalism. Since all children do things that are "not good" it also shows that someone can be sorry, change their actions and be forgiven. Nice book to deal with both sides of this concept - if somebody in a child's world has done something "not good", or if they have."

- Middle School Librarian  
 "Author Michael Leannah wrote "Most People" as an antidote to the scary words and images kids hear and see every day. Illustrator Jennifer Morris's emotive, diverting characters provide the perfect complement to Leannah's words, leading young children through the crowded streets of an urban day in the company of two pairs of siblings (one of color). We see what they see: the hulking dude with tattoos and chains assisting an elderly lady onto the bus; the Goth teenager with piercings and purple Mohawk returning a lost wallet to its owner; and the myriad interactions of daily existence, most of them well intended." "Most People" is a courageous, constructive response to the dystopian world of the news media and very highly recommended for family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library picture book collections.

- The Midwest Book Review  
 "There is a significant volume of children's literature dedicated to

creating awareness of the possible dangers of strangers. While this is a very important lesson for children, a story that highlights the goodness in people is a welcome change. This story would fit very well into a study of communities. — teacher —“ This reassuring picture book shows children that the world around them is filled with helpful and friendly people. It — a strong response to the negativity so often seen in our world and absorbed by our children as frightening ideas and thoughts. The picture book is set in an urban and diverse neighborhood where accidents happen and neighbors help out. It — a place where people are friendly, smile at babies, and watch out for one another. It — a place where people in need are given assistance, where children are empowered to help. It — the world where we all live right now, if we only can see it that way. Leannah writes in very straight-forward prose. He states again and again the certainty that most people are good and that most people see the world exactly the way the reader does. That most people want to help and do good. It is a book that brings a sense of safety to the young reader or listener, one that can help see their community and their school in a different way. It — also a book that will start conversations about what kind of person they are and what positive changes they want to see in their world. The illustrations emphasize diversity and the friendly urban setting. The book follows the course of a day and ends with a beautiful city night and people seen through windows and on rooftops as a larger community. A strong and positive book that is important for children of today. Appropriate for ages 3-5. — Waking Brain Cells

MICHAEL LEANNAH (Sheboygan, WI) was a teacher in elementary schools for more than 30 years and is the author of a forthcoming instruction manual for teachers, *We Think with Ink*. His children — fiction has been published in *Highlights for Children*, *Ladybug*, and other magazines, and he has written two other forthcoming children — books and contributed to Midwest regional histories and biographies. He is the father of three grown children and one three-year-old granddaughter. Jennifer E. Morris is the author and illustrator of *May I Please Have a Cookie?*, *Please Write Back!* (combined sales over 1 million copies) and *The Lemonade Hurricane* as well as other children — books. She also illustrates children's magazines, greeting cards, party ware, and educational materials and is the recipient of the Don Freeman Memorial Grant awarded by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Jennifer lives in rural Massachusetts with her husband and two children.

In his debut picture book release, *MOST PEOPLE*, author Michael Leannah's reassuring text pairs

with J. E. Morris's illustrations to present a strongly positive view of the people of the world. In doing so, they push back against the onslaught of daily news representing threats and violence. Together they offer much-needed reassurance. Leannah's straightforward text and Morris's appealing illustrations showcase a diverse urban community, one presented as safe and welcoming. Individuals and families vary in age, skin color, cultural practices, daily pursuits, and style choices. Each page-turn reveals, and then confirms, that they share more in common than their differences might suggest. In fact, any assumptions "suggested" by their diverse appearances are those stemming from learned biases on the part of the readers. Reality is inserted directly in brief text snippets about recognizable situations: bad language, lying, stealing, bullying, property damage, etc. Those are balanced by the image of a theoretical line of "people who do good" stretching out for miles while people "in the bad line" would fit in a dark and gloomy room. Proportionally, this is a fairly realistic ratio. I appreciate that in neither case are the people themselves labeled as "good" or "bad". In fact, reassurance is offered that "People who do bad things can change. There is a seed of goodness inside them waiting to sprout." On first glance this upbeat view of humanity may feel a bit exaggerated, even utopian. That reaction is particularly likely from cynical adults. If your impulse is to dismiss the premise or argue that our world has become far more sinister than safe, perhaps you need this book every bit as much as the young children in your lives. Parents and teachers are obligated to inform young ones about our history, current events, real and present dangers, and moral responsibility in the face of great need or oppression. As I indicated in a recent post, here, we do children a disservice if we leave the impression that all "others" are in some way threatening or threatened, are more different than similar to us, are monolithic rather than individuals. Add this title to my earlier recommendations to present a balanced, wholistic, positive view of humans, near or far, familiar or exotic.

It doesn't take long to determine that there are bad people in the world. Michael Leannah wants us to remember that, contrary to what we see on the evening news, "Most people are very good people." In *Most People*, illustrated by Jennifer Morris, Leannah takes a tour of the city, where we see people helping people, being kind, and smiling. He points out that "Everyone looks nicer when they smile and laugh." Even though people sometimes do bad things, they can change. "There is a seed of goodness inside them, waiting to sprout." Most people like babies, animals, and music. Most people would rather smile than frown. It's worth pointing out to children (and adults) this basic truth. I like thinking about people in the best sense. Even with the reality that we see, all too often, it's worth establishing a mindset that looks for the best in people, while being the best we can be as

well. Most People has a wonderful message with cute pictures. It will make you smile and inspire you to be nice, too. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

'Most People' by Michael Leannah with illustrations by Jennifer E. Morris is a book that feels like a breath of calm in troubled times. This is a picture book for young children. The premise is that the bad people in the world are outnumbered by the good ones. Most people like to smile and hug and watch things grow. Some people do bad things and yell bad words, but usually you will then see someone who is trying to help. It's such a gently told story. It reminds me in the best ways of how Fred Rogers used to talk. The pictures go along perfectly with the text. In a world of yelling, angry grownups, this is the book a child needs to read. I received a review copy of this ebook from Tilbury House, Myrick Marketing & Media LLC, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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