

Teaching Character Education Through Picture Books

(Revised 8/05 - Carole Welch)

PICTURE BOOKS USED FOR TEACHING EACH CHARACTER TRAIT

ACCEPTANCE

Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Bremen Town Musicians As Told By Eugene Evans (Unicorn)
Glasses: Who Needs 'Em? by Lane Smith (Puffin)
Marshmallow by Clare Turlay Newberry (Scholastic)
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon (Harcourt Brace & Co.)
The Stranger by Ursel Scheffler (North-South Books)

CLEVERNESS/INTELLIGENCE

Babushka's Doll by Patricia Polacco (Aladdin)
The Boy of the Three-Year Nap by Dianne Snyder (Houghton Mifflin)
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin (Simon & Schuster)
Fin M'Coul: The Giant of Knockmany Hill by Tomie de Paola (Holiday House)
The Girl Who Spun Gold by Virginia Hamilton (Blue Sky Press)
Raven: A Trickster Tale From the Pacific Northwest by Gerald McDermott (Harcourt Brace & Co.)
Wiley and the Hairy Man retold by Judy Sierra (Lodestar)

COMMON SENSE/GOOD JUDGMENT

Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (Lothrop)
Count Silvernose: A Story from Italy retold by Eric A. Kimmel (Holiday House)
Hansel and Gretel retold by Rika Lesser (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

COMPASSION/SYMPATHY

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst (Atheneum)
Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting
The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry (Trumpet Club)
Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Lily Cupboard by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim (HarperCollins)
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic)
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti (Creative Education)
Sato and the Elephants by Juanita Havill (Lothrop)
Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree Mitchell (Simon & Schuster)

CONTENTMENT

The Boy Who Lived With the Seals by Rafe Martin (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
The Bremen Town Musicians As Told By Eugene Evans (Unicorn)
Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (Lothrop)
Hey, Al by Arthur Yorinks (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
Little Red Riding Hood: A Newfangled Prairie Tale by Lisa Campbell Ernst (Simon & Schuster)
The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf (Viking)
Town Mouse, Country Mouse by Jan Brett (Scholastic)
The Treasure by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)

COOPERATION

The Bremen Town Musicians As Told By Eugene Evans (Unicorn)
Hansel and Gretel retold by Rika Lesser (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story From China by Ed Young (Scholastic)
Pet Detective by Betty Ren Wright (Troll/BridgeWater Books)
The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas (Margaret K. McElderry Books)

COURAGE/BRAVERY/VALOR/HEROISM

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter (Dragonfly Books)
Granddaddy's Gift by Margaree King Mitchell (BridgeWater Paperback)
Hansel and Gretel retold by Rika Lesser (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Keep On Singing: A Ballad of Marian Anderson by Myra Cohn Livingston (Holiday House)
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper (Platt)
Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman by Alan Schroeder (Dial)
A Picture Book of Jesse Owens by David A. Adler (Scholastic)
Rainbow Crow retold by Nancy Van Laan (Knopf)
Rainbow Fish and the Sea Monsters' Cave by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books)
Rikki-Tikki Tavi by Rudyard Kipling (Ideals)
The Rough-Face Girl by Rafe Martin (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles (Scholastic)
Swamp Angel by Anne Isaacs (Dutton)
The Tale of Custard the Dragon by Ogden Nash (Little, Brown)
Wiley and the Hairy Man retold by Judy Sierra (Lodestar)
Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull (Troll)

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PICTURE BOOKS USED FOR TEACHING EACH CHARACTER TRAIT (page 2)

DILIGENCE

Big Al by Andrew Clements (Scholastic)
Chester the Worldly Pig by Bill Peet (Houghton Mifflin)
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin (Simon & Schuster)
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Night I Followed The Dog by Nina Laden (Chronicle)
The Shaman's Apprentice by Lynne Cherry & Mark J. Plotkin (Harcourt Brace)
Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree Mitchell (Simon & Schuster)

ENCOURAGEMENT

Library Lil by Suzanne Williams (Dial)
My Great-Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston (Scholastic)
Oh, The Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco (Philomel)

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Bigmama's by Donald Crews (Greenwillow Books)
A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams (Scholastic)
Coat of Many Colors by Dolly Parton (Scholastic)
Granddaddy's Gift by Margaree King Mitchell (BridgeWater Paperback)
Love You Forever by Robert Munsch (Firefly Books)
The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flournoy (Dial)
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic)
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant (Scholastic)
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant (E. P. Dutton)
Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree by William Miller (Lee & Low Books)

FORGIVENESS

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow)
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles (Scholastic)
The Stranger by Ursel Scheffler (North-South Books)

FRIENDSHIP

The Banza: A Haitian Story by Diane Wolkstein (Puffin Pied Piper)
The Blue and the Gray by Eve Bunting (Scholastic)
Charlie the Caterpillar by Dom DeLuise (Simon & Schuster)
Don't Need Friends by Carolyn Crimi (Doubleday)
The Faithful Friend by Robert D. San Souci (Simon & Schuster)
Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco (Dell)
Oregon's Journey by Rascal (Troll)
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon (Harcourt Brace & Co.)
Three Wishes by Lucille Clifton (Dell)
Woe Is Moe by Diane Stanley (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

GRATEFULNESS/THANKFULNESS

Coat of Many Colors by Dolly Parton (Scholastic)
The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry (Trumpet Club)
It Could Always Be Worse by Margot Zemach (Farrar Straus Giroux)

HELPFULNESS

Cleveland Lee's Beale Street Band by Art Flowers (BridgeWater Books)
Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco (Dell)

HONESTY/INTEGRITY/TRUTHFULNESS

The Honest-to-Goodnes Truth by Patricia C. McKissack (Atheneum)
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Sato and the Elephants by Juanita Havill (Lothrop)
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka (Scholastic)

IMAGINATION

Moe the Dog in Tropical Paradise by Diane Stanley (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Oh, The Things You Can Think! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Wizard Next Door by Peter Glassman (Morrow)
Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree by William Miller (Lee & Low Books)

KINDNESS

Gittel's Hands by Erica Silverman (BridgeWater Books)
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic)
Time for Horatio by Penelope Colville Paine (Advocacy Press)

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PICTURE BOOKS USED FOR TEACHING EACH CHARACTER TRAIT (page 3)

LOVE

Arabella by Wendy Orr (Angus & Robertson)

The Bunyans by Audrey Wood (Blue Sky Press)
A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams (Scholastic)
Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco (Philomel Books)
Just the Two of Us by Will Smith (Scholastic)
Love You Forever by Robert Munsch (Firefly Books)

LOYALTY/FAITHFULNESS

Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco (Philomel Books)
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)

OBEDIENCE

Gittel's Hands by Erica Silverman (BridgeWater Books)
Judy and the Volcano by Wayne Harris (Scholastic)

OPTIMISTIC/HOPEFUL/POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Crackling Brat by Andrew Matthews & Tomek Bogacki (Henry Holt)
The Five Chinese Brothers by Claire Huchet Bishop & Kurt Wiese (Trumpet)
Four Famished Foxes and Fosdyke by Pamela Duncan Edwards (HarperCollins)
My Ol' Man by Patricia Polacco (Philomel Books)
Oh, The Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Peeping Beauty by Mary Jane Auch (Holiday House)
The Seven Chinese Brothers by Margaret Mahy (Scholastic)
Whistling Dixie by Marcia Vaughan (HarperCollins)

OVERCOMING FEAR

Keep on Singing: A Ballad of Marian Anderson by Myra Cohn Livingston (Holiday House)
Storm in the Night by Mary Stolz (Harper Trophy)

PATIENCE/STEADFASTNESS

Babushka's Doll by Patricia Polacco (Aladdin)
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Library Lil by Suzanne Williams (Dial)
Saving Sweetness by Diane Stanley (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

PERSEVERANCE/PERSISTENCE

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin (Simon & Schuster)
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Khan's Daughter: A Mongolian Folktale by Laurence Yep (Scholastic)
Library Lil by Suzanne Williams (Dial)
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper (Platt)
Mirette On the High Wire by Emily Arnold McCully (Scholastic)
More Than Anything Else (A story from Booker T. Washington's childhood) by Marie Bradby (Orchard Books)
Oh, The Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall (Scholastic)
Private I. Guana: The Case of the Missing Chameleon by Nina Laden (Chronicle Books)
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson (Dragonfly Books)
Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree Mitchell (Simon & Schuster)
Wiley and the Hairy Man retold by Judy Sierra (Lodestar)

PUNCTUALITY

Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett (Paperstar)
Cinder-Elly by Frances Minters (Viking)

RESPECT (ESTEEM) FOR OTHERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People and War by Yukio Tsuchiya (Houghton Mifflin)
The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry (Trumpet Club)
Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin)
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Sato and the Elephants by Juanita Havill (Lothrop)

RESPONSIBILITY

Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin)
Library Lil by Suzanne Williams (Dial)
The Pirate Queen by Emily Arnold McCully (Paperstar)

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PICTURE BOOKS USED FOR TEACHING EACH CHARACTER TRAIT (page 4)

SELF-CONFIDENCE/SELF-ASSURANCE

Chester the Worldly Pig by Bill Peet (Houghton Mifflin)
Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (Lothrop)
Coat of Many Colors by Dolly Parton (Scholastic)
John Henry by Julius Lester (Dial Books)
Keep on Singing: A Ballad of Marian Anderson by Myra Cohn Livingston (Holiday House)

The Pirate Queen by Emily Arnold McCully (Paperstar)
Rikki-Tikki Tavi by Rudyard Kipling (Ideals)
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Swamp Angel by Anne Isaacs (Dutton)
Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull (Troll)
Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree by William Miller (Lee & Low Books)

SELF-CONTROL

John Henry by Julius Lester (Dial Books)
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti (Creative Education)

SELF-DISCIPLINE

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams (Scholastic)
Oh, The Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree Mitchell (Simon & Schuster)

SELF-ESTEEM/SELF-RESPECT

The Boy Who Lived With the Seals by Rafe Martin (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Egbert the Slightly Cracked Egg by Tom Ross (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
The Royal Raven by Hans Wilhelm (Scholastic)
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch (Annick Press)
The 329th Friend by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (Four Winds Press)
Tom's Tale by Linda Jennings (Little, Brown)

SELF-MOTIVATED

Arabella by Wendy Orr (Angus & Robertson)

SELF-SACRIFICE

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein (Harper & Row)
The Lily Cupboard by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim (HarperCollins)
Opossum and the Great Firemaker: A Mexican Legend written and adapted by Jan M. Mike (Troll)
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic)
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books)
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti (Creative Education)
Sato and the Elephants by Juanita Havill (Lothrop)

SENSE OF HUMOR

Big Al by Andrew Clements (Scholastic)
Could Be Worse by James Stevenson (Mulberry Books)
Double Trouble in Walla Walla by Andrew Clements (The Millbrook Press)

SHARING/GENEROSITY/UNSELFISHNESS

Night Tree by Eve Bunting (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)
The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flournoy (Dial)
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic)
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books)
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti (Creative Education)
Whose Cat Is That? by Virginia Kahl (Scribners)

TOLERANCE/ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENCES

Big Al by Andrew Clements (Scholastic)
The Bremen Town Musicians As Told By Eugene Evans (Unicorn)
Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
Keep on Singing: A Ballad of Marian Anderson by Myra Cohn Livingston (Holiday House)
A Picture Book of Anne Frank by David A. Adler (Holiday House)
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti (Creative Education)
Smoky Night by Eve Bunting (Harcourt Brace)
Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles (Scholastic)

VARIOUS (Many Different Character Traits or Values in one book)

The Aesop for Children by Aesop (Checkerboard Press)
Fables by Arnold Lobel (Harper & Row)

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Materials With Character Education Ideas and Programs (page 5)

Character Education: Grades 5-6 (Steck-Vaughn)

Character Education: Grades 6-12 (Year 1) by John Heidel & Marion Lyman-Mercurial (Incentive Publications)

Character Education: Grades 6-12 (Year 2) by John Heidel & Marion Lyman-Mercurial (Incentive Publications)

Character Education (Smart Card) Kagan 1-800-WEE CO-OP

Character Education: Teaching Values for Life (Grades 7-8) by Sara Freeman (Instructional Fair/TS Denison)

The Definitive Middle School Guide: A Handbook for Success by Imogene Forte & Sandra Schurr (Incentive Publications)

Don't Laugh at Me (for grades 6-8) - A free program started by Peter Yarrow of the "Peter, Paul, & Mary" singing group. The kit includes a video, an audio CD, a teacher's guide, and questionnaires. <http://www.dontlaugh.org>

Higher-Level Thinking Questions: Developing Character by Miguel Kagan (Kagan) 1-800-266-7576

TAMS Journal, Spring, 1998 "Enhancing Values in the Middle School: A Cost-Effective and Teacher-Friendly Plan"

Wise Skills: Character-Building Resources for Grades K-12 (1-888-947-3754)

Web Sites About Character Education

Animate Your World: Shaping Character - <http://www.animateyourworld.com> or call 1-800-264-6283 (Free CD-ROM kit for middle grades students. Sign up for the kit on -line).

Educators for Social Responsibility - <http://www.esrnational.org>

Good Character.com - <http://www.goodcharacter.com>

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation - <http://www.actsofkindness.org>

Sources of Picture Books for Your Personal Library

Barnes and Noble (various locations)

Borders (Poplar and Kirby)

Davis-Kidd (Poplar and Perkins)

Waldenbooks (various locations)

(All of the above offer teacher discounts; be sure you have a pay stub or some other teacher identification with you).

Book Traders (Quince and Ridgeway) - used children's and adult books (paperback and hardback)

Second Editions (At the Central Library of the Memphis-Shelby County Public Libraries) - used books priced at or below two dollars

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