

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

Below is a list of recommended books ranging from Grades K-12 categorized by topic.

Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
OLIVIA and the Perfect Valentine	Natalie Shaw	Ages 3-7	Love	It's almost Valentine's Day, and Olivia is determined to make the very best possible valentines for all of her friends and family.
How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?	Jane Yolen	Ages 3+	Love	Even when little dinosaurs are naughty, it's important to remind them that no matter what they do, they are always loved.
Finklehopper Frog	Irene Livingston	Ages 4-8	Be Yourself, Integrity, Courage	Finklehopper Frog decides to give jogging a try, everyone laughs at his efforts. But Finklehopper learns that it's best to be himself and do what he loves--because that's the perfect way for him!
The Obvious Elephant	Bruce Robinson	Ages 4-8	Friendship	An elephant wanders into a village-announced and unexpected-but no one has seen an elephant before!
Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire	Diane DeGrout	Ages 4-8	Truth, Honesty	When Mrs. Byrd tells Gilbert's class that they're going to be doing plays about famous people, Gilbert's heart sinks. Plays make him nervous what if he forgets his lines?
The Okay Book	Todd Parr	Grade 1	Character	My name is Todd Parr. I live in San Francisco. Is it okay to be short? It is okay to wear two different socks? Open this book and find out!
Henry's Freedom Box	Ellen Levine	Grade 3	Determination and Perseverance	Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday, his first day of freedom.

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The Loudest Roar	Thomas Taylor	Grade PreK	Caring, Friendship	Clovis loves roaring and making a lot of noise! After all, he's the fiercest most roaringest tiger in the whole jungle. He roars at the parrots picking their fruit, the wildebeests wallowing happily, and the elephants sunning themselves peacefully. But the other animals are sick of being roared out of their peace and so they devise a strategy to show Clovis that it takes more than being the best to get along with others.
The Boy Who Cried Wolf	Ingrid Helmer	Grades 1 - 2	Trustworthiness	The farmer's son cries "Wolf!" But what will happen when the real wolf comes?
Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday	Judith Viorst	Grades 1 - 3	Character	Where does money go? Last Sunday, Alexander's Grandma Betty and Grandpa Louie gave him a dollar. And he was rich. There were so many things he could do with all of that money. Like buy as much gum as he wanted, or even buy a walkie-talkie, if he kept saving. But he was rich last Sunday. Well, let's see, there was bubble gum, and then bets with Anthony and Nicholas (that Alexander lost). Now Alexander plunges his hands in his pockets and finds only...bus tokens. It's not fair. His brother, Anthony, has two dollars, three quarters, one dime, seven nickels and eighteen pennies. His other brother, Nicholas, seems to have even more. Alexander even tries to make some money back by taking unrefundable bottles to Friendly Market. Well, the people there weren't so friendly.

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Zoom!	Robert Munsch	Grades 1 - 3	Determination and Perseverance	Lauretta's mother takes her to buy a new wheelchair, but Lauretta isn't satisfied with a regular five-speed or ten-speed model. No, she insists on the 92-speed, black, silver, and red dirt-bike wheelchair. When she gets a speeding ticket during a one-day tryout, her parents insist that the chair be returned to the store . . . until Lauretta's older brother has an accident and only one person can whisk him to the hospital on time-- Lauretta, in her amazing wheelchair!
Nelson Mandela	Kadir Nelson	Grades 1 - 3	Fairness, Tolerance	One day when Nelson Mandela was nine years old, his father died and he was sent from his village to a school far away from home, to another part of South Africa. In Johannesburg, the country's capital, Mandela saw fellow Africans who were poor and powerless. He decided then that he would work to protect them. When the government began to keep people apart based on the color of their skin, Mandela spoke out against the law and vowed to fight hard in order to make his country a place that belonged to all South Africans.

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Alexander, who was almost rich last Sunday	Judith Viorst	Grades 1 - 3	Responsibility, Financial Literacy	Where does money go? Last Sunday, Alexander's Grandma Betty and Grandpa Louie gave him a dollar. And he was rich. There were so many things he could do with all of that money. Like buy as much gum as he wanted, or even buy a walkie-talkie, if he kept saving. But he was rich last Sunday. Well, let's see, there was bubble gum, and then bets with Anthony and Nicholas (that Alexander lost). Now Alexander plunges his hands in his pockets and finds only...bus tokens. It's not fair. His brother, Anthony, has two dollars, three quarters, one dime, seven nickels and eighteen pennies. His other brother, Nicholas, seems to have even more. Alexander even tries to make some money back by taking unrefundable bottles to Friendly Market. Well, the people there weren't so friendly.
Edward Fudwupper Fibbed Big	Berkeley Breathed	Grades 1 - 4	Trustworthiness	Fannie Fudwupper's big brother, Edwurd, spends his time cooking up big fibs full of phooey and letting them rip. But one day, Edwurd tells such a whopping lie that the army, the air force, and the dogcatcher are called to reverse the damage!
Why We Broke Up	Daniel Handler	Grades 10 - 12	Emotions, Relationships	Min Green and Ed Slaterton are breaking up, so Min is writing Ed a letter and giving him a box. Inside the box is why they broke up. Two bottle caps, a movie ticket, a folded note, a box of matches, a protractor, books, a toy truck, a pair of ugly earrings, a comb from a motel room, and every other item collected over the course of a giddy, intimate, heartbreaking relationship. Item after item is illustrated and accounted for, and then the box, like a girlfriend, will be dumped.

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Thank You, Mr. Falker	Patricia Polacco	Grades 2 - 4	Perseverance, Bullying, Self Esteem	In this autobiographical story, Little Trisha, overjoyed at the thought of learning how to read struggles when she finds that all the letters and numbers get jumbled up. Her classmates make matters worse by calling her dummy. Finally, in fifth grade, she is lucky enough to have a teacher who recognizes Trisha's incredible artistic ability — and understands her problem, and takes the time to lead her to the magic of reading.

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Stone Fox	John Gardiner	Grades 2 - 5	Determination, Courage	<p>Few characters are as determined as ten-year-old Willy, once he learns that his grandfather is sick in bed because he has no reason to live. Little Willy and his grandfather make their home on a potato farm in Wyoming, and although the work can be back breaking, it is also a lot of fun, especially when Grandfather plays with Willy. Now with Grandfather too depressed to speak, much less get out of bed, Willy and his loyal dog, Searchlight, have to harvest the crop themselves. They need to rent a horse, but when Willy looks in the strongbox for money, he discovers that they are broke. The problem is solved when Searchlight takes up the harness in her mouth. Willy and Searchlight are able to plow the fields and harvest the potatoes, but when they present Grandfather the money earned from its sale, Willy finds out that his Grandfather is still depressed. Willy discovers that Grandfather needs 500 dollars to pay off 10 years worth of back taxes on the farm, or they will lose it. In a daring plan, Willy enters the National Dogsled Race, and stakes everything on the wild hope that he can outrun the best dogsled racers in the country — including the legendary Indian, Stone Fox. The fast-paced, thoroughly engrossing description of the race reaches a sudden, tragic climax when Searchlight dies just before the finish line. In a moving end, Stone Fox understands that Willy and Searchlight are the true winners and allows Willy to carry Searchlight across the finish line and collect the prize.</p>

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The Story of Ruby Bridges	Robert Coles	Grades 2 - 5	Respect	In 1960, Ruby, a young African-American girl, entered a whites-only school in New Orleans. Even though she had to pass through crowds of angry protesters, Ruby bravely walked into the school. Every day for months, Ruby persevered. White parents pulled their children out of the school, and Ruby and her teacher were alone in the classroom. Still, Ruby and her family would not give in.
The Hundred Dresses	Eleanor Estes	Grades 3 - 5	Bullying, Creativity, Tolerance	In this Newbery Honor Book, a young girl comes to terms with the effect that the teasing of her friends has had on a shy classmate. Though Maddie feels increasingly uncomfortable with the way the other girls — led by her best friend, Peggy — joke with Wanda, she doesn't have the courage to do anything about it. Then one day Wanda stops coming to school. Maddie can't shake a bad feeling about Wanda's absence, but she pushes it aside, preferring instead to think about the drawing contest, which she is sure Peggy will win. On the day the winner is to be announced, the girls enter the class to see the walls covered in one hundred brilliantly colored drawings — each of a beautiful, unique dress. Here, at last, are Wanda's hundred dresses, but though she has won the contest, she will not be coming back to class to accept her medal. A letter has come from Wanda's father, saying that they are moving to the city, where having a different name is not so unusual and won't incur such cruel treatment. In the days that follow, Maddie and Peggy try to apologize to Wanda for what they've done, but they learn that deciding you want to make amends doesn't always mean that you can.

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Inside Out and Back Again	Thanhha Lai	Grades 3 - 5	Bullying, Tolerance	Based on the author's own childhood and written in free-verse poems, this unforgettable story captures a fierce girl's struggles to find her place in her family, in her new home, and in the world.
Teammates	Peter Golenbock	Grades 3 - 5	Caring, Tolerance, Friendship, Fairness	The moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, Pee Wee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.
A Picture Book of Helen Keller (Picture Book Biography)	David A. Adler	Grades 3 - 5	Character	This book is a brief biography of the woman who overcame her handicaps of being both blind and deaf.
Apples to Oregon	Deborah Hopkinson	Grades 3 - 5	Character	When Papa decides to pull up roots and move from Iowa to Oregon, he can't bear to leave his precious apple trees behind. Or his peaches, plums, grapes, cherries, and pears. Oh, and he takes his family along too. But the trail is cruel; first there's a river to cross that's wider than Texas...and then there are hailstones as big as plums...and there's even a drought, sure to crisp the cherries. Those poor pippins!
Peppe The Lamplighter	Elisa Baratone	Grades 3 - 5	Character	Peppe's father is upset when he learns that Peppe has taken a job lighting the gas street lamps in his New York City neighborhood.
The Ant and the Elephant	Bill Peet	Grades 3 - 5	Cooperation, Respect	The elephant is the kindest animal in the jungle, rescuing the giraffe, lion, and rhino, but who will return the favor when the elephant needs help?

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Brave Harriet	Marissa Moss	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	On a clear morning in 1912, Harriet Quimby had a vision--she would become the first woman to fly solo across the English Channel. If she were to veer off course by even five miles, she could end up in the North Sea, never to be heard from again. But she took the risk, anyway.
Rosa	Nikki Giovanni	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. This picture- book tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed.
Tell Me a Scary Story...But Not too Scary	Carl Reiner	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	Tell Me a Scary Story ... But Not Too Scary! shares a boy's tale of the mysterious house next door.
The Butterfly	Patricia Polacco	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	Since the tall boots, the Nazi's, have invaded Monique's small French village, nothing surprises her. Until she meets the ghost in the attic — who happens to be, not a ghost at all, but a young Jewish girl named Sevrine who has been hiding from the Nazi's in her very own home. Thus unfolds the story of these two girls — their growing friendship, and the heartwrenching moment when they are forced into a nighttime flight from the country that could cost young Sevrine, and her family, their lives.
Thunder Cake	Patricia Polacco	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	When the air gets heavy and dark clouds drift low over the fields of Grandma's farm, her frightened granddaughter hides under the bed. But Grandma insists that this is Thunder Cake-baking weather and the two are soon scrambling to gather the ingredients to make the cake and get it into the oven before the storm arrives.

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The Courage of Sarah Noble	Alice Dalgliesh	Grades 3 - 5	Courage	When Sarah Noble was eight years old she had her great adventure — going with her father into the wilds of Connecticut to cook for him while he built a house. There were Indians — would they be friendly There were many times when Sarah had to say to herself, as her mother had said when she left home, "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble. Keep up your courage."
By My Brother's Side	Ronde Barber and Tiki Barber	Grades 3 - 5	Determination and Perseverance	Tiki and Ronde were each other's best friends. Together from the start, these twins might not have been the strongest or the tallest, but they were fast and worked hard at what they loved. And they loved sports, especially football. Then one day Tiki badly hurt his knee in a biking accident, and he was sure he'd never be able to play again. Their mother had always told them, "You are each other's best friends. Stick together, believe in yourselves, and you can do anything." They kept her words in their hearts and never gave up.
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Eleanor Coeer	Grades 3 - 5	Determination and Perseverance	Two-year-old Sadako Sasaki was living in Hiroshima when the atom bomb was dropped. Sadly, ten years later, she was diagnosed with leukemia, also known as "atom bomb disease." There is a Japanese legend that says that if a sick person folds 1,000 paper cranes, the gods will make her well again. Sadako spent long hours in bed, folding those paper cranes, and never giving up that hope. When Sadako had folded six hundred and forty-four cranes, and they hung above her bed on strings, her classmates folded the rest.

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Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman	Kathleen Krull	Grades 3 - 5	Determination and Perseverance	Wilma Rudolph had plenty of love and attention from her parents and her 21 brothers and sisters while she was growing up in the 1940s in Clarksville, Tennessee. When she contracted polio, the doctor said she would never walk again, but Wilma refused to believe him. Over the years, Wilma overcame incredible odds to become one of the world's finest athletes.
Dad, Jackie and Me	Myron Ulberg	Grades 3 - 5	Determination and Perseverance, Tolerance and Acceptance	It is the summer of 1947 and a highly-charged baseball season is underway in New York. Jackie Robinson is the new first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers — and the first black player in major league baseball. A young boy shares the excitement of Robinson's rookie season with his deaf father. Each day he listens eagerly to the Brooklyn Dodgers games on the radio. When his father arrives home from work, the boy uses sign language to tell him about the Dodgers. His father begins to keep a scrapbook, clipping photos and articles about Jackie. Finally one day the father delivers some big news: they are going to Ebbets Field to watch Jackie play in person!

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Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story	Paula Yoo	Grades 3 - 5	Determination and Perseverance, Tolerance	On a summer day in 1932, twelve-year-old Sammy Lee watched enviously as divers catapulted into the public swimming pool. Sammy desperately wanted to try diving himself, but the Korean American boy like any person of color was only allowed to use the pool one day a week. This discrimination did not weaken Sammy's newfound passion for diving, and soon he began a struggle between his dream of becoming an Olympic champion and his father's wish for him to become a doctor. Over sixteen years Sammy faced numerous challenges, but he overcame them all and fulfilled both his dream and his father's. In 1948 Dr. Sammy Lee dove into Olympic history. A matter of seconds after his final platform dive, the scores appeared and Sammy Lee became the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal. Sammy Lee's story of determination and triumph sets an extraordinary example for anyone striving to fulfill a dream.
If the World Were a Village	David J. Smith	Grades 3 - 5	Diversity	This unusual picture book shrinks the world's population down to a village of 100 to help children better understand who we are, where we live, how fast we are growing, and more.
Summer Wheels	Eve Bunting	Grades 3 - 5	Diversity, Friendship	The Bicycle Man lends bikes to the neighborhood kids for free, and Lawrence and Brady ride them all summer long. But when a new kid takes advantage of the Bicycle Man, Lawrence and Brady discover that there's one thing that the Man likes more than bikes: kids.

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Stuart's Cape	Sara Pennypacker	Grades 3 - 5	Friendship, Courage	Stuart's got problems. It's raining. He's bored. And worst of all, he's new in town, so he's got a lot to worry about. But what does a kid like Stuart need in order to have an adventure...and to stop worrying? A cape, of course!
Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink	Diane DeGrout	Grades 3 - 5	Friendship, Respect	Gilbert has 15 blank Valentine cards just waiting for him to fill with nice Valentine poems for his classmates. But how can he write a nice poem for the boy who tweaked his nose or the girl who made fun of his glasses?
Chicken Sunday	Patricia Polacco	Grades 3 - 5	Gratitude and Thanks	After being initiated into a neighbor's family by a solemn backyard ceremony, a young Russian American girl and her African American brothers' determine to buy their grandma Eula a beautiful Easter hat. But their good intentions are misunderstood, until they discover just the right way to pay for the hat that Eula's had her eye on. A loving family story woven from the author's childhood.
Ramona the Brave	Beverly Cleary	Grades 3 - 5	Individuality	In this touching and funny story, the ebullient Ramona, feeling brave and grown-up, enters first grade. Quickly she finds that her new teacher, Mrs. Griggs, appears perplexed by pupils who like to be different. Since Ramona cannot help being different, clearly the two are incompatible.

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Pink and Say	Patricia Polacco	Grades 3 - 5	Kindness and Compassion	He was wounded in a fierce battle and left for dead in a pasture somewhere in Georgia when Pinkus found him. Pinkus' skin was the color of polished mahogany, and he was flying Union colors. Still, Pinkus picked him up out of the field and brought him to where the black soldier's mother, Moe Moe Bay, lived. She had soft, gentle hands and cared for him and her Pink. But the two boys were putting her in danger—two Union soldiers in Confederate territory! They had to get back to their outfits. Scared and uncertain, the boys were faced with a hard decision, and then marauding Confederate troops rode in!
Salt In His Shoes	Deloris Jordon	Grades 3 - 5	Perserverance	Young Michael feared he'd never be tall enough to play the game that would eventually make him famous. To lift his spirits, his mother told him that salt in his shoes would help him grow. This heartwarming picture book, written by the superstar's mother and sister, and exquisitely illustrated by artist Kadir Nelson, teaches hard work and determination are much more important than size in becoming a champion.
Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster	Debra Frasier	Grades 3 - 5	Resilience, Perserverance, Determination, Persistence, Courage	When Sage's spelling and definition of a word reveal her misunderstanding of it to her classmates, she is at first embarrassed but then uses her mistake as inspiration for the vocabulary parade.

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Blubber	Judy Blume	Grades 3 - 5	Respect	Blubber is a good name for her," the note from Wendy says about Linda. Jill crumples it up and leaves it on the corner of her desk. She doesn't want to think about Linda or her dumb report on the whale just now. Jill wants to think about Halloween. But Robby grabs the note, and before Linda stops talking it has gone halfway around the room. That's where it all starts. There's something about Linda that makes a lot of kids in her fifth-grade class want to see how far they can go -- but nobody, least of all Jill, expects the fun to end where it does.
Mr. Peabody's Apples	Madonna	Grades 3 - 5	Trustworthiness	Mr. Peabody is a beloved elementary school teacher and baseball coach in 1949 Happville, USA, who one day finds himself ostracized when rumors spread through the small town. Mr. Peabody silences the gossip with an unforgettable and poignant lesson about how we must choose our words carefully to avoid causing harm to others.
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	Grades 3 - 7	Bullying	A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty".

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Through My Eyes	Ruby Bridges	Grades 3 - 7	Courage, Tolerance	On November 14, 1960, a tiny, six-year-old black child, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. From where she sat in the school's office, Ruby Bridges could see parents marching through the halls and taking their children out of classrooms. The next day, Ruby courageously walked through the angry mob once again and into a school where, this time, she saw no other students. The white children did not go to school that day, and they wouldn't go to school for many days to come. Surrounded by racial turmoil, Ruby, the only student in a classroom headed by one wonderful teacher, learned to read and add.
Something From Nothing	Phoebe Gilman	Grades 3 - 7	Family	The blanket Joseph's grandfather made him is transformed into many things as the years go by: a jacket, a vest, a tie, a handkerchief, and finally a button. Gilman's modern adaptation and lively illustrations turn this favorite Jewish tale into a contemporary classic.

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Charlotte's Web	E. B. White	Grades 3 - 7	Friendship, Perseverance, Caring	Wilbur is the runt of a litter born to a pig on the farm of Fern Arable's father. When it is announced that her father is going to kill the pig, Fern rushes forth to save it, asking of her father: "If I had been very small at birth, would you have killed me?" Her father spares the pig, but only if Fern agrees to care for it. Falling in love immediately with the little pig, she feeds him regularly with a bottle, and names him Wilbur. Wilbur is Fern's constant companion until he grows big enough to be transferred to his new home in the barn of Fern's neighboring uncle. Fern is able to visit Wilbur, but is unable to see him as often. Out of boredom, Wilbur begins to befriend other animals in the barn, who often patronizingly instruct the still naïve little pig in the ways of life. His most important friend, however, turns out to be a spider named Charlotte, who occupies a web in the corner of a doorway above him. Her love for Wilbur, coupled with her ingenuity, will save Wilbur's life.
Smile	Raina Telgemeier	Grades 3 - 7	Self Esteem, Friendship	Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and what follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly.

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Bat 6	Virginia Euwer Wolff	Grades 3 - 7	Tolerance	Bat 6. That's the softball game played every year between the sixth-grade girls of Barlow and Bear Creek Ridge. All the girls — Beautiful Hair Hallie, Manzanita, the twins Lola and Lila, Tootie, Shadean — have been waiting for their turn at Bat 6 since they could first toss a ball. This time there's a newcomer on each team: Aki, at first base for the Ridgers, who just returned with her family from a place she's too embarrassed to talk about. And Shazam, center field for Barlow, who's been shunted around by her mother since her father was killed on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The adults of the two towns would rather not speak about why Aki's family had to go away. They can't quite admit just how different Shazam is. And that is why the two girls are on a collision course that explodes catastrophically on the morning of Bat 6, the day they've been preparing for all their lives. Along the way, they learn that the lessons of war do not end when a peace treaty is signed.
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	Grades 4 - 6	Determination and Perseverance	Billy Colman roams the Ozarks of northeastern Oklahoma with his bluetick hound and his precious coonhound pup trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves, but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern that grows over the graves of his dogs.

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Kavik the Wolf Dog	Walt Morey	Grades 4 - 6	Effort, Perseverance, Determination, Personal Best	When Andy Evans stumbles upon the snow-covered wreckage of a small plane, he's shocked to find a survivor. Should he put the gravely injured dog out of his misery?
The Cat Ate My Gymsuit	Paula Danziger	Grades 4 - 7	Courage, Integrity, Fairness	Marcy Lewis is bored by school; her father tyrannizes both Marcy and her mother; she despairs of ever being thin; she is certain she'll never have a date and that a horrible case of acne will break out any minute. Then along comes Ms. Finney, an English teacher willing to try anything in the classroom. Above all, she is accessible and human. Marcy has never met anyone like her, and suddenly life in and out of school begins to have a purpose.
Crenshaw	Katherine Applegate	Grades 4 - 7	Friendships	Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again.
My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	Christine King Farris	Grades 4 - 7	Tolerance	Renowned educator Christine King Farris, older sister of the late Dr. King, joins with celebrated illustrator Chris Soentpiet to tell the inspirational story of how one boyhood experience inspired a movement. A poignant look at how a single event can change the course of history and a reminder that if you believe hard enough, dreams can become reality.
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Grades 5 - 7	Bullying, Self Esteem	August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality, a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal."

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The Giver	Lois Lowry	Grades 5 - 8	Courage, Fairness, Caring	Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. December is the time of the annual Ceremony at which each twelve-year-old receives a life assignment determined by the Elders. Jonas watches his friend Fiona named Caretaker of the Old and his cheerful pal Asher labeled the Assistant Director of Recreation. But Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man — the man called only the Giver — he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World	Malala Yousafzai, Patricia McCormick	Grades 5 - 8	Fairness	Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school.
The Lions of Little Rock	Kristin Levine	Grades 5 - 8	Friendships	Twelve-year-old Marlee doesn't have many friends until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is bold and brave, and always knows the right thing to say, especially to Sally, the resident mean girl. Liz even helps Marlee overcome her greatest fear, speaking, which Marlee never does outside her family. But then Liz is gone, replaced by the rumor that she was a Negro girl passing as white. But Marlee decides that doesn't matter. Liz is her best friend. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are willing to take on integration and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.

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Below is a list of recommended books ranging from Grades K-12 categorized by topic.

Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
8th Grade Superzero	Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich	Grades 5 - 9	Bullying	Ever since a deeply unfortunate incident earlier this year, Reggie's been known as "Pukey" McKnight at his high-intensity Brooklyn middle school. He wants to turn his image around, but he has other things on his mind as well: his father, who's out of a job; his best friends, Ruthie and Joe C.; his former best friend Donovan, who's now become a jerk; and of course, the beautiful Mialonie. The elections for school president are coming up, but with his notorious nickname and "nothing" social status, Reggie wouldn't stand a chance, if he even had the courage to run. Then Reggie gets involved with a local homeless shelter. Haunted by two of the clients there — George, a once-proud man who shares his interest in comic books, and Charlie, a six-year-old kid — he begins to think about making a difference, both in the world and at school. Pukey for President? It can happen...if he starts believing.
Words in the Dust	Trent Reedy	Grades 5 - 9	Bullying	Zulaikha hopes. She hopes for peace, now that the Taliban have been driven from Afghanistan; a good relationship with her hard stepmother; and one day even to go to school, or to have her cleft palate fixed. Zulaikha knows all will be provided for her — "Inshallah," God willing. Then she meets Meena, who offers to teach her the Afghan poetry she taught her late mother. And the Americans come to her village, promising not just new opportunities and dangers, but surgery to fix her face. These changes could mean a whole new life for Zulaikha — but can she dare to hope they'll come true?

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Freaks	Kieran Larwood	Grades 5 - 9	Helping Others	Sheba, the fur-faced Wolfgirl, can sniff out a threat from miles away. Monkeyboy clammers up buildings in the blink of an eye, then drops deadly stink bombs of his own making (yes, that kind)! Sister Moon sees in the dark, and moves at the speed of light. Born with weird abnormalities that make them misfits, these Freaks spend their nights on public display, trapped in a traveling Victorian sideshow. But during the day, they put their strange talents to use: They solve the most sinister crimes. And in a dank, desperate world of crooks and child-snatchers, they're determined to defend London's most innocent victims: the street urchins disappearing from the city's streets.
Echo	Pam Munoz Ryan	Grades 5 - 9	Tolerance	Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives, binding them by an invisible thread of destiny. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. How their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Mockingbird	Kathryn Erskine	Grades 6 - 8	Challenges and Overcoming Obstacles, Understanding Self and Others	Caitlin is a bright fifth grader and a gifted artist. She also has Asperger's syndrome, and lives in a world of her own. Her brother, Devon, was the one who always helped her get by. But a middle-school shooting took his life. Now she has only her widowed father to rely on, and he has problems — and grief — of his own. Can a wise school counselor help Caitlin reach out to a world she's never understood? With Devon gone, will she have the courage to live fully on her own?
Child of the Owl	Laurence Yep	Grades 6 - 8	Character	Twelve-year-old Casey is waiting for the day that Barney, her father, hits it big — 'cause when that horse comes in, he tells her, it's the penthouse suite.' But then he ends up in the hospital, and Casey is sent to Chinatown to live with her grandmother, Paw-Paw. Now the waiting seems longer than ever. Casey feels lost in Chinatown. She's not prepared for the Chinese school, the noisy crowds, missing her father. But Paw-Paw tells her about the mother Casey never knew, and about her family's owl charm and her true Chinese name. And Casey at last begins to understand that this — Paw-Paw's Chinatown home, her parents' home — is her home, too.
Let Them Play	Margot Theis Raven	Grades 6 - 8	Character	In 1955 the segregationist South reacted to an African American Little League team by withdrawing all white teams from the program. Although the Cannon Street All-Stars became the southern regional champions by default, the officials would not let them play.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
An Abundance of Katherines	John Green	Grades 6 - 8	Self Esteem, Friendships	When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has \$10,000 in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy-loving best friend riding shotgun — but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove his Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl.
Jacob Have I Loved	Katherine Paterson	Grades 6 - 8	Sibling Rivalry	Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is, and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice	Phillip M. Hoose	Grades 6 - 8	Tolerance	On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in Browder v. Gayle, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South.
The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963	Christopher Paul Curtis	Grades 6 - 8	Tolerance	Enter the world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Momma and Dad decide it's time for a visit to Grandma, Dad comes home with the amazing Ultra-Glide, and the Watsons head South to Birmingham, Alabama...toward one of the darkest moments in America's history.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Summer of My German Soldier	Bette Greene	Grades 6 - 8	Tolerance, Self Esteem	When 12-year-old Patty Bergen, a Jewish girl living in a small town in Arkansas, thinks of her upcoming summer vacation, she only envisions clear blue skies and sunshine for miles around, even though her family life is dark and dreary. Her father doesn't seem to care for her, and her mother has grown into a bitter and angry woman. In short, Patty wishes that something in her life would change. When she hears that a local prison compound for POWs is going to be built in the small town where she lives, she's grateful that she can think about something else, even if it is a troubling thing to think about. Change comes for Patty when she befriends a young German prisoner of war named Anton, who has escaped and is desperate for a place to hide. And he, like Patty, needs someone in his life whom he can trust. Although she's steadfast in her beliefs of what is right and wrong, Patty risks everything and agrees to hide Anton until it's safe. As their friendship grows, she realizes that she's unable to label him a Nazi (as most would do), and sees him as a frightened, young man. The two grow closer and soon find the hope, strength, and love they're unable to find from others, but the risks they endure may be too much for them to bear.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Sherman Alexie	Grades 7 - 10	Tolerance	Wanting to better his life, fourteen-year-old Junior, a teenager on the Spokane Indian reservation, begins attending a nearby all-white school. Regarded as a traitor by his own people, Junior struggles to make new friends as he adjusts to his new academic environment.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Pigman	Paul Zindel	Grades 7 - 12	Character, Friendship	Meet Mr. Pignati, a lonely old man with a beer belly and an awful secret. He's the Pigman, and he's got a great big twinkling smile. When John and Lorraine, two high school sophomores, meet Mr. Pignati, they learn his whole sad, zany story.
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe	Benjamin Alire Sáenz	Grades 7 - 12	Friendships	Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When they meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the two loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special kind of friendship--the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime.
American Born Chinese	Gene Luen Yang	Grades 7 - 12	Tolerance	A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, American Born Chinese tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
March: Book One	John Lewis, Andrew Aydin	Grades 7 - 12	Tolerance	Congressman John Lewis is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African American president. March is a vivid first-hand account of Lewis's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis's personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Backlash	Sarah Darer Littman	Grades 7 - 9	Bullying	<p>In critically acclaimed author Sarah Darer Littman's gripping new novel, what happens online doesn't always stay online... Lara just got told off on Facebook. She thought that Christian liked her, that he was finally going to ask her to his school's homecoming dance. It's been a long time since Lara's felt this bad, this depressed. She's worked really hard since starting high school to be happy and make new friends. Bree used to be BFFs with overweight, depressed Lara in middle school, but constantly listening to Lara's problems got to be too much. Bree's secretly glad that Christian's pointed out Lara's flaws to the world. Lara's not nearly as great as everyone thinks. After weeks of talking online, Lara thought she knew Christian, so what's with this sudden change? And where does he get off saying horrible things on her wall? Even worse, are they true? But no one realized just how far Christian's harsh comments would push Lara. Not even Bree. As online life collides with real life, the truth starts to come together and the backlash is even more devastating than than anyone could have imagined.</p>

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If I Ever Get Out of Here	Eric Gansworth	Grades 7 - 9	Bullying	Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white people being nice to him — people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family's poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reininger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan's side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis's home, will he still be his friend
The Bully	Paul Langan	Grades 7 - 9	Bullying, Friendship	A new life. An new school. A new bully. That's what Darrell Mercer faces when he and his mother move from Philadelphia to California. After spending months living in fear, Darrell is faced with a big decision: He can keep running from this bully, or find a way to fight back.

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Can't Look Away	Donna Cooner	Grades 7 - 9	Cyber bullying	Torrey Grey is famous. At least, on the internet. Thousands of people watch her popular videos on fashion and beauty. But when Torrey's sister is killed in an accident, maybe because of Torrey and her videos, Torrey's perfect world implodes. Now, strangers online are bashing Torrey. And at her new school, she doesn't know who to trust. Is queen bee Blair only being sweet because of Torrey's internet infamy? What about Raylene, who is decidedly unpopular, but seems accepts Torrey for who she is? And then there's Luis, with his brooding dark eyes, whose family runs the local funeral home. Torrey finds herself drawn to Luis, and his fascinating stories about El dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. As the Day of the Dead draws near, Torrey will have to really look at her own feelings about death, and life, and everything in between. Can she learn to mourn her sister out of the public eye?

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Skinny	Donna Cooner	Grades 7 - 9	Love, Self Esteem	Hopeless. Freak. Elephant. Pitiful. These are the words of Skinny, the vicious voice that lives inside fifteen-year-old Ever Davies's head. Skinny tells Ever all the dark thoughts her classmates have about her. Ever knows she weighs over three hundred pounds, knows she'll probably never be loved, and Skinny makes sure she never forgets it. But there is another voice: Ever's singing voice, which is beautiful but has been silenced by Skinny. Partly in the hopes of trying out for the school musical, and partly to try and save her own life, Ever decides to undergo a risky surgery that may help her lose weight and start over. With the support of her best friend, Ever begins the uphill battle toward change. But demons, she finds, are not so easy to shake, not even as she sheds pounds. Because Skinny is still around. And Ever will have to confront that voice before she can truly find her own.
Ten Things I Hate About Me	Randa Abdel-Fattah	Grades 7 - 9	Tolerance	Jamie just wants to fit in. She doesn't want to be seen as a stereotypical Muslim girl, so she does everything possible to hide that part of herself. Even if it means pushing her friends away because she's afraid to let them know her dad forbids her from hanging out with boys or that she secretly loves to play the darabuka (Arabic drums). But when the cutest boy in school asks her out and her friends start to wonder about Jamie's life outside of school, her secrets threaten to explode. Can Jamie figure out how to be both Jamie and Jamilah before she loses everything?

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The List	Siobhan Vivian	Grades 9 - 11	Friendship, Self Esteem	An intense look at the rules of high school attraction, and the price that's paid for them. It happens every year. A list is posted, and one girl from each grade is chosen as the prettiest, and another is chosen as the ugliest. Nobody knows who makes the list. It almost doesn't matter. The damage is done the minute it goes up.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Grades 9 - 12	Bullying, Courage	Every boy enrolled at Trinity knows that the two powers running their New England school are Brother Leon — a teacher and the acting Headmaster — and the Vigils, a secret society led by Archie Costello. In the classroom, Brother Leon is a monster and any student in his presence knows to give him complete, submissive attention. Archie, himself, is an equal master of intimidation. But in the face of Trinity's financial troubles, Brother Leon calls for a truce and enlists Archie and the Vigils to help in the sale of chocolate to raise money for the school. Every boy is expected to volunteer and sell his quota of 50 boxes.
Bone Gap	Laura Ruby	Grades 9 - 12	Bullying, Love	Everyone knows Bone Gap is full of gaps — gaps to trip you up, gaps to slide through so you can disappear forever. So when young, beautiful Roza went missing, the people of Bone Gap weren't surprised. After all, it wasn't the first time that someone had slipped away and left Finn and Sean O'Sullivan on their own. Just a few years before, their mother had hightailed it to Oregon for a brand new guy, a brand new life. That's just how things go, the people said. Who are you going to blame?

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Alt Ed	Catherine Atkins	Grades 9 - 12	Character	Susan Calloway, bullied and overweight, faces daily humiliation at the hands of her classmates?and she's had enough. With her anger about to reach the boiling point, Susan lands in an alternative education class, a sort of group therapy for the nearly expelled. School is bad enough, but facing off with five peers, including her cruelest tormentor, is worse. Now Susan is being forced to do something she's always avoided?talk about herself and listen to what other people have to say about her. She has two choices: find her voice, or be prepared to take the insults in silence. It won't be easy, but alt ed may be just the last resort Susan needs.
Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare	Michele Schuerger and Tina Schwager	Grades 9 - 12	Character	Here is an affirmative collection of essays by 26 young women, who share how they have overcome a variety of odds to achieve their most cherished dreams, from sports to academics. The book is divided into three sections: part one includes first-person essays; part two provides advice on how readers can set and achieve goals; and part three gives advice on physical fitness and self image, with information on self defense. An inspiring book for adolescent girls and an excellent resource for school counselors.

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Smith	Leon Garfield	Grades 9 - 12	Character	This brilliant, picaresque novel follows the adventures of an illiterate young ragamuffin known only as Smith. Smith picks the pocket of a stranger, only to witness immediately the stranger's murder. Smith's booty from the theft is an Important Document, no doubt worth quite a lot to somebody, which is proved by the pursuit of Smith by two very shady characters. Smith artfully dodges them and winds up in the odd company of a wealthy blind man, who takes Smith into his home and provides him with an education. But this new comfort is lost when Smith himself is suspected of the very murder he witnessed.
I Am the Messenger	Markus Zusak	Grades 9 - 12	Character, Friendship	Meet Ed Kennedy--underage cabdriver, pathetic cardplayer, and useless at romance. He lives in a shack with his coffee-addicted dog, the Doorman, and he's hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence, until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first Ace arrives. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. . . .
One Night	Margaret Wild	Grades 9 - 12	Character, Friendship	Filled with love, fear, and the tough choices born of casual acts, "One Night" is a passionate and compellingly readable novel about teen life, the hardships of parenthood--and the joy and forgiveness between family and friends.
One Shot	Kathryn Otoshi	Grades 9 - 12	Character, Friendship	When Lorrie is invited to work with the famous photographer and recluse, Molly Price, on cleaning out her years of files and memories, she jumps at the chance.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Ship Breaker	Paolo Bacigalupi	Grades 9 - 12	Compassion; Kindness	Monster city-killing hurricanes swirl out of control, the coast has drowned, and New Orleans is submerged. Nailer's own teenage life is no less bleak. He toils on a crew that breaks apart abandoned oil tankers for salvage, and his father is addicted to drugs. But when his crew discovers an attractive girl amid a shipwreck, Nailer chooses to believe that Nina is indeed the heiress she claims to be and that if he helps her and protects her ship, he may change his own fate forever. To get to her father's allies up the coast, they will have to contend with marauding mercenaries, strange dog-men, and even Nailer's deranged father, who is determined to kidnap Nina for ransom.
Little Brother	Cory Doctorow	Grades 9 - 12	Creativity and Imagination, Leadership and Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Friendship	Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," is only seventeen years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works-and how to work the system. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. In the wrong place at the wrong time, Marcus and his crew are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security and whisked away to a secret prison where they're mercilessly interrogated for days. When the DHS finally releases them, Marcus discovers that his city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. He knows that no one will believe his story, which leaves him only one option: to take down the DHS himself.

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Tankworld	S. R. Martin	Grades 9 - 12	Determination and Perseverance, Cooperation and Teamwork, Courage, Bravery, Heroism	A fast-paced and unusual trilogy about teenagers fighting for survival in a world of genetic mutation and warring scientists.
Code Name Verity	Elizabeth Wein	Grades 9 - 12	Friendships	When a Scottish spy named Queenie is seized by the Nazi SS, she is certain she will be killed. The Nazis torture her and tell her that if she wishes to stay alive, she must disclose top-secret information and explain the purpose of her mission. Queenie agrees to do so and is given paper and pen to write down her story.
Eleanor & Park	Rainbow Rowell	Grades 9 - 12	Friendships	Eleanor lives in a tiny house packed with younger siblings, a mother who is a shell of her former self, and a toxic stepfather. She wears thrift-store clothing embellished with her own style, is overweight, and has wild red hair. Her first day on the bus no one budges to make room for her to sit. Except Park. Park is half Korean, which is rare for the flats of Omaha, Nebraska. He loves comic books, wears a black trench coat, and practices martial arts. Slowly but powerfully, Eleanor and Park fall in love through mix tapes, comic books, and what seems like an impossibility: the recognition of another unique soul dropped perfectly into an empty space that didn't realize it was waiting to be filled. But when circumstances test their relationship, can love survive?

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Where Things Come Back	John Corey Whaley	Grades 9 - 12	Friendships	<p>In the summer before Cullen's senior year, a nominally-depressed birdwatcher named John Barling thinks he spots a species of woodpecker thought to be extinct since the 1940s in Lily, Arkansas. His rediscovery of the so-called Lazarus Woodpecker sparks a flurry of press and woodpecker-mania. Soon all the kids are getting woodpecker haircuts and everyone's eating "Lazarus burgers." But as absurd as the town's carnival atmosphere has become, nothing is more startling than the realization that Cullen's sensitive, gifted fifteen-year-old brother Gabriel has suddenly and inexplicably disappeared. While Cullen navigates his way through a summer of finding and losing love, holding his fragile family together, and muddling his way into adulthood, a young missionary in Africa, who has lost his faith, is searching for any semblance of meaning wherever he can find it. As distant as the two stories seem at the start, they are thoughtfully woven ever closer together and through masterful plotting, brought face to face in a surprising and harrowing climax.</p>

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Shattered Star	Charnan Simon	Grades 9 - 12	Honesty	What's the price of fame? Cassie is the best singer in Southside High's Glee Club and dreams of being famous. She skips school to try out for a national talent competition. But her hopes sink when she sees the line. Then a talent agent shows up out of nowhere. Cassie is flattered to hear she has "the look" he wants. Soon, she is lying and missing rehearsal to meet with him. And he's asking her for more each time. How far will Cassie go for her shot at fame?
The Celebrated Jumping Frog and Other Stories	Mark Twain	Grades 9 - 12	Honesty, Manners and Conduct	Rich in humor and frontier life, here are six short stories from one of the most American of authors. From light-hearted wit to experienced satire, Mark Twain's stories reflect his observations taken from his own life as a steamboat pilot, world traveler, and frontier reporter.
Looking for Alaska	John Green	Grades 9 - 12	Self Esteem, Relationships	To shake up his play-it-safe, stay-at-home lifestyle, Florida teenager Miles "Pudge" Halter convinces his parents to let him attend a coed boarding school in Alabama. There he becomes instant friends with Chip, his edgy roommate, and with Chip's friend, the sexy, daring, and impossibly beautiful Alaska Young. Chip and Alaska are the perfect cure for boredom with their wit, pranks, and unpredictable behavior, and they're outcasts like Pudge. Chip is a brilliant scholarship student with a chip on his shoulder when it comes to rich kids who have never had to work for anything. And Alaska is dangerously moody and self-destructive. But how can Pudge resist falling in love with a girl who mesmerizes everyone she meets?

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That Was Then, This Is Now	S. E. Hinton	Grades 9 - 12	Trustworthiness, Friendship	When Bryon finds himself falling in love with Cathy, his friendship with Mark begins to change. The two boys had been like brothers. Will their friendship survive the changes that are happening in Bryon's life?
Monster	Walter Dean Myers	Grades 9 - 12	Understanding Self and Others	Young, black 16-year-old Steve Harmon, an amateur filmmaker, is on trial for the murder of a Harlem drugstore owner and could face the death penalty. Steve copes by writing a movie script based on his trial. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred until he can no longer tell who he is or what the truth is.
The Bugliest Bug	Carol Diggory Shields	Grades K - 2	Cooperation	Do you have six legs? Do you wiggle or crawl? Could YOU be the bugliest bug of them all? Young Damsely Dilly who is neither clever or frilly watches the contest determining the bugliest bug. When the contest turns out to be a trap, she saves the day (and wins the contest)!
The Grouchy Ladybug	Eric Carle	Grades K - 2	Attitude	The ladybug is mean to everyone. What will happen when she meets up with an elephant?
The Grumpy Morning	Pamela Duncan Edwards	Grades K - 2	Attitude	In this story written in rhyme, all of the animals on the farm think that the farmer has forgotten them. They all become grumpy until they find the farmer and she gives them food and love.
Finklehopper Frog Cheers	Irene Livingston	Grades K - 2	Being a Good Sport, Courage, Friendship	In this tale told in rhyme, Finklehopper Frog decides to go to a picnic when he notices his friend Ruby Rabbit is going, too. At the picnic, he cheers for Ruby when she enters a race.

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Dancing in the Wings	Debbie Allen	Grades K - 2	Believing in Self	Sassy is a long-legged girl who always has something to say. She wants to be a ballerina more than anything, but she worries that her too-large feet, too-long legs, and even her big mouth will keep her from her dream. When a famous director comes to visit her class, Sassy does her best to get his attention with her high jumps and bright leotard. Her first attempts are definitely not appreciated, but with Sassy's persistence, she just might be able to win him over.
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon	Patty Lovell	Grades K - 2	Bullying, Self Esteem	Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy and has buckteeth and a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. But armed with the encouraging words of her grandmother, Molly Lou confidently confronts the class bully at her new school. A not-to-be missed story for the less-than-perfect part of everyone!
Bear Feels Sick	Karma Wilson	Grades K - 2	Caring	Mole, Hare, Mouse, and the rest of the gang are all ready to go out and play. But Bear is sick — really, really sick with a bad cold. Putting aside any thoughts of play, the loyal friends scamper about Bears cave to help him feel as comfortable as possible. Full color.
Getting To Know	Ruben Plotnick	Grades K - 2	Caring	David is worried about his new friend Ruben, the coolest kid in school, meeting his Grandma Rosie who has Alzheimer's disease.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Great Joy	Kate DiCamillo	Grades K - 2	Caring	It is just before Christmas when an organ grinder and monkey appear on the street corner outside Frances's apartment. Frances can see them from her window and, sometimes, when it's quiet, she can hear their music. In fact, Frances can't stop thinking about them, especially after she sees the man and his monkey sleeping outside on the cold street at midnight. When the day of the Christmas pageant arrives, and it's Frances's turn to speak, everyone waits silently. But all Frances can think about is the organ grinder's sad eyes — until, just in time, she finds the perfect words to share. Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo pairs once again with acclaimed artist Bagram Ibatoulline as she presents a timeless story of compassion and joy.
Katie and the Big Snow	Virginia Lee Burton	Grades K - 2	Caring	Katy, the brave and untiring tractor who pushes a bulldozer in the summer and a snowplow in the winter, saves the day when she plows out the city of Geopolis after a big blizzard.
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse	Kevin Henkes	Grades K - 2	Caring	Lilly loves everything about school, especially her cool teacher, Mr. Slinger. But when Lilly brings her purple plastic purse and its treasures to school and can't wait until sharing time, Mr. Slinger confiscates her prized possessions. Lilly's fury leads to revenge and then to remorse and she sets out to make amends.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Boy Who Wouldn't Share	Mike Reiss	Grades K - 2	Caring	Edward has tons of toys. He has teddy bears, rocking horses, a Slinky — you name it. Yet, whenever his sister Claire wants to play with any of them, Edward says, "They're mine!" That all changes one day when Edward's huge pile of toys ends up...on top of him! Pinned underneath all his playthings, he has to make the tough choice to start sharing. Not only does he escape his predicament, but he also learns an important lesson: If you share with others, usually they'll share right back.
The Stray Dog	Marc Simont	Grades K - 2	Caring	When a little dog appears at a family picnic, the girl and boy play with him all afternoon, and they name him Willy. At day's end they say good-bye. But the dog has won their hearts and stays on their minds. The following Saturday the family returns to the picnic grounds to look for Willy, but they are not alone; the dogcatcher is looking for him, too...
The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein	Grades K - 2	Caring, Friendship	Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk...and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave.
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge	Mem Fox	Grades K - 2	Caring, Friendship	Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, a rather small boy, lives next door to a nursing home in which resides Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper, his favorite friend, because she has four names as well. When Miss Nancy "loses" her memory, the intrepid Wilfrid sets out to find it for her.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
A Bad Case Of Stripes	David Shannon	Grades K - 2	Character	Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her school don't like them. Camilla Cream is very worried about what other people think about her, but at the very moment she most wants to fit in, she becomes completely covered in colorful stripes! Worse yet, she seems to change colors to match whatever is happening around her. When the class says the Pledge of Allegiance, she turns red, white, and blue! Instead of blending in, she's standing out.
A Day's Work	Eve Bunting	Grades K - 2	Character	Francisco, a young Mexican-American boy, helps his grandfather find work as a gardener, even though the old man cannot speak English and knows nothing about gardening.
Andy and the Lion	James Daugherty	Grades K - 2	Character	In this retelling of Androcles and the Lion, Andy meets a lion on the way to school and wins his friendship for life by removing a thorn from his paw.
Are You Quite Polite?	Alan Katz	Grades K - 2	Character	You all know..."Do Your Ears Hang Low?" and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," but what about, Are You Quite Polite? and "Quiet in the Library"?! Songwriter and comedy writer extraordinaire Alan Katz has done it again! Turning his attention to the subject of good and bad manners, he has created a hilarious new guide to manners that kids will love to follow, laughing all the way! With brilliantly funny pictures by illustrator and cartoonist David Catrow, this new collection promises hours of well-mannered silly dillyness for kids everywhere!

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
D.W. Go to Your Room!	Marc Brown	Grades K - 2	Character	When Mom sends D.W. to her room, a ten-minute time-out seems like forever. At first D.W. sulks, but as the time ticks by, she starts to worry that her family will completely forget about her. What if she starves? What if they don't love her anymore? What if she's stuck in her room for the rest of her life? Every minute, D.W. imagines a wild new scenario as she waits out her punishment. Then an unexpected visitor comes to her rescue....
Duck for President	Doreen Cronin	Grades K - 2	Character	When Duck gets tired of working for Farmer Brown, his political ambition eventually leads to his being elected President.
Duck On A Bike	David Shannon	Grades K - 2	Character	One day down on the farm, Duck got a wild idea. "I bet I could ride a bike," he thought. He waddled over to where the boy parked his bike, climbed on and began to ride. At first he rode slowly and he wobbled a lot, but it was fun! Duck rode past Cow and waved to her. "Hello, Cow!" said Duck. "Moo," said Cow. But what she thought was, "A duck on a bike? That's the silliest thing I've ever seen!" And so Duck rides past sheep, horse, and all the other barnyard animals. Suddenly, a group of kids ride by on their bikes and run into the farmhouse, leaving the bikes outside. Now ALL the animals can ride bikes, just like Duck!

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Every Cowgirl Needs A Horse	Rebecca Janni	Grades K - 2	Character	Nellie Sue does everything with a western flair. Whether it is cleaning up the animal sty (picking up her stuffed animals) or rounding up cattle (getting the neighborhood kids together for her birthday party), she does it like a true cowgirl. All she really needs is a horse. So when Dad announces at her birthday party, "I got a horse right here for you," Nellie Sue is excited. But when her horse turns out to be her first bicycle, it will take an imagination as big as Texas to help save the day.
Everybody Cooks Rice	Norah Dooley	Grades K - 2	Character	When Carrie's little brother is late for supper, she is sent to look for him, and takes a delicious tour through her neighbors' kitchens. Tasting as she goes, Carrie discovers that, indeed, "everybody cooks rice!" Mr. and Mrs. Darlington, from Barbados, are sitting down to a dinner of rice with black-eyed peas, bacon, and onions. The Diazes are having Puerto Rican rice cooked with turmeric and pigeon peas, and Madame Bleu is making Haitian rice and beans. Lucky Carrie gets to sample Vietnamese, Indian, and Chinese cooking as well, before returning home...where she finds her elusive brother, and an Italian meal of risi e bisi on the table.
Farmer Duck	Martin Waddell	Grades K - 2	Character	When a kind and hardworking duck nearly collapses from overwork while taking care of a farm because the owner is too lazy to do so, the rest of the animals get together and chase the farmer out of town.
I Don't Want To Go To Bed	Julia Sykes	Grades K - 2	Character	Little Tiger never wants to go to bed, and one night he gets his wish. Will he have as much fun as he thinks he should?

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Miss Nelson is Missing	Harry Allard	Grades K - 2	Character	The students don't proffer a shred of respect for their good-natured teacher Miss Nelson, but when the witchy substitute Miss Viola Swamp appears on the scene, they start to regret their own wicked ways.
Mole Music	David McPhail	Grades K - 2	Character	Mole has always led a simple life, but lately he feels something is missing. When he first hears someone playing a violin, Mole realizes that he longs to make beautiful music, too. Through practice and patience, Mole learns to play. And even though he plays alone, in the privacy of his underground home, his music has an effect on others that is more magical than Mole will ever know.
Murmel, Murmel, Murmel	Robert Munsch	Grades K - 2	Character	Robin discovers a baby in her backyard sandbox (it can only say "Murmel, murmel...") and sets out on a series of hilarious adventures, trying to find it a home.
Owen	Kevin Henkes	Grades K - 2	Character	Owen had a fuzzy yellow blanket. "Fuzzy goes where I go," said Owen. But Mrs. Tweezers disagreed. She thought Owen was too old for a blanket. Owen disagreed. No matter what Mrs. Tweezers came up with, Blanket Fairies or vinegar, Owen had the answer. But when school started, Owen's mother knew just what to do, and everyone — Owen, Fuzzy, and even Mrs. Tweezers — was happy.
Pablo's Tree	Pat Mora	Grades K - 2	Character	Pablo is excited when he visits his grandfather on the day after his fifth birthday because his grandfather has decorated a special tree every year since the day Pablo was adopted.
Princess Smartypants	Babette Cole	Grades K - 2	Character	Princess Smartypants enjoys not being married, but her Mother, the Queen, tells her that she must find a husband. How will Princess Smartypants keep from being married?

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The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Pressure	Stan Berenstain	Grades K - 2	Character	By scheduling too many activities, the Bear family learns that being too busy causes too much pressure and stress on a family.
The Gardener	Sarah Stewart	Grades K - 2	Character	Lydia Grace Finch brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. There she initiates a gradual transformation, bit by bit brightening the shop and bringing smiles to customers' faces with the flowers she grows. But it is in a secret place that Lydia Grace works on her masterpiece - an ambitious rooftop garden -- which she hopes will make even Uncle Jim smile. Sarah Stewart introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home, while David Small's illustrations beautifully evoke the Depression-era setting.
The Paper Princess	Elisa Klevin	Grades K - 2	Character	As the paper princess, freshly cut out, still in need of hair, goes flying through the air, the little girl cries out, "Wait! I didn't finish you!" "I'll finish myself", the princess calls back and the wind carries her away, over a meadow and a river, to a carnival and a town. After her exciting experiences, the paper princess finds her way back to her creator with the help of a friendly jay.
The Relatives Came	Cythina Rylant	Grades K - 2	Character	In a rainbow-colored station wagon that smelled like a real car, the relatives came. When they arrived, they hugged and hugged from the kitchen to the front room. All summer they tended the garden and ate up all the strawberries and melons. They plucked banjos and strummed guitars.

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The Tenth Good Thing about Barney	Judith Viorst	Grades K - 2	Character	In an attempt to overcome his grief over his cat's death, a boy tries to think of the ten best things about his cat.
Once a Mouse	Marcia Brown	Grades K - 2	Character	As it changes from a mouse, to a cat, to a dog, to a tiger, a hermit's pet also becomes increasingly vain.
It Wasn't My Fault	Helen Lester	Grades K - 2	Character, Diversity	When accidents happen to Murdley Gurdson, they are usually his own fault, but when a bird lays an egg on Murdley's head one day, he tries hard to find someone else to blame.
King of the Playground	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	Grades K - 2	Character, Diversity	Kevin wants to go to the playground, but Sammy is always there telling him to leave. Will Sammy really tie him up or put him into a hole like he says he will?
Music Over Manhattan	Mark Karlins	Grades K - 2	Character, Diversity	Bernie has lived in the shadow of perfect cousin Herbert for too long. But when his eccentric Uncle Louie teaches Bernie how to play the trumpet, he at last finds a talent that outshines even Herbert's gifts. Soon, "Background Bernie" becomes a musician who makes a splash, and when at a family wedding he plays his favorite song, "Moonlight Over Manhattan," the magic can't be ignored.
The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey	Demi	Grades K - 2	Character, Friendship	Nasrettin cares more about helping others than his shabby appearance. He is ignored at a party until he changes into a fancy coat. When he starts putting food inside his coat, the host and guests are amazed!

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Grace for President	Kelly DiPucchio	Grades K - 2	Citizenship	When Grace Campbell's teacher reveals that the United States has never had a female president, Grace decides to be the first. And she immediately starts off her political career as a candidate in the school's mock election. But soon, she realizes that she has entered a tough race. Her popular opponent claims to be the "best man for the job" — and seems to have captured all the male votes — while Grace concentrates on being the best person.
The Lorax	Dr. Seuss	Grades K - 2	Citizenship	Long before saving the earth became a global concern, Dr. Seuss, speaking through his character the Lorax, warned against mindless progress and the danger it posed to the earth's natural beauty.
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type	Doreen Cronin	Grades K - 2	Conflict Resolution	Farmer Brown thinks it's odd when he hears typing sounds coming from the barn. But his troubles really begin when his cows start leaving him notes. First they demand better working conditions, then they stage a strike.

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The Patchwork Quilt	Valerie Fluornoy	Grades K - 2	Cooperation	For sophomores John and Lorraine, the world feels meaningless; nothing is important. They certainly can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people. During one of those pranks, they meet Mr. Pignati -- aka the "Pigman" -- a fat, balding old man with a zany smile. In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon find that they're caught up in Mr. Pignati's zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that's ever mattered to them. Originally published in 1968, this novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Zindel still sings with sharp emotion as John and Lorraine come to realize that "Our life would be what we made of it -- nothing more, nothing less."
Swimmy	Leo Lionni	Grades K - 2	Cooperation, Friendship	A little fish, the lone survivor of a school of fish swallowed by a tuna, devises a plan to camouflage and protect himself and his new companions.
The Cow that Went Oink	Bernard Most	Grades K - 2	Cooperation, Individuality	There was once a cow that went "oink." When the other animals laughed at her, she was sad. But then she met a pig that went "moo" and they found a way to help each other!
It's Mine	Leo Lionni	Grades K - 2	Cooperation, Teamwork	It's Mine! is the Caldecott award-winning author/illustrator Leo Lionni's classic about three lovable frogs who learn a valuable lesson

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The Crayon Box That Talked	Shane Derolf	Grades K - 2	Cooperation, Tolerance	After overhearing some crayons in toy store complaining about one another, a little girl decides to buy them all and take them home. The girl picks up the colors one by one and draws. When the crayons see the picture they have all helped create, they realize that beautiful things can happen when everyone works together.
Wemberly Worried	Kevin Henkes	Grades K - 2	Courage, Attitude	Wemberly worried about spilling her juice, about shrinking in the bathtub, even about snakes in the radiator. She worried morning, noon, and night. "Worry, worry, worry," her family said. "Too much worry." And Wemberly worried about one thing most of all: her first day of school. But when she meets a fellow worrywart in her class, Wemberly realizes that school is too much fun to waste time worrying!
The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson	Grades K - 2	Courage, Creativity	Mouse escapes his predators by telling them he is on his way to meet his friend the gruffalo, a creature with terrible claws, tusks, and jaws. The gruffalo, however, is just in Mouse's imagination, or is it?
The Princess and The Pizza	Mary Jane Auch	Grades K - 2	Courage, Determination	Princess Paulina needs a job. Ever since her father retired from his throne to become a carpenter, Paulina has had no use for her princess skills. When she hears that Prince Drupert, the sorry-looking son of overbearing Queen Zelda, is looking for a princess to marry, Paulina can't pass up the opportunity to put her princessing skills into practice. She passes the mattress and the pea and the glass slipper contests. But when she's faced with the task of cooking a feast fit for a prince, she fears that not even her royal lineage can save her.

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Hooway for Wodney Wat	Helen Lester	Grades K - 2	Courage, Overcoming Obstacles, Self Esteem	Poor Rodney Rat can't pronounce his R's and the other rodents tease him mercilessly. But when Camilla Capybara joins Rodney's class and announces that she is bigger, meaner, and smarter than any of the other rodents, everyone is afraid. It seems she really is bigger, meaner, and smarter than all of the rest of them. Until our unwitting hero, Wodney Wat, catches Camilla out in a game of Simon Says.
Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again	Dave Horowitz	Grades K - 2	Courage, Perseverance	Humpty Dumpty has not climbed a single wall since his great fall, despite the urging of friends and teasing of others, but when one of the king's horses is stuck, Humpty Dumpty finds the courage, and the proper climbing equipment, to help out.
The Story of Ferdinand	Munro Leaf	Grades K - 2	Courage, Self Esteem	All the other bulls would run and jump and butt their heads together. But Ferdinand would rather sit and smell the flowers than fight. And his pacifist tendencies remain intact even when he is picked for the bullfights in Madrid.

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First Day Jitters	Julie Danneberg	Grades K - 2	Courage; Confronting and Resolving Fears	Sarah is hiding under her covers as Mr. Hartwell asks, "You don't want to miss the first day at your new school, do you?" From under the blanket she replies, "I'm not going." When he reminds her how much she liked her other school and asks her to think of all the new friends she'll meet, she imagines a classroom where a paper airplane is flying, a boy is pulling his neighbor's pigtail, and another is blowing a gigantic bubble. Mr. Hartwell finally gets Sarah to stumble out of bed, eat a bit of toast, and get into the car where she slumps down into her seat. At school, the principal cheerfully welcomes her and takes her to the classroom where she is introduced as "Mrs. Sarah Jane Hartwell," the new teacher. The joke provides a good laugh and children may find it reassuring that they are not alone in their anxieties about new situations.
Hey Al	Arthur Yorinks	Grades K - 2	Creativity	Al, a janitor, and his faithful dog, Eddie, live in a single room on the West Side. They eat together, they work together, they do everything together. So what's the problem? Their room is crowded and cramped; their life is an endless struggle. Al and Eddie are practically at each others' throats when a large and mysterious bird offers them a new life in paradise. After some debate, they decide to accept. Transported to a gorgeous island in the sky, Al and Eddie are soon living a life of ease and luxury. But they come to find that the grass can be a little too green on the other side. After a dramatic, nearly tragic escape from their paradise prison, both man and dog agree: there really is no place like home.

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The Paper Bag Princess	Robert Munsch	Grades K - 2	Creativity	The Princess Elizabeth is slated to marry Prince Ronald when a dragon attacks the castle and kidnaps Ronald. In resourceful and humorous fashion, Elizabeth finds the dragon, outsmarts him, and rescues Ronald — who is less than pleased at her un-princess-like appearance
How To Catch A Star	Oliver Jeffers	Grades K - 2	Creativity and Imagination	Once there was a boy, and that boy loved stars very much. So much so that he decided to catch one of his very own. But how? Waiting for them to grow tired from being up in the sky all night doesn't work. Climbing to the top of the tallest tree? No, not tall enough. The boy has a rocket ship . . . but it is made of paper and doesn't fly well at all. Finally, just when the boy is ready to give up, he learns that sometimes things aren't where, or what, we expect them to be.
The Dot	Peter H. Reynolds	Grades K - 2	Creativity, Self Esteem	Her teacher smiled. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." Art class is over, but Vashti is sitting glued to her chair in front of a blank piece of paper. The words of her teacher are a gentle invitation to express herself. But Vashti can't draw; she's no artist. To prove her point, Vashti jabs at a blank sheet of paper to make an unremarkable and angry mark. "There!" she says. That one little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery. That special moment is the core of Peter H. Reynolds's delicate fable about the creative spirit in all of us.
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Judith Viorst	Grades K - 2	Determination and Perseverance	The ultimate lesson about how everything won't always go your way.

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Brave Irene	William Steig	Grades K - 2	Determination and Perseverance	Brave Irene" is Irene Bobbin, the dressmaker's daughter. Her mother, Mrs. Bobbin, isn't feeling so well and can't possibly deliver the beautiful ball gown she's made for the duchess to wear that very evening. So plucky Irene volunteers to get the gown to the palace on time, in spite of the fierce snowstorm that's brewing; quite an errand for a little girl. But where there's a will, there's a way, as Irene proves in the danger-fraught adventure that follows. She must defy the wiles of the wicked wind, her most formidable opponent, and overcome many obstacles before she completes her mission. Surely, this winning heroine will inspire every child to cheer her on.
Horton Hatches the Egg	Dr. Seuss	Grades K - 2	Determination and Perseverance	When a lazy bird hatching an egg wants a vacation, she asks Horton, the elephant, to sit on her egg, which he does through all sorts of hazards until he is rewarded for doing what he said he would.
Owl Moon	Jane Yolan	Grades K - 2	Determination and Perseverance	A young girl and her father take a nighttime stroll near the farm where they live to look for owls. It is a beautiful night, a moonlit winter night. Bundled tightly against the cold, they trudge through the pristine snow, "whiter than the milk in a cereal bowl." As they go, hidden in ink-blue shadows, a fox, a raccoon, a field mouse and a deer watch them pass. A delicate tension builds as the father imitates the great horned owl's call once without answer, then again. Finally, from out of the darkness "an echo/came threading its way/through the trees."

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The Very Busy Spider	Eric Carle	Grades K - 2	Determination and Perseverance	Early one morning, a little spider begins to spin her web on a fence post. One by one, the animals of the nearby farm try to divert her, each with its own sound and species-specific enticement: "Maa! Maa!" said the goat. "Want to jump on the rocks?" "Oink! Oink!" grunted the pig. "Want to roll in the mud?" Continuing patiently with her work, the industrious spider doesn't answer. She has a busy day ahead of her, but at the end she will be able to show the animals that her web is both beautiful and very useful.
Fireflies!	Julie Brinckloe	Grades K - 2	Diversity	A boy is excited when he sees a lot of fireflies making patterns of light in the dark around his home. After catching many of them, however, the boy realizes that the fireflies' lights are dimming. What can he do to bring back the light?
Piggybook	Anthony Browne	Grades K - 2	Diversity	When Mrs. Piggott unexpectedly leaves one day, her demanding family begins to realize just how much she did for them.
The Bus For Us	Suzanne Bloom	Grades K - 2	Diversity	While Tess waits for the school bus with Gus, she learns to identify different vehicles.
The Wednesday Surprise	Eve Bunting	Grades K - 2	Diversity	Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday. Dad thinks he has received all his presents, but Grandma stands up and gives him the best one of all: she reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.

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My Best Friend Moved Away	Nancy Carlson	Grades K - 2	Diversity, Friendship	From playing soccer to sharing secrets to sitting together on the bus, best friends do everything together. So what do you do when your best friend moves away? Will there be fun times ahead when you don't have a best friend to share them with? Nancy Carlson's heartfelt story and illustrations will help ease the pain of saying good-bye, while reassuring young readers that they can make new friends even as they keep the old ones close to heart.
One Morning in Maine	Robert McCloskey	Grades K - 2	Diversity, Friendship	It's a big day for a little girl when she discovers her first loose tooth and makes a trip to the grocery store on the mainland.
The Brand New Kid	Katie Couric	Grades K - 2	Diversity, Friendship	After noticing Lazlo's distraught mother, Ellie decides to befriend Lazlo and discovers that she enjoys his company even though he does not look or speak like her other friends in the second grade.
Owl Babies	Martin Waddell	Grades K - 2	Emotions	I want my mommy! Three baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, and they can't help but wonder where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? What scary things move all around them? Stunning illustrations from striking perspectives capture the anxious little owls as they worry. Not surprisingly, joyous flapping and dancing and bouncing greet the mother's return, lending a celebratory tone to the ending of this comforting tale. Never has the plight of young ones who miss their mother been so simply told or so beautifully rendered.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Amazing Grace	Mary Hoffman	Grades K - 2	Fairness	Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace longs to play the lead, but her classmates point out that Peter was a boy. Besides, he wasn't black. With the support of her family, Grace learns that she can be anything she wants to be, and the results are amazing!
Martha Blah Blah	Susan Meddaugh	Grades K - 2	Fairness	When Martha the dog eats Granny's Alphabet Soup, the letters go to her brain instead of her stomach and she begins speaking words! The label on Granny's Alphabet Soup promises "every letter in every can," but at the Granny Soup Company, the new owner decides she can increase profits by reducing the number of letters in the soup. She fires 13 of her 26 letter inspectors and expects that nobody will notice the difference. But Martha notices. After eating her first bowl of the modified Granny's Alphabet Soup, she says "goo oup" when she means "good soup" and "ohigiwog" when she means, "something is wrong." Martha is literally at a loss for words! And who will love her now that she is like every other dog and can no longer talk? Martha is determined to speak again and she ultimately discovers what the new owner has done to the soup. She sets out to restore order at the soup company and makes sure that the promise of "every letter in every can" is fully honored.

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The 3 Silly Billies	Margie Palatini	Grades K - 2	Fairness	Bill Bob, Billy Bo, and Just Plain Billy don't have enough money to cross the troll bridge. But by pooling their pennies with the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack, the Three Silly Billies are able to pay the toll and cross the deep river in jolly good style. And there's a whopping surprise in store for the Troll!
Enemy Pie	Derek Munson	Grades K - 2	Fairness, Diversity, Friendship	A boy who expects a great summer is unhappy when Jeremy moves into the neighborhood. But his father has a way for the boy to get rid of his new enemy: Enemy Pie. Will the secret pie recipe save the boy's summer and get rid of Jeremy for good?
A Bargain for Frances	Russel & Lillian Hoban	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Thelma always seems to get Frances into trouble. When she tricks Frances into buying her tea set, it's the last straw. Can Frances show her that it's better to lose a bargain than lose a friend? Frances has to find a way to stand up for her own interests.
A Sick Day for Amos McGee	Philip C. Stead	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day, Amos spends time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his friends return the favor.
A Visitor for Bear	Bonny Becker	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Bear tries everything to keep a mouse out of his house, but the mouse is very persistent. Readers are sure to enjoy this delightful book about friendship.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Amber On The Mountain	Tony Johnson	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Amber's mountain is beautiful, but it is a lonely place -- until the day Anna arrives, bringing both her friendship and the will to teach Amber how to read. Suddenly, Amber's world is filled with a new magic -- and new challenges. But when Anna returns to the city, will Amber be able to keep reading on her own?
Fish Is Fish	Leo Lionni	Grades K - 2	Friendship	A modern fable of a minnow who wants to follow his tadpole friend, who becomes a frog, onto land. But after Fish tries to see the marvelous world described by his friend Frog, he decides that his water world is the most beautiful of all.
Hunter's Best Friend at School	Laura Malone Elliott	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Hunter and Stripe are best friends. This young raccoon pair loves to do everything together, like dress in striped sweaters, read the same stories, and even eat the same lunch — a crawfish sandwich, huckleberries, and milk. But when Stripe arrives one day at school in a mischief-making mood and starts stirring up trouble in Mr. Ringtail's class, should Hunter follow along?

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

Below is a list of recommended books ranging from Grades K-12 categorized by topic.

Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Little Blue, Little Yellow	Leo Lionni	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Little Blue, who lives with his blue parents, and Little Yellow, who lives with his yellow parents. The two children have friends of many colors, and together they play and go to school on backgrounds of different shades. Then one day, Little Blue can't find Little Yellow. He looks everywhere, and when the two finally meet, they are so happy to see each other that they hug and hug — until they become green! They return home to find that their parents don't recognize them. The distressed little scraps begin to cry, and separate into piles of blue and yellow tears. The relieved parents soon understand what happened, and everything ends happily.
Mr. George Baker	Amy Hest	Grades K - 2	Friendship	In this Reading Rainbow book, one-hundred-year-old George and his young friend Harry wait together for the school bus. Both are learning to read in a school down the hall from one another. Readers will delight in this upbeat tale of an unlikely pair of friends.
The Dandelion Seed	Joseph A. Anthony	Grades K - 2	Friendship	Chester, a musical cricket from rural Connecticut, finds himself transported (via a picnic basket) to the grit and grime of New York City. When Mario Bellini, a boy from the neighborhood, finds Chester, he raises the insect as his own. Chester soon meets Mario's animal friends, Tucker and Harry, and learns about life on the streets. And when Mario's parents are faced with the bankruptcy of their subway newsstand, the friends try to come up with a plan to save it from disaster.
Under the Lemon Moon	Edith Hope Fine	Grades K - 2	Friendship, Character	Rosalinda goes on an adventure with her pet hen, looking for the man who stole her lemons. La Anciana helps her, but also makes her realize why the man stole from her.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Knight and the Dragon	Tomie DePaola	Grades K - 2	Friendship, Cooperation	A knight who has never fought a dragon and an equally inexperienced dragon prepare to meet each other in battle.
Miss Rumphius	Barbara Cooney	Grades K - 2	Individuality	As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful — and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.
Olivia	Ian Falconer	Grades K - 2	Individuality	Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good. Of course, it's another story for Olivia's exhausted mother.
Stephanie's Ponytail	Robert Munsch	Grades K - 2	Individuality	A little girl who is determined to strike a blow for nonconformity manages to arrive at school every day with a hairdo more outrageous than the day before. And each time, the cast of copycats grows and grows --- until the day she threatens to shave her head! The strong female voice will speak to many, asserting the importance of individuality and independent thought. Full color throughout.
Tacky The Penguin	Helen Lester	Grades K - 2	Individuality	Tacky is an odd bird who marches to the beat of his own drummer. He's something of an eccentric, which wouldn't be a problem if all the other penguins weren't such...conformists.
Woolbur	Leslie Helakoski	Grades K - 2	Individuality	Woolbur is a sheep who never follows the flock. Spunky, funky, and refreshingly distinct, Woolbur is sure to strike a chord with anyone who has ever felt different.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Sissy Duckling	Harvey Fierstein	Grades K - 2	Individuality, Character	Actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein based this book on his award-winning HBO animated special about celebrating the special qualities each of us possesses. In this story, Elmer the duckling is a great big sissy who also shows that he's got what it takes.
Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse	Leo Lionni	Grades K - 2	Jealousy, Friendship, Love	Alexander always seems to create a ruckus. The family he lives with screams when they see him and chase him with a broom. One day, he meets another mouse, Willie, who looks just like him, small and gray. Except this mouse has two wheels, instead of legs, and a key in his back. The fact that this mouse is the little girl Annie's favorite toy makes Alexander very sad: "They don't care much for me," he tells Willie. Although Alexander is jealous that the family loves Willie and not him, Alexander comes to love Willie, too. Since Willie can only move when wound, Alexander visits frequently, and tells him of his treacherous adventures, which include brooms and mousetraps. The two enjoy each other's company immensely, but when Alexander is alone in his hole, he wishes he were loved and cuddled by the family, as well. Alexander longs to be like Willie. One day, Willie tells Alexander of a magic lizard who has the power to change one animal into another. But will this lizard actually help Willie when he needs it the most?
Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed	Emily Pearson	Grades K - 2	Kindness	Can one good deed from an ordinary girl change the world?

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale	John Steptoe	Grades K - 2	Kindness and Compassion	Mufaro has two daughters, the bad-tempered Manyara and the loving Nyasha, who must pass a series of tests in order for one of them to be considered a beautiful and worthy wife for the Great King. Fiercely competitive, Manyara taunts Nyasha with threats of becoming a servant once Manyara is made Queen. Nyasha doesn't complain to her father about her sister's ill will, but merely tends to her garden where she befriends a little garden snake, Nyoka. Nyoka replaces the traditional fairy godmother, and is able to transform into a hungry lost boy and an old woman. As Manyara and Nyasha journey to meet with the Great King, they are each tested by Nyoka in his various disguises. Not surprisingly, Manyara's responses are selfish and bitter, while Nyasha's are polite and thoughtful. In a surprise ending, Nyoka is revealed to be the Great King himself.
The Little Red Hen Makes A Pizza	Philomen Sturges	Grades K - 2	Leadership, Fairness, Responsibility, Friendship	The story of the industrious Little Red Hen is not a new one, but when this particular hen spies a can of tomato sauce in her cupboard and decides to make a pizza, the familiar tale takes on a fresh new twist. Kids will love following along as the hen, with no help from her friends the duck, the dog, and the cat, goes through the steps of making a pizza — shopping for supplies, making the dough, and adding the toppings. But despite their initial resistance, the hen's friends come through in the end and help out in a refreshing and surprising way.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Mama, Do You Love Me?	Barbara M. Joosse	Grades K - 2	Love	In a simple question-and-answer format, the girl repeatedly asks her mother if she loves her, imagining different scenarios to test her mother's devotion. What would Mother do if the young girl doused a lamp with water? What would Mother do if the girl pretended she was an angry polar bear? What would Mother do if the young girl ran away from home? No matter what the girl imagines she would do, her mother's reassuring answers let her know how deeply loved and precious she really is.
No, David!	David Shannon	Grades K - 2	Manners	No, David! remains a perennial household favorite, delighting children, parents, and teachers alike. David is a beloved character, whose unabashed good humor, mischievous smile, and laughter-inducing antics underline the love parents have for their children — even when they misbehave. Children will find his outrageously bad behavior both funny and liberating as they see themselves in him.
Julius The Baby Of The World	Kevin Henkes	Grades K - 2	New Experiences	Little baby Julius has a wet pink nose, small black eyes, and sweet white fur. Everyone absolutely loves him...except for his big sister. And she can't imagine what might bring about a change of heart!

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
One Green Apple	Eve Bunting	Grades K - 2	New Experiences	Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.
A House for Hermit Crab	Eric Carle	Grades K - 2	New Friends, new opportunities, change	Hermit Crab has outgrown his first shell, and, as hermit crabs do, he must look for a new house. Nervous and a little frightened, the crab plucks up his courage and finds a shell that's big enough for him. The only problem is that it's very bare. That's where his fellow undersea creatures come in: a sea anemone offers to decorate the outside, a starfish the inside; an industrious sea snail, a fortress-protecting sea urchin, and an illuminating lantern fish move in as well.
Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend	Melanie Watt	Grades K - 2	Perserverance, Courage	Scaredy Squirrel sets out to make the perfect friend. Once he's spotted a perfectly safe (toothless) candidate, Scaredy's ready. Armed with a name tag, mittens, a mirror, and a lemon, he's prepared to make the perfect first impression. But just when every detail is under control, Scaredy's action plan takes a surprising turn. Will he survive this ordeal? Will he find his kindred spirit? Will he make the best friend he's been planning for?

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Testing Miss Malarkey	Judy Finchler	Grades K - 2	Perseverance	After Miss Malarkey announces that the students will have to take THE TEST, parents, teachers, and school employees all start acting strangely.
Freckleface Strawberry	Julianne Moore	Grades K - 2	Pride and Self-Esteem	If you have freckles, you can try these things: 1) Make them go away. Unless scrubbing doesn't work. 2) Cover them up. Unless your mom yells at you for using a marker. 3) Disappear. Um, where'd you go? Oh, there you are. There's one other thing you can do: 4) LIVE WITH THEM! Because after all, the things that make you different also make you YOU. From acclaimed actress Julianne Moore and award-winning illustrator LeUyen Pham comes a delightful story of a little girl who's different ... just like everybody else.
Ish	Peter H. Reynolds	Grades K - 2	Pride and Self-Esteem	Drawing is what Ramon does. It's what makes him happy. But in one split second, all that changes. A single reckless remark by Ramon's older brother, Leon, turns Ramon's carefree sketches into joyless struggles. Luckily for Ramon, though, his little sister, Marisol, sees the world differently. She opens his eyes to something a lot more valuable than getting things just "right."

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Leo the Late Bloomer	Robert Kraus	Grades K - 2	Pride and Self-Esteem	Poor Leo, a young tiger, is having a really rough time; all of his friends can read, write, draw, eat neatly, and speak clearly; and Leo can't do any of those things very well. Worried and sad, Leo wonders if he'll ever catch up to his friends. His father is concerned as well, and asks Leo's mother if their son has a problem. With love and understanding, she replies that Leo is just a late bloomer, and alleviates the father's fears. Finally, Leo's mom and dad help and encourage him, and Leo eventually does learn to draw, write, read, and even eat — without making a big mess!
Dandelion	Don Freeman	Grades K - 2	Pride and Self-Esteem, Friendship	Dandelion gets invited to a "come as you are" tea-and-taffy party at Jennifer Giraffe's house! So, to impress his friends, Dandelion turns himself into a stylish, dapper, dandy lion. Smart, snazzy and sophisticated — what a sight for sore eyes he is! But he gets an unexpected surprise when he shows up at Jennifer Giraffe's door and his hostess doesn't recognize him! When the door is closed abruptly in his face, he wanders off and soon finds himself in a terrible rainstorm. Soaking wet, the scruffy lion is reduced back to his old loveable self, the Dandelion that his friends love so well. "Dandy" is back! Returning to the party, the humbled lion and his friends share loads of laughter about Dandelion's silly get-up!

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Chrysanthemum	Kevin Henkes	Grades K - 2	Pride, Self Esteem, Respect	Chrysanthemum loves her name — until she starts kindergarten, which is an unfamiliar world full of short names like Sue, Bill, Max, Sam, and Joe. But it's Victoria who really makes Chrysanthemum wilt, offering that she was named after her grandmother, which is much more important than being named after a flower. Though Chrysanthemum's parents try to soothe her wounded soul with "hugs, kisses, and Parcheesi," it's not easy to find solace (and regain lost self-esteem) with all the girls on the playground threatening to "pluck" and "smell" you. Then the children meet their music teacher, charismatic Mrs. Twinkle. Mrs. Delphinium Twinkle, that is. When Mrs. Twinkle announces that she wants to name her baby the prettiest name she has ever heard, and that that name is Chrysanthemum, all the kids wish they had flower names, too. For her part, Chrysanthemum blooms once again.
Little Rabbit's Loose Tooth	Lucy Bates	Grades K - 2	Problem-solving	What should Little Rabbit do with her loose tooth when it comes out in a dish of chocolate ice cream?
Angus and the Cat	Marjorie Flack	Grades K - 2	Respect	Angus the terrier has to share his home with a new cat who eats Angus's food and sits in his favorite places. How will they ever get along?
Arther's Eyes	Marc Brown	Grades K - 2	Respect	His friends tease Arthur when he gets glasses, but he soon learns to wear them with pride.
Do Unto Otters-A Book About Manners	Laurie Keller	Grades K - 2	Respect	Mr. Rabbit's new neighbors are Otters. OTTERS! But he doesn't know anything about Otters. Will they get along? Will they be friends? Just treat otters the same way you'd like them to treat you, advises wise Mr. Owl. And so begins Mr. Rabbit's reflection on good manners.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Selfish Crocodile	Faustin Charles	Grades K - 2	Respect, Caring	What do you do when a big angry crocodile tells you to stay away from his river? You stay well away! All the animals in the forest are frightened of the cranky crocodile and dare not go anywhere near him or the river, until one day the whole forest is woken up by the sound of loud groaning. The moans are coming from the crocodile, who was in a great deal of pain! While the animals watch, not knowing what to do, it is the tiny mouse that is able to find a clever solution to make everyone happy again.
I Just Forgot	Mercer Mayer	Grades K - 2	Responsibility	It's raining and Little Critter remembers his raincoat but forgets his boots. At home he takes a bath but forgets to use soap. Young readers will chuckle and empathize with Little Critter as he struggles to remember what he is supposed to do.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Strega Nona	Tomie dePaola	Grades K - 2	Responsibility	Strega Nona ("Grandma Witch" in Italian) is known throughout the town for her powers. She can cure a headache, make warts disappear, and mix a potion that will find a girl a husband, if she wants one. But not even the townspeople know about her magic pasta pot. Then Big Anthony, who doesn't pay attention, comes to work for her. Although Strega Nona tells him never to touch her magic pasta pot, he can't resist. He overhears the spell that makes it cook, and waits for his chance. That comes sooner than he expects. When Strega Nona goes to visit a friend on the other side of the mountain, proud but foolish Big Anthony makes pasta enough to feed the whole town. Unfortunately, he missed the secret to the spell that makes the pot stop cooking. Will Strega Nona come back in time to save the town from being buried under a pile of spaghetti?
Oh, The Places You'll Go	Dr. Seuss	Grades K - 2	Self Esteem	In this joyous ode to life, Dr. Seuss addresses graduates of all ages — from nursery school to medical school — and gives them the get-up-and-go to move mountains with the unrivaled exuberance and charm that have made Dr. Seuss books favorites for years.
Oliver Button is a Sissy	Tomie dePaola	Grades K - 2	Self Esteem	Taunted by his schoolmates because he doesn't like to play sports, Little Oliver prefers to sing and dance. He persists in his passions and one day gets to show what he can do.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Mixed Up Chameleon	Eric Carle	Grades K - 2	Self Esteem	Except for catching flies and changing colors occasionally, this chameleon doesn't find life very exciting. When a surprise visit to the zoo makes this wistful lizard realize it can change its shape and size as easily as its color, it ends up wanting to be like all the animals in the zoo at once — with hilarious results. Full-color illustrations.
Unstoppable Me!: 10 Ways to Soar Through Life	Dr. Wayne W. Dyer	Grades K - 2	Self Esteem, Attitude, Individuality	The 10 important lessons in this book include the value of taking risks, dealing with stress and anxiety, and learning to enjoy each moment. Each point includes an example showing how a child might apply the concept in his or her everyday life. Similar to Incredible You!, there are questions at the end of the book to help spark discussion and to further reinforce Wayne's message.
Knots on a Counting Rope	Bill Martin Jr.	Grades K - 2	Strength, Caring, Determination, Pride, Personal best	A blind Native American boy named Boy-Strength-of-Blue-Horses begs Grandfather to tell the stories of the night he was born and of a great race. In this poignant story, the counting rope is a metaphor for the passage of time and for a boy's emerging confidence facing his greatest challenge: blindness.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
A Chair For My Mother	Vera B Williams	Grades K - 2	teamwork	Acclaimed author/illustrator Vera Williams tells of a young girl, who along with her waitress mother, saves coins in a big jar in hopes that they can someday buy a big, new, comfortable chair for their apartment, the kind of chair her mother deserves after being on her feet all day in the Blue Tile Diner. Into the jar also goes the money Grandma saves whenever she gets a bargain at the market. There hasn't been a comfortable place to sit in the apartment since a fire in their previous apartment burned everything to "charcoal and ashes." Friends and neighbors brought furniture to their new apartment downstairs, but no one brought anything big or soft or comfortable. Finally the jar is full, the coins are rolled, and in the book's crowning moment mother, daughter, and Grandma search four different furniture stores, and after carefully trying several chairs, like Goldilocks, they find the chair they've been dreaming of at last.
Elmer	David McKee	Grades K - 2	Tolerance	Elmer the elephant is bright-colored patchwork all over. No wonder the other elephants laugh at him! If he were ordinary elephant color, the others might stop laughing. That would make Elmer feel better, wouldn't it? The surprising conclusion of David McKee's comical fable is a celebration of individuality and the power of laughter.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Whoever You Are	Mem Fox	Grades K - 2	Tolerance	Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. They may not speak the same language. Their lives may be quite different. But inside, they are all alike. A vivid and unusually illustrated book that travels the globe and brings children together in their shared experiences.
The Pirate of Kindergarten	George Ella Lyon	Grades K - 2	Tolerance, Self Esteem	Ginny's eyes play tricks on her, making her see everything double, but when she goes to vision screening at school and discovers that not everyone sees this way, she learns that her double vision can be cured.
A Big Fat Enormous Lie	Majorie Sharmat	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	An empty cookie jar and a small boy with a problem lead to one big fat enormous lie. In this easy reader by a popular illustrator, the boy's little lie comes alive in the form of a little monster that grows and grows until the boy finds the only way to make it go away — by telling the truth.
Frog and Toad Are Friends	Arnold Lobel	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	It's April, and Frog is looking forward to a whole year of happy times with his best friend, Toad. If only Toad would agree to wake up from his long winter nap! In the first of five short stories, clever Frog finds a way to rouse his sleepy friend. And as children will soon see, theirs is a marvelous friendship. When Frog doesn't feel well, Toad tries to tell him a story. When Toad loses a button, Frog helps him look for it. When Toad goes swimming in his funny bathing suit, Frog tries not to laugh, and when Toad is sad because he never gets any mail, Frog knows just what to do.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
George and Marsha Rise and Shine	James Marshall	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	In five brief episodes two hippos confirm their friendship: "The Fibber," "The Experiment," "The Picnic," "The Scary Movie!," and "The Secret Club."
Ira Sleeps Over	Bernard Waber	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	Ira is thrilled to spend the night at Reggie's, until his sister raises the question of whether he should take his teddy bear.
Ruthie and The Not So Teeny Tiny Lie	Laura Rankin	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	Ruthie loves little things — the smaller, the better. When she finds a teeny tiny toy on the school playground, she can hardly believe her luck. There's just one problem: It belongs to somebody else! Ruthie insists the toy is hers, but deep down, she knows better. How could one little toy turn into such a great big problem?
The Berenstain Bears and The Truth	Stan Berenstain	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	Mama knows no cubs are perfect all the time, but she thinks Brother and Sister can usually be trusted to tell the truth, until one lazy day when her favorite lamp is broken. The broken lamp turns into the biggest whopper Brother and Sister have ever told.
Too Many Tamales	Gary Soto	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness	While helping her parents make the tamales for Christmas dinner, Maria sees her mother set her precious diamond ring to the side. It's so beautiful! And Maria only means to try it on for a minute. Then, all of a sudden, the ring is gone. Does she spy it in the tamale dough? When Maria loses sight of it completely, she realizes what has happened.
The Little Engine That Could	Watty Piper	Grades K - 2	Trustworthiness, Attitude, Perseverance	When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain. This classic story about the Little Blue Engine who says "I think I can, I think I can" continues to be a popular favorite.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Tough Boris	Mem Fox	Grades K - 2	Understanding Self and Others	Boris von der Borch is a mean, greedy old pirate — tough as nails, through and through, like all pirates. Or is he? When a young boy sneaks into Boris' ship, he discovers that Boris and his mates aren't quite what he expected!
If Kids Ran the World	Diane Dillon and Leo Dillon	Grades K - 3	Caring	All roads lead to kindness in this powerful final collaboration between Leo and Diane Dillon. In a colorful tree house, a rainbow of children determine the most important needs in our complex world, and following spreads present boys and girls happily helping others. Kids bring abundant food to the hungry; medicine and cheer to the sick; safe housing, education, and religious tolerance to all; and our planet is treated with care. Forgiveness and generosity are seen as essential, because kids know how to share, and they understand the power of love.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Stellaluna	Janell Cannon	Grades K - 3	Caring	This award-winning picture book, a clever, original variation on the theme of the ugly duckling, follows the adventures of a lost baby fruit bat and her efforts to fit in. Accidentally dropped by her mother, helpless Stellaluna falls into a nest of bird fledglings, where she is graciously accepted as one of the family — as long as she acts like a bird and doesn't confuse her adoptive siblings. The little bat does her best, but she can't help wanting to fly at night or hang upside down to sleep. The only time poor Stellaluna feels as graceful as a bird is when she's flying. Then one day, separated from her bird family, Stellaluna is discovered sleeping with her head up (as she's been taught) by a very surprised bat. It calls the other bats to come see this unusual little creature, and a happily awakened Stellaluna is reunited with her mother. When her bird family comes to visit her bat family, the versatile fledgling discovers that being bat-like is just as hard for baby birds as being bird-like was for her. "How can we be so different and feel so much alike?" one asks. "And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?" asks another. "I agree," Stellaluna responds. "But we're friends. And that's a fact."
Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation (Time-Traveling Twins)	Diane Stanley	Grades K - 3	Caring	Wouldn't it be great to be part of that famous Thanksgiving feast at Plymouth Plantation back in 1621? Then join the Time-Traveling Twins as they sit down to an enormous FOUR-DAY feast, complete with puddings, pompions, pottages, and, of course, turkeys. Meet Squanto and the other Native Americans. Help with the harvest. Find out what it was like to be a Pilgrim.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Tomás and the Library Lady	Pat Mora	Grades K - 3	Caring	It's not easy moving time and again, but Tomás and his family are migrant workers who travel from state to state, helping farmers harvest their crops. When they arrive in Iowa for the summer, Tomás finds an escape from the scorching heat at the town library. And once inside, he also discovers a surprising world filled with dinosaurs, tigers, and a great new friend.
Is There Really a Human Race?	Jamie Lee Curtis	Grades K - 3	Caring and Citizenship	Is the human race an obstacle course? Is it a spirit? Does he get his own lane? Does he get his own coach?
The Princess Knight	Cornelia Funke	Grades K - 3	Courage, Fairness, Self Esteem	Violet is a young princess who wishes she could show the world that she is just as brave and strong as her brothers. But her strict father insists that she get married, and her brothers only mock her when she wants to be included in their fun. So Violet decides to use her intelligence and bravery to show everyone — once and for all — what she's made of. Disguising herself as a boy, Violet takes part in a knights' jousting tournament. When she wins the contest, she reveals her true identity — and wins the prize of freedom!
Exclamation Mark	Amy Krouse Rosenthal	Grades K - 3	Individuality	It's not easy being seen. Especially when you're NOT like everyone else. Especially when what sets you apart is YOU. Sometimes we squish ourselves to fit in. We shrink. Twist. Bend. Until — ! — a friend shows the way to endless possibilities.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Not Your Typical Dragon	Dan Bar-el	Grades K - 3	Individuality	When Crispin Blaze turns seven, he's expected to breathe fire like all the other dragons. But instead of fire, he breathes a host of unusual things. With wry humor and whimsical illustrations, this is an ideal story for any child who can't help being a little bit different.
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	Jon Scieszka	Grades K - 3	Trustworthiness, Creativity	The big bad wolf has spent ten years in pig prison for the destruction of the three little pigs, and he has quite a story to tell that just might prove his innocence!
The Empty Pot	Demi	Grades K - 3	Trustworthiness, Diversity	A long time ago in China there was a boy named Ping who loved flowers. Anything he planted burst into bloom. The Emperor loved flowers too. When it was time to choose an heir, he gave a flower seed to each child in the kingdom. "Whoever can show me their best in a year's time," he proclaimed, "shall succeed me to the throne!" Ping plants his seed and tends it every day. But month after month passes, and nothing grows. When spring comes, Ping must go to the Emperor with nothing but an empty pot.
Those Shoes	Maribeth Boelts	Grades K - 4	Character	All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes like the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that's the wrong size. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

Below is a list of recommended books ranging from Grades K-12 categorized by topic.

Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Spaghetti in A Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are	Maria Dismody	Grades K - 5	Character	Lucy is teased by a boy at school because she is different. She has the courage to be true to herself and to make the right choice when that same boy needs her help.
Purplicious	Elizabeth Kann and Victoria Kann	Grades PreK - 1	Bullying, Self Esteem	Everyone knows that Pinkalicious loves the color pink. But one day at school all the girls decide that pink stinks and black is in. When Pinkalicious does not agree with the crowd, they tease her. She develops a bad case of the blues and wonders if anyone out there shares her love for all things pink.
Have You Filled a Bucket Today?	Carol McCloud	Grades PreK - 1	Caring & Respect	Through sweet, simple prose and vivid illustrations, this book encourages positive behavior as children see how very easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation, and love on a daily basis.
A Kiss Goodbye	Audrey Penn	Grades PreK - 1	Character	The trees in Chester's part of the forest are being cut down now he and his family have to find a new home. Chester, who is not interested in having any kind of adventure, is understandably saddened and fearful of what the move might bring. He reluctantly soon sees that the new tree is not so bad, but more importantly, it has brought the unexpected surprise of a new playmate!
One Duck Stuck	Phyllis Root	Grades PreK - 1	Character	Down by the marsh, by the sleepy, slimy marsh, one duck gets stuck in the muck, down by the deep green marsh. Help! Help! Who can help! Rhyme, repetition, and a wide variety of mucky sounds lead children through one duck's dilemma to his final freedom.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Shelia Rae, The Brave	Kevin Henkes	Grades PreK - 1	Courage	<p>Big sister Sheila Rae is not afraid of anything — not thunder, not lightning, not even the big black dog at the end of the block. She growls at stray dogs, and bares her teeth at stray cats. She's not even afraid of the most frightening things she can imagine, and she has quite an imagination! But it's hard demonstrating courage without new and more terrifying challenges, and so brave Sheila Rae decides to go home from school a new way. When her little sister Louise doesn't want to come, Sheila Rae calls her a scaredy-cat and sets out alone. Then Sheila Rae gets lost. Without Louise along needing protection, she feels alone and, well . . . scared. Luckily, Louise has been following her secretly all along, and the surprising little sister appears in the nick of time to courageously guide her sibling home. Louise proves her bravery the whole way, growling at stray dogs and baring her teeth at stray cats just as Sheila Rae has shown her. The trip home is a triumph for both girls, who have discovered the value of sisterly support — and that it pays, sometimes, to be brave together.</p>

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Kissing Hand	Audry Penn	Grades PreK - 1	Courage, Love	Here is the story of a little raccoon who confronts the first day of school and needs reassurance. Mother Raccoon finds an unforgettable way of communicating the message that everyone most needs to hear. The perfect book for any child taking the plunge into school, endearing illustrations are as soothing as the simple story. School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called "the Kissing Hand" to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary.
The Way Back Home	Oliver Jeffers	Grades PreK - 1	Creativity, Friendship	Stranded on the Moon after his extraordinary airplane takes him into outer space, a boy meets a marooned young Martian with a broken spacecraft, and the two new friends work together to return to their respective homes.
Corduroy	Don Freeman	Grades PreK - 1	Determination and Perseverance, Friendship	Don Freeman's classic character, Corduroy, continues to stir the hearts and imagination of children and adults around the world. Published thirty years ago, this children's book, in which a bear leaves the safety of his department store shelf in order to do almost anything to be adopted by a little girl, is one of the most endearing and enduring in existence. Instilling the theme of hope and compassion, there's no doubt that this beloved picture book will continue to be a favorite for each new generation waiting to have their own "Corduroy" experience.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus	Mo Willems	Grades PreK - 1	Determination and Perseverance; Lying	The bus driver has to leave for a while, and he makes one request of readers: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus." It's the height of common sense, but the driver clearly knows this determined pigeon and readers do not — yet. "Hey, can I drive the bus?" asks the bird, at first all sweet reason, and then, having clearly been told no by readers, he begins his ever-escalating, increasingly silly bargaining. "I tell you what: I'll just steer," and "I never get to do anything," then "No fair! I bet your mom would let me." In a wonderfully expressive spread, the pigeon finally loses it, and, feathers flying and eyeballs popping, screams "LET ME DRIVE THE BUS!!!" in huge, scratchy, black-and-yellow capital letters. The driver returns, and the pigeon leaves in a funk — until he spots a huge tractor trailer, and dares to dream again.
The Snowman	Raymond Briggs	Grades PreK - 1	Friendship	A little boy rushes out into the wintry day to build a snowman, which comes alive in his dreams that night. Then the little boy invites him into his home and, in return, is taken on a flight high above the countryside. Adapted from the original edition.
Pinkalicious	Victoria and Elizabeth Kann	Grades PreK - 1	Individuality	Pink, pink, pink. More than anything, Pinkalicious loves pink, especially pink cupcakes. Her parents warn her not to eat too many of them, but when Pinkalicious does... she turns pink! What to do?

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Words are Not for Hurting	Elizabeth Verdick	Grades PreK - 1	Respect	Children are known for speaking their minds. We can't expect them to watch every word, but we can help them to understand that their words affect other people. We can gently guide them to choose words that are helpful instead of hurtful, and to say two very important words, "I'm sorry," when hurtful words come out before they can stop them.
It's Okay to Be Different	Todd Parr	Grades PreK - 1	Respect & Individuality	Featuring the author's trademark bold, bright colors and silly scenes, this book embraces differences in a unique way. Deceptively simple in appearance, It's Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers its important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in a child-friendly package.
Beautiful Oops	Barney Saltzberg	Grades PreK - 12	Creativity	A life lesson that all parents want their children to learn: It's OK to make a mistake. In fact, hooray for mistakes! A mistake is an adventure in creativity, a portal of discovery. A spill doesn't ruin a drawing — not when it becomes the shape of a goofy animal. And an accidental tear in your paper? Don't be upset about it when you can turn it into the roaring mouth of an alligator.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Pout Pout Fish	Deborah Diesen	Grades PreK - 2	Attitude, Friendship	Mr. Fish has a frown on his face — a permanent frown. As he drifts from one spot to the next, his droopy expression never changes. One by one, other sea creatures approach him, telling him he should be happier, but he always has the same reply: "I'm a pout-pout fish with a pout-pout face, so I spread dreary-wearies all over the place." Being glum, it seems, is his destiny. Then one day a new friend tries something unexpected: She kisses him! From that moment on, Mr. Fish realizes that he isn't a pout-pout fish after all. He's a kiss-kiss fish, and he spreads cheery-cheeries wherever he goes.
The Juice Box Bully	Maria Dismondy	Grades PreK - 2	Bullying, Caring	Have you ever seen a bully in action and done nothing about it? The kids at Pete's new school get involved, instead of being bystanders. When Pete begins to behave badly, his classmates teach him about "The Promise". Will Pete decide to shed his bullying habits and make "The Promise"?
How to Heal a Broken Wing	Bob Graham	Grades PreK - 2	Caring	In a city full of hurried people, only young Will notices the bird lying hurt on the ground. With the help of his sympathetic mother, he gently wraps the injured bird and takes it home. In classic Bob Graham style, the beauty is in the details: the careful ministrations with an eyedropper, the bedroom filled with animal memorabilia, the saving of the single feather as a good-luck charm for the bird's return to the sky. Wistful and uplifting, here is a tale of possibility, and of the souls who never doubt its power.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Have You Seen My Duckling?	Nancy Tafuriis	Grades PreK - 2	Character	None of the pond residents — bird, turtle, beaver, or fish — has seen Mother Duck's missing baby. But clever viewers of these charming color scenes can see that the duckling isn't really lost, just adventuring — and never very far away.
It's Not Fair	Amy Rosenthal	Grades PreK - 2	Fairness	Rosenthal and Lichtenheld pair charming drawings with simple yet undeniably true statements that every kid and grown-up can relate to, and reassure readers that everyone sometimes thinks it's not fair.
Spoon	Amy Krouse Rosenthal	Grades PreK - 2	Self Esteem	Spoon has always been a happy little utensil who loves his family. But lately he's been feeling down. He thinks his friends Knife, Fork, and Chopsticks have it so much better than him. He can't cut like Knife, he's not as useful as Fork, and no one thinks he's cool and exotic like Chopsticks. But Spoon's friends think he has it made; he gets to be silly and bang on pots, dive headfirst into bowls of ice cream, and relax in mugs of warm tea. Spoon's mom helps him see that he and his friends each have their own jobs to do, and that's what makes them special!
The Greedy Triangle	Marilyn Burns	Grades PreK - 2	Understanding Self and Others	Bored and dissatisfied with his life, a triangle visits a local shapeshifter to add another angle to his shape. Poof! He becomes a quadrilateral. But then he gets greedy and keeps adding angles until he's completely transformed. Kids will enjoy this boldly colorful introduction to shapes and basic math concepts.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Imogene's Antlers	David Small	Grades PreK - 3	Accepting differences, Flexibility, imagination/cre ativity	When Imogene wakes up one morning with enormous antlers growing out of her head, she's surprised — but not as much as her mother, who faints more than once at the sight of her. Neither the doctor nor the school principal can figure out what has happened or what to do, but the maid, the cook, Imogene's brother, and Imogene herself have the right attitude. Though getting dressed, walking through doors, and even coming downstairs can be a challenge, Imogene finds that her antlers are perfect for drying laundry, carrying donuts, and decorating with candles. After all, hiding them under a hat doesn't really help, as readers will see.
Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons	Amy Rosenthal	Grades PreK - 3	All Pillars	Everyone knows cookies taste good, but these cookies also have something good to say. Open this delectable book to any page and you will find out something about life. Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons is a new kind of dictionary, one that defines mysteries such as "fair" and "unfair" and what it really means to "cooperate." The book is by turns clever, honest, inspirational, and whimsical. Go ahead, take a bite!
Be Positive!: A Book about Optimism	Cheri J. Meiners	Grades PreK - 3	Attitude	This friendly, encouraging book on having a positive attitude introduces preschool and primary-age children to ways of thinking and acting that will help them feel good about themselves and their lives, stay on course when things don't go their way, and contribute to other people's happiness, too.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Don't Sit on My Lunch	Abby Klein	Grades PreK - 3	Bullying	Bullies are a problem in school, and Max Sellars is the worst one yet. In addition to hassling Freddy, Max also challenges him for the open spot on the peewee hockey team. Freddy's close friend Jessie is a star hockey player, and she secretly teaches him some rules and tricks. In a warm and funny ending, Max and Freddy make peace with one another, and — in a surprising twist — end up becoming teammates.
The Recess Queen	Alexis O'Neill	Grades PreK - 3	Bullying, Friendship	With her irrepressible spirit, the new girl dethrones the reigning recess bully by becoming her friend in this infectious playground romp.
Hey, Little Ant	Phillip M. Hoose	Grades PreK - 3	Caring	To squish or not to squish? Readers decide the ending of this deceptively playful picture book, in which a young boy and an ant debate the value of the smaller creature's life. The boy tells the ant that someone so small couldn't possibly have any feelings, and that he's a crook for stealing food at picnics. The ant replies that he has a family and responsibilities, and that he and the boy are really not so different. How would the boy feel if the situation were reversed? Issues of ethics and peer pressure are also raised in the discussion. Hey, Little Ant was originally written by a nine-year-old girl and her father as a song, and music is included. The rich watercolor illustrations offer unusual perspectives and add humor to the debate, which will have students eagerly taking sides. Certain to spark discussion, this lively picture book also works as a sing-along.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Three Questions: Based on a Story by Leo Tolstoy	Jon J Muth	Grades PreK - 3	Caring	What is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? Nikolai knows that he wants to be the best person he can be, but often he is unsure if he is doing the right thing. So he goes to ask Leo, the wise turtle. When he arrives, the turtle is struggling to dig in his garden, and Nikolai rushes to help him. As he finishes work, a violent storm rolls in. Nikolai runs for Leo's cottage, but on his way, he hears cries for help from an injured panda. Nikolai brings her in from the cold, and then rushes back outside to rescue her baby too.
Horace, Morris but Mostly Dolores	James Howe	Grades PreK - 3	Caring & Friendship	The three mice, Horace, Morris, and Dolores, are best friends — until the day the boys decide to join a "boys only" club. What will Dolores do without her "now-and-forever-I'm-yours" friends?
The Quiltmaker's Gift	Jeff Brumbeau	Grades PreK - 3	Caring, Attitude	In this enchantingly told original folktale, a wise quiltmaker makes the most beautiful quilts in the world but she will give them only to those who have nothing. When a rich, dissatisfied king insists that she give him one of her quilts, she gives him what seems an impossible task: to give away all he owns. One by one, the king gives away his many possessions, and finds that the more he gives away, the happier he is. Finally, when the king has nothing, the quiltmaker gives him the promised quilt. But he knows that the true reward for his generosity has been the smiles of those he has helped.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Stone Soup	Jon J. Muth	Grades PreK - 3	Caring, Cooperation	An award-winning artist adds a Zen twist to a favorite tale. As three monks travel along a mountain road, they encounter villagers ravaged by harsh times, making them cold to strangers. When the monks entice them to make soup from stones, the villagers discover how much they have to give.
David Gets in Trouble	David Shannon	Grades PreK - 3	Character	David doesn't mean to get in trouble. It's not his fault. Most of the time, it's just an accident! Or maybe he forgot something. Or some furniture got in the way. Whatever the situation, David has a really good explanation, and it will leave kids and parents laughing. Once again, David Shannon proves he knows every excuse in the book, especially when faced with the age-old problem of dealing with grown-ups. Soon, though, David realizes that making excuses makes him feel bad, and saying he's sorry makes him feel better. Once again, David Shannon entertains us with young David's mischievous antics and a lighthearted story that's sure to leave kids (and parents) laughing.
David Goes to School	David Shannon	Grades PreK - 3	Character	David's teacher has her hands full. From running in the halls to chewing gum in class, David's high-energy antics fill each school day with trouble — and are sure to bring a smile to even the best-behaved reader.

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Three Questions	Jon J. Muth	Grades PreK - 3	Character	What is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? Nikolai knows that he wants to be the best person he can be, but often he is unsure if he is doing the right thing. So he goes to ask Leo, the wise turtle. When he arrives, the turtle is struggling to dig in his garden, and Nikolai rushes to help him. As he finishes work, a violent storm rolls in. Nikolai runs for Leo's cottage, but on his way, he hears cries for help from an injured panda. Nikolai brings her in from the cold, and then rushes back outside to rescue her baby too.
Where the Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak	Grades PreK - 3	Character	Max is looking for a little fun, so he dresses up in a comical wolf suit. Unfortunately, his mother is tired of his antics, and sends him to bed without any supper. But unexpectedly a forest grows in his bedroom and Max is taken away to a land of Wild Things. Fortunately, the Wild Things do not eat Max; instead they make him their king. And lucky Max is allowed to continue his romp. Will Max return to his mother and finally eat his dinner?
Ruby the Copycat	Peggy Rathmann	Grades PreK - 3	Confidence	It's the first day of school, and Ruby is new. When her classmate Angela wears a red bow in her hair, Ruby comes back from lunch wearing a red bow, too. When Angela wears a flowered dress, suddenly Ruby's wearing one, too. Fortunately, Ruby's teacher knows a better way to help Ruby fit in, by showing how much fun it is to be herself.

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride: Based on a True Story	Pam Munoz Ryan	Grades PreK - 3	Courage	Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt were birds of a feather. Not only were they two of the most admired and respected women of all time, they were also good friends. Illuminated here for the first time in picture book form is the true story of a thrilling night when they made history together.
Courage	Bernard Waber	Grades PreK - 3	Courage	What is courage? Certainly it takes courage for a firefighter to rescue someone trapped in a burning building, but there are many other kinds of courage too. Everyday kinds that normal, ordinary people exhibit all the time, like "being the first to make up after an argument," or "going to bed without a nightlight." Bernard Waber explores the many varied kinds of courage and celebrates the moments, big and small, that bring out the hero in each of us.
This Way Ruby	Emmett	Grades PreK - 3	Courage	Ruby's big brothers and sisters are always racing off in search of adventure. But Ruby likes to take things slowly and look at all the grassy banks, the willow trees, and the dragonflies. This is just as well, for when the ducklings get lost in the storm, it's up to Ruby to find the way back home!
Mirette on the Highwire	Emily Arnold McCully	Grades PreK - 3	Courage, Friendship	In this Caldecott Medal-winning story, a young girl convinces a retired high-wire artist to teach her his trade — and in turn teaches him to overcome his own fear. "An exuberant and uplifting picture book." — New York Times
Ben's Trumpet	Rachel Isadora	Grades PreK - 3	Creativity	Ben loves to hear the Zig Zag Club musicians play, filling the air with the sounds and rhythms of jazz. And when he hears them, he plays along on a trumpet that nobody else can see — except one man, who opens the door to his dream".

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The Carrot Seed	Ruth Krauss	Grades PreK - 3	Determination and Perseverance	Everyone is certain it won't grow, but a little boy remains confident in his carrot seed's potential. Watch as he carefully plants, tends to, and eventually harvests a carrot whose size is in direct proportion to his unflappable faith in it.
The Man Who Walked Between the Towers	Mordicai Gerst	Grades PreK - 3	Determination and Perseverance	In 1974, French aerialist Phillippe Petit threw a tightrope between the two towers of the World Trade Center and spent an hour walking, dancing, and performing high-wire tricks a quarter mile in the sky.
Smoky Night	Eve Bunting	Grades PreK - 3	Diversity	Smoky Night is a story about cats — and people — who couldn't get along until a night of rioting brings them together.
My Friend Is Sad	Mo Willems	Grades PreK - 3	Friendship	In My Friend Is Sad, elephant Gerald is down in the dumps. Piggie is determined to cheer him up by dressing as a cowboy, a clown, and even a robot! But what does it take to make a sad elephant happy? The answer will make even pessimistic elephants smile.
The Velveteen Rabbit	Margery Williams	Grades PreK - 3	Friendship & Caring	The Velveteen Rabbit, a stuffed toy, waits in the nursery for a child to call its own. The other toys also wait for the day the boy will pick them for a playmate. As time goes by, Rabbit grows weary and worries that it will never be chosen. The Skin Horse, the oldest toy in the nursery, becomes Rabbit's friend and tells it how toys are transformed — become real — through the love of human beings. Will Rabbit be chosen — will it become real?

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
The Little Red Hen	Byron Barton	Grades PreK - 3	Leadership, Fairness, Responsibility, Friendship	In this easy-to-read folktale, Little Red Hen lives with a goose, a cat, and a dog. The goose gossips all day. The cat primps. The dog sleeps. So Little Red Hen is left to do all the work about the house. When she finds a few grains of wheat, she asks the others, "Who wants to plant these grains of wheat?" The goose, the cat, and the dog each answer, "Not I." The Little Red Hen plants and eventually harvests the wheat. Whenever she asks for help, the goose, the cat, and the dog answer, "Not I." But when the Little Red Hen has the wheat ground into flour and then wakes early one morning to make the flour into bread, the others change their tune. As soon as they smell the baking bread, each animal offers to help eat it. Only then do they finally learn, that since the Little Red Hen was the only one who did all the work, then she is the only one who is allowed to enjoy its rewards. And without any hesitation, she eats the bread herself.
I Love You Stinky Face	Lisa McCourt	Grades PreK - 3	Love	As a mother lovingly tucks her child into bed, the imaginative child has...just a few questions. For instance, "What if I were an alligator with big, sharp teeth that could bite your head off?" This unstoppably devoted mother will have readers laughing out loud as she replies to one question after another. Never was a parent's unconditional love so creatively tested...or so beautifully reassured!

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Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
Samuel Eaton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy	Kate Walters	Grades PreK - 3	Personal Best, Perseverance, Pride	Samuel Eaton is a young boy living in an early American settlement in the year 1627, and today is the day he will help with his first rye harvest! If he can prove to his father he's up to the task, he will be able to help with all of the harvest. But harvesting rye is even more difficult than he expected. Was he foolish to think he could do a man's work?
Makeup Mess	Robert Munsch	Grades PreK - 3	Pride and Self-Esteem	Julie has saved up lots of money — \$100! Despite her mother's concerns, Julie spends it all on cosmetics, including plenty of lipstick, eyeshadow, and perfume. Once it's on her face, she fancies herself as pretty as a movie star, but her parents' reactions are less than complimentary. The same goes for the mailman, who falls right over!
Apple Pie Fourth of July	Janet S. Wong	Grades PreK - 3	Respect	Shocked that her parents are cooking Chinese food to sell in the family store on this all-American holiday, a feisty Chinese-American girl tries to tell her mother and father how things really are. But as the parade passes by and fireworks light the sky, she learns a lesson of her own. This award-winning author-illustrator team returns with a lighthearted look at the very American experience of mixed cultures.
The Rain Came Down	David Shannon	Grades PreK - 3	Respect	Once upon a sunny day, the sky clouded over and the rain came down. The chicken squawked, the baby cried, the traffic snarled, the groceries fell, the people bickered, and still, the rain came down.
Pigsty	Mark Teague	Grades PreK - 3	Responsibility	Wendell Fultz's mom thinks her son's bedroom is "turning into a pigsty!" Little does she know to what extent: a real pig, and his friends, have moved in, forcing Wendell to clean up his act, with some help from his hooved friends.

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The Paperboy	Dav Pilkey	Grades PreK - 3	Responsibility	In the still before dawn, while the rest of the world is sleeping, a boy and his dog leave the comfort of their warm bed to deliver newspapers. As the boy pedals his bike along a route he knows by heart, his dog runs by his side, both enjoying a world that, before sunrise, belongs only to them.
One Grain of Rice	Demi	Grades PreK - 3	Sharing	Long ago in India, there lived a raja who believed that he was wise and fair. But every year he kept nearly all the people's rice for himself. Then a village girl named Rani devises a clever plan, using the surprising power of doubling to win more than one billion grains of rice from the raja.
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson	Pam Munoz Ryan	Grades PreK - 3	Tolerance	Most people know of Marian Anderson from her historic concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, which drew an integrated crowd of 75,000 people in pre-Civil Rights America. While this momentous event showcased the uniqueness of her voice, the strength of her character, and the struggles of the times in which she lived, it is only part of her story.
The Principal's New Clothes	Stephanie Calmenson	Grades PreK - 3	Trustworthiness	In this version of the Hans Christian Andersen tale, the vain principal of P.S. 88 is persuaded by two tailors that they will make him an amazing, one-of-a-kind suit that will be visible only to intelligent people who are good at their jobs.
Leap Back Home to Me	Lauren Thompson	Grades PreK - K	Confronting Fears, Self Esteem	When this little frog leaps out into the world, he knows his mother will always be there for him. At first, he just leaps over the ladybug and the bee, but he gradually starts taking bigger and bigger strides until he's finally leapfrogging over hilltops and clouds!

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The Biggest Snowman Ever	Steven Kroll	Grades PreK - K	Cooperation	When the mayor of Mouseville announces the town snowman contest, Clayton and Desmond claim that they will each make the biggest snowman ever. But building a huge snowman alone is hard! They work and work, but their snowmen just aren't big enough. Soon they have an idea. As the day of the contest approaches, Clayton and Desmond join forces to build the biggest snowman ever.
It's Not Fair!	Anita Harper	Grades PreK - K	Fairness	Putting up with a new baby brother is not fair! Everyone fusses over him. Mom and Dad do everything for him, while older sister has to manage by herself! But could it be that sometimes being older isn't so bad? A big sister begins to see the ups and downs of having a new sibling in this delightfully energetic picture book.
Snuggle Puppy: A Little Love Song	Sandra Boyton	Grades PreK - K	Feelings	A great big hug in book form, Snuggle Puppy is a year-round valentine from parent to child. It's packed, of course, with pure Boynton: her inimitable language, her inimitable illustrations, her inimitable sense of fun.
Giraffes Can't Dance	Giles Andreae	Grades PreK - K	Respect	Gerald the giraffe longs to dance, but his legs are too skinny and his neck is too long. His knees buckle whenever he tries to twirl. At the Jungle Dance, the warthogs waltz, the chimps cha-cha, and the lions tango. "Giraffes can't dance," they all jeer when it's Gerald's turn to prance. But there is one little creature who believes in Gerald. "Everything makes music," the cricket explains, "if you really want it to." So Gerald starts swaying to his own sweet tune

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How To Be a Friend	Laurie Kransy Brown/Marc Brown	K-2	Friendship	Find out: * who can be your friend * how to show someone you would like to be friends * how to handle bosses and bullies * the best ways to be a friend and ways not to be a friend * ways to settle an argument with a friend.
You Can Count on Me	Regina Burch	K-5	Responsibility	Dare To Have Courage - Learning about standing strong, Following The Rule - Learning about respect. You Can Count On Me - Learning about responsibility, & Telling The Truth - Learning about honesty integrity and trustworthiness.
Inch and Miles The Journey to Success	Coach John Wooden	K-5	14 character traits--defines success	Inch and Miles toot a magic silver whistle to help them find clues to the pyramid of success.
Stand Up for Yourself and Your Friends	Patti Kelly/Angela Martini	K-5	Bullying	This book teaches girls how to spot bullying and how to stand up and speak out against it.
Bebop Express	H.L. Panahi	K-5	cooperation, working together	This rockin', rhythmic railroad adventure celebrates the uniqueness of America and the beboppin', doo-woppin' sound of jazz, from jammin' New York City all the way to New Orleans.
Dewey Doo-It Helps Owl Fly Again	Brahm Wenger & Alan Green (musical storybook inspired by Christopher Reeves)	K-5	Helping others, compassion, empathy, caring, teamwork, courage, determination	When Dewey Doo-it's kite becomes lodged in a tree, the protagonist and his siblings ask renowned flyer Owlie for assistance, but they find the owl in a wheelchair after an accident. He shows the Doo-its how he can paint with his beak and use a special computer despite his disability.
Murphy Meets the Treadmill	Harriet Ziefert	K-5	Personal Best, Perseverance, Importance of Exercise	All those treats add up, though, and even Murphy has to admit that maybe he's not such a fine example of his breed after all. But what's a dog to do?

CHARACTER COUNTS! Book List

Below is a list of recommended books ranging from Grades K-12 categorized by topic.

Book Title	Author	Grade	Topic	Story
If You Had to Choose, What Would You Do?	Sandra McLeod Humphrey	K-5	Various topics- friendship, responsibility, etc.	Is it wrong to sneak into the movies if your big brother says it's okay? If "everybody" is cheating on the math test, shouldn't you, too? What if telling the truth gets your best friend in trouble?
Guess How Much I Love You?	Sam McBratney	PreK	Love	Little Nutbrown Hare shows his daddy how much he loves him: as wide as he can reach and as far as he can hop.
The Shape of My Heart	Mark Sperring	PreK	Love	The Shape of My Heart invites readers to look beyond the obvious, and explore the world in a whole new way.
Llama Llama I Love You	Anna Dewdney	PreK-2	Love	In Llama Llama I Love You, little Llama shows his friends and family how much he loves them with heart-shaped cards and lots of hugs.
Never Too Little To Love	Jeanne Willis	PreK-2	Love	Tiny Too-Little loves someone who's very, very tall, and Tiny wants a kiss. What if he stands on his tiptoes on top of a thimble?
The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes	Mark Pett		Character	Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. In fact, Beatrice holds the record of perfection in her hometown, where she is known as The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable—she makes her first mistake. And in a very public way!