

Recommended Books for Character Education

Grades K–8



Based on Five Marks of Character

Trustworthiness • Respect • Accountability • Citizenship • Kindness

A program of CHARACTERonTrack

All books available from Perfection Learning and other sources.

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Kindergarten



Kindness

***Abuela*, Arthur Dorros [RL 2 • ILK–3]**

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

***A Baby Sister for Frances*, Russell Hoban [RL 2.9 • ILK–3]**

When a baby sister arrives, Frances the badger finds a charming way to prove her own importance.

***Clifford to the Rescue*, Norman Bridwell [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Whether he's saving a kitten, putting out a fire, or holding up a bridge so a parade can safely pass, Clifford is always a hero.

***Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia*, Carmen Lomas Garza [RL4• IL3–7]**

The author describes her experiences growing up in Texas. Bilingual English/Spanish.

***Gathering the Sun An Alphabet in Spanish and English*, Alma Flor Ada [RL2 • ILK–5]**

Using the letters of the Spanish alphabet, the author has written 28 poems that celebrate honor and pride, family and friends, history and heritage.

***Grandfather's Journey*, Allen Say [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

Through compelling reminiscences of his grandfather's life in America and Japan, the author gives a poignant account of his family's unique cross-cultural experience.

***Julius, the Baby of the World*, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Lilly knows her baby brother is nothing but dreadful, until she claims him for her own.

***A Kiss for Little Bear*, Else Holmelund Minarik [RL2 • ILK–3]**

In return for a picture he has drawn, Grandmother sends Little Bear a kiss.

***Love You Forever*, Robert Munsch [RL3 • ILK–6]**

A gentle affirmation of the love a parent feels for their child—forever.

***Loving*, Ann Morris [RL2 • ILK–4]**

Provides examples of the different ways in which love can be expressed, with an emphasis on the relationship between parent and child.

***Marven of the Great North Woods*, Kathryn Lasky [RL3 • ILK–3]**

When his Jewish parents send him to a Minnesota logging camp to escape the influenza epidemic of 1918, 10-year-old Marven finds a special friend.

***The Monster in the Third Dresser Drawer*, Janice Lee Smith [RL3 • IL1–4]**

In a series of episodes, a young boy must cope with a move to a new town, a new baby sister, a new tooth, a baby-sitter, and his Great-Aunt Emily.

***More, More, More," Said the Baby*, Vera B. Williams [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Three babies are caught in the air and given loving attention by a father, grandmother, and mother.

***On Mother's Lap*, Ann Herbert Scott [RL1 • ILK–2]**

A little Inuit boy discovers there's room for himself and his baby sister on the lap of their mother.

***The Pain and the Great One*, Judy Blume [RL2.5 • IL1–4]**

An 8-year-old girl, "The Great One," and her 6-year-old brother, "The Pain," state their cases about each other and who is best-loved by their parents.

***Peter's Chair*, Ezra Jack Keats [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Peter learns to accept the new baby sister in the family.

Kindergarten



Kindness *continued*

***The Runaway Bunny*, Margaret Wise Brown [RL1 • IIK–2]**

A comforting story of a bunny’s imaginary game of hide-and-seek and the loving mother who finds him every time.

***Russell and Elisa*, Johanna Hurwitz [RL4.2 • IL2–5]**

Seven-year-old Russell and his 3-year-old sister Elisa have adventures with friends and family in their apartment building.

***So Much*, Trish Cooke [RL2 • IIK–3]**

This cumulative story captures the joy of being the baby in a large extended family—a baby who knows he’s absolutely, utterly adored.

***The Statue of Liberty*, Lucille Recht Penner [RL1 • IIK–2]**

Describes the construction and symbolism of the skyscraper-size statue that stands in New York Harbor. Step into Reading Step 1.

***Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe*, Vera B. Williams [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Mother, Aunt Rosie, and two children make a 3-day camping trip by canoe.

***Tight Times*, Barbara Shook Hazen [RL2.2 • IIK–3]**

“Tight Times” means lima beans instead of roast beef and a trip to the sprinkler instead of the lake. But family love makes things go all right, even when times are tough.

***Tom*, Tomie dePaola [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Portrays the strong bond between a young boy and his grandfather.

***Tonight Is Carnival*, Arthur Dorros [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Rich with the culture of the Andes Mountains, this is a story about a young boy’s eager preparations for Carnival.



Citizenship

***Amelia’s Road*, Linda Jacobs Altman [RL3 • ILK–4]**

Tired of moving around so much, Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, dreams of a stable home.

***Bein’ with You This Way*, W. Nikola-Lisa [RL3 • ILK–3]**

As they play in the park, a group of children discover that despite their physical differences—straight hair, curly hair; brown eyes, blue eyes; light skin, dark skin—they are all really the same.

***Hats, Hats, Hats*, Ann Morris [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A hat can say a lot about what people do, about where they live, and about who they are. Explores the disparate cultures of our planet through the hats we wear.

***Jamaica Tag-Along*, Juanita Havill [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Jamaica doesn’t want a younger child to play with her, until she remembers how she felt when her older brother excluded her from his games.

***Nick Joins In*, Joe Lasker [IL1–3]**

When Nick, confined to a wheelchair, enters a regular classroom for the first time, he and his new classmates must resolve their initial apprehensions about mainstreaming.

***When This World Was New*, D.H. Figueredo [RL2.8 • ILK–3]**

An uplifting story about a young Caribbean boy overcoming his fears and embracing his new home in America.

Kindergarten



Kindness

***Amazing Fish*, Mary Ling [RL4 • IL1–5]**

Photographs and text describe the amazing members of the fish family including fish with no eyes, fish that climb trees, fish that breathe with both lungs and gills, and fish that change color. Eyewitness Juniors.

***Chester's Way*, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things, until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways can be just as good.

***The Hatseller and the Monkeys*, Baba Wagué Diakité [RL2.3 • ILK–2]**

African version of a folktale popular in many cultures.

***How to Hide an Octopus and Other Sea Creatures*, Ruth Heller [RL2 • ILK–2]**

With illustrations and informative, rhyming text, young readers search for sea creatures and learn fascinating secrets of camouflage in the ocean world.

***It's Mine!*, Leo Lionni [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Three loveable frogs learn a valuable lesson about selfishness.

***Janet's Thingamajigs*, Beverly Cleary [RL2.2 • ILK–3]**

Janet creates envy in her twin brother Jimmy by hoarding special treasures in her crib until the arrival of real beds reminds them that they are growing up.

***The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor*, Joanna Cole [RL3 • ILK–4]**

With the help of the ever-changing bus, Ms. Frizzle turns a simple beach trip into an underwater adventure as the gang explores a coral reef, the dark ocean floor, and more.

***The Ocean Alphabet Book*, Jerry Pallotta [RL2 • ILK–3]**

An alphabet book of creatures from the ocean with facts and information about unusual ocean creatures.

***Peter's Chair*, Ezra Jack Keats [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Peter learns to accept the new baby sister in the family.

***The Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister [RL2 • ILK–3]**

The most beautiful fish in the ocean learns a lesson about friendship.

***Through Grandpa's Eyes*, Patricia MacLachlan [RL2.6 • ILK–3]**

On John's visit to Grandpa's house, his blind grandfather shares with him the special way he sees and moves in the world.

Respect



***The Bathwater Gang*, Jerry Spinelli [RL3 • IL2–4]**

When Bertie refuses to allow boys into her newly formed gang, a neighborhood war involving water balloons, molasses, clothespins, and shaving cream cupcakes rages, until Granny “wogs” in to clean up everyone's act. Springboard Book.

***Bein' with You This Way*, W. Nikola-Lisa [RL3 • ILK–3]**

As they play in the park, a group of children discover that despite their physical differences—straight hair, curly hair; brown eyes, blue eyes; light skin, dark skin—they are all really the same.

***Best Friends*, Miriam Cohen [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Jim finds a best friend and he and Paul cope with an emergency in their kindergarten.

***Best Friends for Frances*, Russell Hoban [RL2 • ILK–3]**

The irrepressible Frances teaches Albert, the badger next door, about friendship.

***Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea*, Joyce Carol Thomas [ILK–4]**

A collection of poems exploring the theme of African-American identity.

***Chester's Way*, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things, until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways can be just as good.

Kindergarten



Respect *continued*

***Dandelion*, Don Freeman [RL3.6 • ILK–3]**

Dandelion overdresses for a come-as-you-are party and is turned away because the hostess does not recognize him.

***Don't Fidget a Feather*, Erica Silverman [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

Their contest to decide who is the champion almost has disastrous consequences for Gander and Duck.

***Frog and Toad Are Friends*, Arnold Lobel [RL2 • IL1–3]**

Story about Frog and Toad and their adventures in the woods.

***George and Martha*, James Marshall [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A funny book about a pair of hippo friends whose characters and behavior parody human happenings. Gives meaning of true friendship.

***George and Martha Back in Town*, James Marshall [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Though their friendship is often tested, George and Martha survive with a sense of humor.

***I Like Me!*, Nancy Carlson [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A simple story about a little pig who feels good about herself and her accomplishments.

***Ira Sleeps Over*, Bernard Waber [RL2 • ILK–3]**

When Ira is invited to sleep overnight at Reggie's house, everything seemed perfect—until his sister asked if he was taking his "teddy bear."

***Let's Be Enemies*, Janice M. Udry [RL2.9 • ILK–2]**

An argument between two best friends is humorously and satisfyingly resolved.

***A Letter to Amy*, Ezra Jack Keats [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Peter encounters problems when he invites a girl to his all-boy birthday party.

***Matthew and Tilly*, Rebecca C. Jones [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Set in the diverse neighborhood of a big city, this poignant and universal story of friendship tells about 2 best pals who share everything—even making up after a quarrel.

***Meet Danitra Brown*, Nikki Grimes [RL3 • ILK–3]**

In 13 spirited rhymes, Zuri narrates her and Danitra's story, an unforgettable portrait of the many ways true friends manage to bring out the best in each other.

***The Mixed-Up Chameleon*, Eric Carle [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A bored chameleon wishes he could be more like all the other animals he sees, but soon decides he would rather just be himself.

***The Night Worker*, Kate Banks [RL2.3 • ILK–2]**

Alex wants to be a night worker like his father, who goes to work at a construction site after Alex goes to bed.

***P.J. Funnybunny Camps Out*, Marilyn Sadler [RL1 • ILK–2]**

Although P.J. and his friends refuse to let Donna Duck and Honey Bunny go camping with them because "camping is not for girls," the girls follow and get proof that camping is hard work even for boys. Step into Reading Step 1.

***Quick as a Cricket*, Audrey Wood [RL3 • ILK–3]**

A joyful celebration of a child's growing self-awareness.

***Rosie and Michael*, Judith Viorst [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Rosey and Michael's friendship is big enough for jokes, for sharing possessions, for aiding each other in emergencies, and even for being mad once in a while.

***William's Doll*, Charlotte Zolotow [RL2 • ILK–3]**

More than anything, William wants a doll. Then one day, someone really understands his wish and makes it easy for others to understand too.

Kindergarten



Accountability

***Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*, Gerald McDermott [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Anansi, the spider hero of African folklore, is saved by the combined talents of his 6 sons.

***Best Friends*, Miriam Cohen [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Jim finds a best friend and he and Paul cope with an emergency in their kindergarten.

***The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*, Chris Van Allsburg [RL3 • IL1-4]**

Alan accidentally allows Miss Hester's dog Fritz to enter a magician's garden and is horrified when he thinks Fritz has been turned into a duck.

***In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, Javaka Steptoe [ILK-6]**

In this intergenerational collection of poetry by new and established African American writers, fatherhood is celebrated with honor, humor, and grace.

***Jamaica's Find*, Juanita Havill [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A little girl finds a stuffed dog in the park and decides to take it home.

***Little Bear is a Big Brother*, Jutta Langreuter [RL1.8 • ILK-2]**

Little Bear Collection.

***Swimmy*, Leo Lionni [RL2 • K-3]**

A little fish makes the most of his smallness in a big way.

***The Wednesday Surprise*, Eve Bunting [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday, but the best surprise of all comes when Grandma stands up and reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.



Trustworthiness

***Fancy Feet*, Patricia Reilly Giff [RL1.8 • ILK-3]**

When Stacy borrows a beautiful pair of shoes she discovers that telling the truth is hard when her friends think she stole the shoes. New Kids at the Polk Street School #2.

***Goggles*, Ezra Jack Keats [RL2 • ILK-2]**

Peter and his friend Archie find motorcycle goggles and the big boys try to take them away.

***It's Mine!*, Leo Lionni [RL2 • ILK-2]**

Three loveable frogs learn a valuable lesson about selfishness.

***Jamaica and Brianna*, Juanita Havill [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Jamaica has to wear her brother's hand-me-down boots and is envious of Brianna's pink boots with fuzzy cuffs.

***Jamaica Tag-Along*, Juanita Havill [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Jamaica doesn't want a younger child to play with her, until she remembers how she felt when her older brother excluded her from his games.

***Jamaica's Find*, Juanita Havill [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A little girl finds a stuffed dog in the park and decides to take it home.

***Jamela's Dress*, Niki Daly [RL2.5 • ILK-3]**

Jamela can't resist parading through town with her mother's prized new dress fabric.

***The Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister [RL2 • ILK-3]**

The most beautiful fish in the ocean learns a lesson about friendship.

***Too Many Tamales*, Gary Soto [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when, hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

Grade 1



Kindness

***Annie and the Old One*, Miska Miles [RL2.6 • IL1–3]**

Faced with the impending death of her much-loved grandmother, Annie gradually comes to recognize the wonder of all living things and the justice of every creature's eventual return to the earth.

***Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave*, Marianna Mayer [RL3 • ILK–3]**

In this classic Russian folktale, Vasilisa is ordered by her stepmother to visit the fearsome Baba Yaga, an errand from which she has little hope of returning alive. She takes only her favorite doll, a token of her true mother's love.

***Blaze and the Gray Spotted Pony*, C.W. Anderson [RL3 • ILK–4]**

Billy's young neighbor Tommy loves to ride Blaze, and wants a pony of his own. One day, with a little help from Billy, Tommy finds the gray spotted pony of his dreams.

***Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?*, Martin Waddell [RL2 • ILK–1]**

When bedtime comes, Little Bear is afraid of the dark until Big Bear brings him light and love.

***A Chair for My Mother*, Vera B. Williams [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

***The Crying Christmas Tree*, Allan Crow [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A grandmother helps her grandchildren learn the true meaning of Christmas—sharing gifts of love.

***The Gift of the Pointsettia/El regalo de la flor de nochebuena*, Pat Mora & Charles Ramirez Berg [ILK–3]**

A bilingual picture book that teaches children about the unique gift of love and the true spirit of giving within the framework of age-old customs.

***The High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake*, Nancy Willard [RL4.4 • IL1–5]**

A girl wants to give her mother the birthday present she longs for, but Great-Grandmother's recipe has been kept secret for decades.

***The Hundred Penny Box*, Sharon Bell Mathis [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Michael's love for his great-great-aunt, who lives with them, leads him to intercede with his mother, who wants to toss out all her old things.

***I Need a Snake*, Lynne Jonell [RL1.4 • ILK–3]**

A young boy really wants a snake of his own, and after his mother reads a book about snakes and takes him to a museum and a pet store to see some, he finds his own pet "snake" around the house.

***Iris and Walter*, Elissa Haden Guest [RL2.5 • IL1–4]**

When Iris moves to the country, she misses the city where she formerly lived; but with the help of a new friend named Walter, she learns to adjust to her new home.

***My Brother, Ant*, Betsy Byars [RL1.7 • IL1–4]**

In four separate stories, Ant's older brother gets rid of the monster under Ant's bed, forgives Ant for drawing on his homework, tries to read a story, and helps Ant write a letter to Santa. Puffin Easy-to-Read Level 3.

***Now One Foot, Now the Other*, Tomie dePaola [RL2.6 • ILK–3]**

When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Bobby teaches him to walk, just as his grandfather had once taught him.

***Sachiko Means Happiness*, Kimiko Sakai [RL2.5 • IL1–4]**

Although at first 5-year-old Sachiko is upset when her grandmother no longer recognizes her, she grows to understand that they can still be happy together.

***Thunder Cake*, Patricia Polacco [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A grandmother finds a way to dispel her grandchild's fear of thunderstorms.

Grade 1



Citizenship

***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Judith Viorst [RL3.5 • IL2–4]**

From waking up with gum in his hair to lima beans for supper, Alexander finds there are days when nothing goes right.

***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, Doreen Cronin [RL2.3 • ILK–3]**

Farmer Brown's cows find an old typewriter in the barn and begin a peaceable strike for better working conditions that spreads through the barnyard. Depicted in line and watercolor cartoons.

***It Could Always Be Worse*, Margot Zemach [RL2.3 • ILK–3]**

A wise Rabbi advises a large family about living harmoniously in a small hut.

***Magic Windows/Ventanas Mágicas*, Carmen Lomas Garza [RL3 • IL1–5]**

A fascinating journey that explores the author's Mexican heritage and her life in Texas through the Mexican folk art of ~papel picado~ (cut paper art). Winner of the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, 2000.

***Mama Bear*, Chyng Feng Sun [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Mei-Mei learns that the very best Christmas present of all has been there all along.

***Martha Speaks*, Susan Meddaugh [RL2 • ILK–3]**

When Helen Finney feeds alphabet soup to her dog Martha, Martha begins to speak. But having a talking dog is not as fun as it seems.

***On Mother's Lap*, Ann Herbert Scott [RL1 • ILK–2]**

A little Inuit boy discovers there's room for himself and his baby sister on the lap of their mother.

***Uptown*, Bryan Collier [RL2.8 • ILK–4]**

A young boy proudly takes the reader on a tour of uptown Harlem, one of the world's most famous neighborhoods. Depicted in watercolor and collage illustrations. Coretta Scott King Illustrator award.



Kindness

***Arthur's Honey Bear*, Lillian Hoban [RL2 • ILK–3]**

When Arthur has a tag sale for all his toys, he finds it hard to give up his beloved Honey Bear.

***Bear's Bicycle*, Emilie Warren McLeod [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

Various adventures of a little boy and a bear's excursion. It all adds up to a delightful lesson on bicycle safety.

***The Bear's Toothache*, David McPhail [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

One little boy and one big bear manage to extract the bear's tooth. A warm, funny fantasy sure to delight young readers.

***Corduroy*, Don Freeman [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A toy bear wants to belong to someone and eventually does.

***The Emperor and the Kite*, Jane Yolen [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

The Emperor's tiniest daughter Djeow is forgotten by her family, and spends her days alone, flying a kite made from paper and sticks. When her father is taken prisoner, a little courage and help from the kite helps Djeow save him.

***A Frog Prince*, Alix Berenzy [RL3 • ILK–3]**

A noble Frog falls in love with a human princess and his heart is broken when she rejects him. He sets off on a long and arduous journey that leaves him full of despair until he finds his own (and unexpected) true love.

***Here Comes the Strikeout!*, Leonard Kessler [RL1 • ILK–3]**

Hitting the ball is hard work, but after lots of practice and advice from his friend Willy, Bobby learns how.

***Hooway for Wodney Wat*, Helen Lester [RL3.1 • ILK–4]**

Rodney can't pronounce his r's and is teased by his classmates because of his speech impediment. But when a bully joins the class, Rodney surprises himself and his classmates by saving the class from the bully.

Grade 1



Kindness *continues*

***Ira Says Goodbye*, Bernard Waber [RL2.4 • ILK-3]**

In the sequel to ~Ira Sleeps Over~ Ira and Reggie discover what it feels like when a best friend moves away.

***Ira Sleeps Over*, Bernard Waber [RL2 • ILK-3]**

When Ira is invited to sleep overnight at Reggie's house, everything seemed perfect—until his sister asked if he was taking his “teddy bear.”

***Leo the Late Bloomer*, Robert Kraus [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Leo has everyone worried. He can't read, or write, or draw, or even talk. But he's just a late bloomer—and when he's ready, Leo really blooms.

***Letting Swift River Go*, Jane Yolen [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A young girl watches as her home and town are moved to create a reservoir in Massachusetts.

***Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen [RL2 • ILK-1]**

This poetic story provides a unique insight into the special companionship of a young child and her father, and their nighttime search for a spectacular and unusual bird.

***The Velveteen Rabbit*, Margery Williams [RL4.1 • IL2-5]**

By the time the velveteen rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called real.

***Who Will Be My Friends?*, Syd Hoff [RL1.8 • ILK-3]**

It takes a little while, but Freddy does make many friends in his new neighborhood.

***William's Doll*, Charlotte Zolotow [RL2 • ILK-3]**

More than anything, William wants a doll. Then one day, someone really understands his wish and makes it easy for others to understand too.



Respect

***The Adventures of Connie and Diego/Las aventuras de Connie y Diego*, Maria Garcia [RL3 • ILK-4]**

Tired of being laughed at because they are different, a pair of multicolored twins decide to run away and find a new place to live. Bilingual English/Spanish.

***Best Friends for Frances*, Russell Hoban [RL2 • ILK-3]**

The irrepressible Frances teaches Albert, the badger next door, about friendship.

***A Birthday Basket for Tía*, Pat Mora [RL2.4 • ILK-3]**

When her great-aunt, her tía, turns 90, Cecilia gathers together a basket full of memories.

***Chester's Way*, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things, until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways can be just as good.

***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, Doreen Cronin [RL2.3 • ILK-3]**

Farmer Brown's cows find an old typewriter in the barn and begin a peaceable strike for better working conditions that spreads through the barnyard. Depicted in line and watercolor cartoons.

***The First Strawberries*, Joseph Bruchac [RL2.9 • ILK-3]**

A retelling of a Cherokee legend which explains how strawberries came to be.

***Frog and Toad Are Friends*, Arnold Lobel [RL2 • IL1-3]**

Story about Frog and Toad and their adventures in the woods.

***George and Martha*, James Marshall [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A funny book about a pair of hippo friends whose characters and behavior parody human happenings. Gives meaning of true friendship.

Grade 1



Respect *continued*

Hairs/Pelitos, Sandra Cisneros [RL2.2 ILK–3]

A story in English and Spanish from ~The House on Mango Street~ in which a child describes how each person in the family has hair that looks and acts different, Papa's like a broom, Kiki's like fur, and Mama's with the smell of warm bread.

Hats, Hats, Hats, Ann Morris [RL2 • ILK–3]

A hat can say a lot about what people do, about where they live, and about who they are. Explores the disparate cultures of our planet through the hats we wear.

Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark, Johanna Hurwitz [RL2 • IL1–3]

The amazing true story of the indomitable will of Helen Keller and the devoted teacher who helped her triumph over incredible adversity. Step-into-Reading Step 3.

Joshua's Masai Mask, Dakari Hru [RL3 • IL1–4]

Fearing he will be ridiculed for playing the kalimba in the talent show, Joshua uses a magical Masai mask to transform himself into different people he thinks are more interesting, before realizing that his own identity is valuable.

Matthew and Tilly, Rebecca C. Jones [RL2 • ILK–3]

Set in the diverse neighborhood of a big city, this poignant and universal story of friendship tells about 2 best pals who share everything—even making up after a quarrel.

Native American Stories, Joseph Bruchac [RL5 • ILK–12]

A collection of Native American tales and myths focusing on the relationship between man and nature.

No Howling in the House, Erica Farber & J.R. Sansevere [RL1.8 • IL1–3]

Axel can't howl and Thistle can't fly, but they soon realize that there are things they can do. Step into Reading Step 2.

Now One Foot, Now the Other, Tomie dePaola [RL2.6 • ILK–3]

When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Bobby teaches him to walk, just as his grandfather had once taught him.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully, James Howe [RL2.8 • IL1–4]

A bully calls Pinky a sissy because he likes the color pink, but a wise neighbor helps him deal with the situation and stay true to himself. Ready-to-Read Level 3.

The Shortest Kid in the World, Corinne Demas Bliss [RL2 • IL1–3]

Emily the Shrimp is shorter than anybody, even her own little brother. Then a tiny girl with an upbeat attitude comes to town, and Emily learns that if you're clever, ~short~comings can become towering assets. Step into Reading Step 2.

Soccer Sam, Jean Marzollo [RL3 • ILK–3]

Sam's cousin from Mexico comes for an extended visit and teaches Sam and all the second graders to play soccer. Step into Reading

Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons, Joseph Bruchac & Jonathan London [RL3 • ILK–6]

In many Native American cultures it is believed that the 13 scales on Turtle's shell stand for the 13 cycles of the moon, each with its own name and a story that relates to the changing seasons.

Through Grandpa's Eyes, Patricia MacLachlan [RL2.6 • ILK–3]

On John's visit to Grandpa's house, his blind grandfather shares with him the special way he sees and moves in the world.

The Wednesday Surprise, Eve Bunting [RL2 • ILK–3]

Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday, but the best surprise of all comes when Grandma stands up and reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.

Yellow Bird and Me, Joyce Hansen [RL4 • IL3–7]

In this sequel to ~The Gift Giver,~ Doris reluctantly starts helping Yellow Bird, the class clown, with his reading problem and, to her surprise, she finds that in caring for and helping Bird she develops a new friendship.

Grade 1



Accountability

***Abuela*, Arthur Dorros [RL2 • ILK–3]**

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

***Arroz con leche*, selected and illustrated by Lulu Delacre [RL1 • ILK–3]**

A delightful celebration of the Latin American heritage, including 12 enchanting songs and rhymes in both English and Spanish.

***The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers*, Stan & Jan Berenstain [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Berenstain Bears First Time Book.

***Chato's Kitchen*, Gary Soto [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Chato, the coolest cat in East L.A., has more than he can handle when the mice bring a surprise guest with them. First Recipient of the Pura Belpre Award for Illustration.

***Dance Away*, George Shannon [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Rabbit loves to dance and dances so much that his friends hide when they see him coming. He's no dancing fool, however, for when the hungry Fox decides to eat his friends, Rabbit has a plan to dance them right out of the trap.

***The Dark*, Robert Munsch [RL2.2 • ILK–3]**

A small dark falls out of the cookie jar and lands on the table. It eats Jule Ann's shadow and gets a little bigger; it eats her mother's shadow and gets even bigger. Jule Ann devises a way to stop the dark.

***Doctor De Soto*, William Steig [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Doctor De Soto, a mouse dentist extraordinaire, has a policy to treat all kinds of animals except those who eat mice!

***Elizabeti's Doll*, Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen [RL3.8 • ILK–4]**

A young Tazanian girl finds a special doll, and realizes how much she loves the doll when she almost loses her.

***The Emperor and the Kite*, Jane Yolen [RL2.5 • ILK–3]**

The Emperor's tiniest daughter Djeow is forgotten by her family, and spends her days alone, flying a kite made from paper and sticks. When her father is taken prisoner, a little courage and help from the kite helps Djeow save him.

***Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia*, Carmen Lomas Garza [RL4 • IL3–7]**

The author describes her experiences growing up in Texas. Bilingual English/Spanish.

***The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat*, Nurit Karlin [RL1.2 • ILK–1]**

When Wilma the witch leaves her pet rat and her fat cat home alone, it's a recipe for trouble. I Can Read, Level 1.

***The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*, Chris Van Allsburg [RL3 • IL1–4]**

Alan accidentally allows Miss Hester's dog Fritz to enter a magician's garden and is horrified when he thinks Fritz has been turned into a duck.

***Grandfather Tang's Story: A Tale Told with Tangrams*, Ann Tompert [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Grandfather Tang tells a story about shape-changing fox fairies who try to best each other until a hunter brings danger to both of them.

***The Great Pumpkin Switch*, Megan McDonald [RL2 • ILK–3]**

An old man tells his grandchildren how he and a friend accidentally smashed the pumpkin his sister was growing and had to find a replacement.

***The Island of the Skog*, Steven Kellogg [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Adventurous mice find a new home—but who is their mysterious neighbor?

***Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China*, Ed Young [RL2 • ILK–3]**

An ancient Chinese tale.

Grade 1



Accountability *continued*

***My Big Lie, Bill Cosby* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Little Bill learns that honesty is the best policy when a tiny lie escalates into big trouble. Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers.

***Possum Magic, Mem Fox* [RL2.8 • ILK-3]**

Grandma Poss uses her magic to make Hush invisible so he will be safe from snakes and other dangerous animals. When Hush wants to be visible again, the two set off across Australia to find the magic that will make him visible again.

***Swimmy, Leo Lionni* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A little fish makes the most of his smallness in a big way.

***Too Many Tamales, Gary Soto* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when, hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

***Uncle Nacho's Hat/El sombrero del tío Nacho, adapted by Harriet Rohmer* [RL3 • ILK-4]**

A Nicaraguan tale about making changes and getting rid of bad habits. Bilingual: Spanish and English.



Trustworthiness

***Clifford to the Rescue, Norman Bridwell* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Whether he's saving a kitten, putting out a fire, or holding up a bridge so a parade can safely pass, Clifford is always a hero.

***Gullible's Troubles, Margaret Shannon* [RL2.2 • ILK-3]**

A humorous story of a trusting young guinea pig and his not-so-nice relatives.

***Herman the Helper, Robert Kraus* [RL1 • ILK-2]**

Herman the helpful octopus is always willing to assist anyone who needs his help—old or young.

***The Hit-Away Kid, Matt Christopher* [RL2 • IL2-4]**

Left-fielder Barry enjoys his reputation as a slugger, but is his desire to win stronger than his dedication to fair play?

***Prince Cinders, Babette Cole* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Prince Cinders is always being teased by his brothers. Left to do all the housework on the night of the ball, he dreams of escape. A well-meaning fairy comes to his aid and gets him off to the ball, though not quite in human form.

***Too Many Tamales, Gary Soto* [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when, hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

Grade 2



Kindness

***Abuela's Weave*, Omar S. Castañeda [RL2 • ILK-4]**

A young Guatemalan girl and her grandmother grow closer as they weave some special creations and then make a trip to the market in hopes of selling their wares.

***Annie and the Old One*, Miska Miles [RL2.6 • IL1-3]**

Faced with the impending death of her much-loved grandmother, Annie gradually comes to recognize the wonder of all living things and the justice of every creature's eventual return to the earth.

***A Birthday Basket for Tía*, Pat Mora [RL2.4 • ILK-3]**

When her great-aunt, her tía, turns 90, Cecilia gathers together a basket full of memories.

***Blackberries in the Dark*, Mavis Jukes [RL3.6 • IL2-5]**

Nine-year-old Austin discovers a new friend in his grandmother the summer after his grandfather dies.

***The Family Under the Bridge*, Natalie Savage Carlson [RL4.6 • IL2-5]**

A family must move to a hiding place under a bridge when they can no longer pay their rent. There they meet a grumpy old hobo and introduce to him the joys of being part of a family.

***Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: A Collection of Family Poems*, Mary Ann Hoberman [ILK-3]**

A collection of 26 poems that celebrate emotions in the family.

***The Hundred Penny Box*, Sharon Bell Mathis [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Michael's love for his great-great-aunt, who lives with them, leads him to intercede with his mother, who wants to toss out all her old things.

***Mick Harte Was Here*, Barbara Park [RL5 • IL3-7]**

After her brother Mick is killed, Phoebe Harte's world is turned upside down.

***Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, Virginia Lee Burton [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Mike Mulligan remains faithful to his steam shovel against the threat of the new gas and diesel-engine contraptions, and digs his way to a surprising and happy ending.

***Mrs. Katz and Tush*, Patricia Polacco [RL3 • ILK-3]**

A long-lasting friendship develops between Larnel, a young African American, and Mrs. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, when Larnel presents Mrs. Katz with a scrawny kitten without a tail.

***My Rows and Piles of Coins*, Tololwa M. Mollel [RL3 • ILK-3]**

The market is full of wonderful things, but Saruni is saving his precious coins for a red and blue bicycle.

***Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails*, Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak [RL3 • IL3-6]**

Explores the Inuit belief that the Northern Lights are the souls of the dead, playing soccer in the sky.

***Now One Foot, Now the Other*, Tomie dePaola [RL2.6 • ILK-3]**

When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Bobby teaches him to walk, just as his grandfather had once taught him.

***Old Henry*, Joan W. Blos [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Henry's neighbors are scandalized that he ignores them and lets his property get run down. When they drive him away, they find themselves missing him.

***Pablo's Tree*, Pat Mora [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Every year on Pablo's birthday his grandfather surprises him by decorating his tree and telling him the beginning of Pablo's tree.

***Raising Sweetness*, Diane Stanley [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Sweetness and the other orphans adopted by the kindhearted sheriff are happy, but ever so often they wish their sweet pa would get married so they could have a ma.

***The Relatives Came*, Cynthia Rylant [RL2 • ILK-2]**

The relatives come to visit from Virginia, and everyone has a wonderful time.

Grade 2



Kindness *continued*

Sachiko Means Happiness, Kimiko Sakai [RL2.5 • IL1–4]

Although at first 5-year-old Sachiko is upset when her grandmother no longer recognizes her, she grows to understand that they can still be happy together.

Sam and the Lucky Money, Karen Chinn [RL3.3 • ILK–4]

During Chinese New Year, a young boy encounters a homeless person and discovers that no gift is too small when it comes from the heart.

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney, Judith Viorst [RL2 • IL1–4]

A tender story of a little boy's grief when his cat dies and how it helps to remember the good things about him.

Three Cheers for Catherine the Great, Cari Best [RL2.8 • ILK–3]

Sarah teaches her Russian Grandmother to read and write English.

Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies, Ann Warren Turner [RL2.9 • ILK–3]

Scared and not knowing what awaits him, a young boy travels from his far-off land to his new home clutching pictures of his new father and mother, his new white house with green shutters, and his bed with its own teddy bear quilt.

The Wall, Eve Bunting [RL4 • ILK–4]

A young boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather, who was killed in the conflict.

We Adopted You, Benjamin Koo, Linda Walvoord Girard [RL2 • ILK–2]

Nine-year-old Benjamin relates the story of his birth in Korea and his adoption by American parents.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Mem Fox [RL2.5 • ILK–3]

Wilfrid, who lives next door to a nursing home in which several of his good friends reside, sets out to find Miss Nancy's memory, and does!

Citizenship



Angel Child, Dragon Child, Michele Maria Surat [RL2 • IL1–4]

A heartfelt, gentle story about an immigrant child from Vietnam and her adjustment to a new school in the United States.

Biscuit Finds a Friend, Alyssa Satin Capucilli [RL1 • ILK–1]

A puppy helps a little duck find its way to the pond. My First I Can Read.

Halmoni and the Picnic, Sook Nyul Choi [RL3 • ILK–3]

When Yunmi's class plans a picnic in Central Park, her Korean grandmother, Halmoni, agrees to chaperone. But Yunmi worries that the other children will make fun of Halmoni's traditional Korean dress and unfamiliar food.

Hooray for the Dandelion Warriors!, Bill Cosby [RL2 • ILK–3]

When Little Bill and his friends join the baseball team, they learn how to have fun, how to win, how to lose, how to cooperate, and how to compromise. Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers.

How My Parents Learned to Eat, Ina R. Friedman [RL3 • ILK–3]

An American sailor and a Japanese schoolgirl secretly learn about each other's eating customs.

The Hundred Dresses, Eleanor Estes [RL3 • ILK–3]

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

The Long Way to a New Land, Joan Sandin [RL3.3 • ILK–3]

This story of a Swedish family on their way to America in 1868 describes the hunger, the rough crossing, and the confused joy upon arrival that were integral parts of immigrants' experiences.

Molly's Pilgrim, Barbara Cohen [RL2.1 • ILK–3]

Told to make a doll like a Pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly's Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving Russia to seek religious freedom—much to Molly's embarrassment.

Watch the Stars Come Out, Riki Levinson [RL3.3 • ILK–3]

A little girl hears how, long ago, another little red-haired girl—her great-grandmother—sailed across the sea with her older brother to join their immigrant parents in a strange new land called America.

Grade 2



Kindness

***Amazing Grace*, Mary Hoffman [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.

***Baseball Saved Us*, Ken Mochizuki [RL2.5 • ILK-4]**

A Japanese boy discovers hope and self-respect at an internment camp during World War II.

***Fly Away Home*, Eve Bunting [RL3 • ILK-3]**

With his father, a homeless boy, who lives in an airport by moving from terminal to terminal so as not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom.

***King of the Playground*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Whenever Kevin goes to the playground, he runs into Sammy, who threatens to do terrible things to him. With the help of his dad, Sammy is able to bring about a final confrontation that leads to the tentative beginnings of a friendship.

***Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*, John Steptoe [RL2 • ILK-3]**

This African tale evokes the Cinderella story in its portrayal of two sisters, spiteful Manyara, and considerate Nyasha, and the young king searching for a bride.

***The Talking Eggs: A Folktale from the American South*, Robert D. San Souci [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A Southern folktale in which kind Blanche, following the instructions of an old witch, gains riches, while her greedy sister makes fun of the old woman and is duly rewarded.



Respect

***Amazing Bats*, Frank Greenaway [RL4 • ILK-5]**

Text and photographs introduce amazing members of the bat world, including the Indian fruit bat and the common vampire bat. Eyewitness Juniors.

***Angel Child, Dragon Child*, Michele Maria Surat [RL2 • IL1-4]**

A heartfelt, gentle story about an immigrant child from Vietnam and her adjustment to a new school in the United States.

***Bein' with You This Way*, W. Nikola-Lisa [RL3 • ILK-3]**

As they play in the park, a group of children discover that despite their physical differences—straight hair, curly hair; brown eyes, blue eyes; light skin, dark skin—they are all really the same.

***Bully Trouble*, Joanna Cole [RL2 • IL1-3]**

Arlo and Robby, finding themselves the victims of a neighborhood bully, work out a red-hot scheme for discouraging him. Step into Reading.

***Chester's Way*, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things, until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways can be just as good.

***Dealing with Insults*, Marianne Johnston [RL3 • IL1-4]**

Taunts and childish cruelty can sting a child's emerging sense of self. This book discusses why people insult others and how to respond positively. PowerKids Press.

***Grasshopper on the Road*, Arnold Lobel [RL2.4 • ILK-3]**

Grasshopper sets out on a journey and along the way meets some very foolish sticks-in-the-mud who wonder why he isn't more like them.

***In the Time of the Drums*, Kim L. Siegelson [RL3 • IL1-4]**

A young slave is taught by his grandmother to play the drums and respect the strength of their music.

***King of the Playground*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Whenever Kevin goes to the playground, he runs into Sammy, who threatens to do terrible things to him. With the help of his dad, Sammy is able to bring about a final confrontation that leads to the tentative beginnings of a friendship.

Grade 2



Respect *continued*

***Let's Be Enemies*, Janice M. Udry [RL2.9 • ILK-2]**

An argument between two best friends is humorously and satisfyingly resolved.

***The Meanest Thing to Say*, Bill Cosby [RL2 • IL1-4]**

All the kids are playing a new game. You have to be mean to win it. Can Little Bill be a winner...and be nice, too? Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers.

***Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, Tomie dePaola [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A little boy must come to terms with the teasing and ostracism he experiences because he'd rather read, paint, and dance than participate in sports.

***Pinky and Rex and the Bully*, James Howe [RL2.8 • IL1-4]**

A bully calls Pinky a sissy because he likes the color pink, but a wise neighbor helps him deal with the situation and stay true to himself. Ready-to-Read Level 3.

***Stellaluna*, Janell Cannon [RL1 • ILK-3]**

Knocked from her mother's safe embrace by an attacking owl, an adorable baby fruit bat lands headfirst in a bird's nest. Stellaluna's world is turned upside down when she is adopted by the occupants of the nest and adapts to their peculiar bird habits.

***The Treasure Hunt*, Bill Cosby [RL2 • IL1-4]**

Little Bill searches his house for his best treasure. What he finds is a great surprise as he learns to value his own talents and treasure the people he loves. Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers.

***The Ugly Duckling*, adapted by Jerry Pinkney [RL3 • ILK-4]**

A retelling of a popular classic follows the adventures of an unhappy duckling who is teased and rejected by everyone because of his ugliness.

***Verdi*, Janell Cannon [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Despite his efforts, Verdi loses his bright yellow skin and sporty stripes, and to his delight, he discovers that being green doesn't mean he has to stop being himself.

***Yoko*, Rosemary Wells [RL1.3 • ILK-2]**

When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of what she eats, until one of the them tries it for himself.



Accountability

***Abuela's Weave*, Omar S. Castañeda [RL2 • ILK-4]**

A young Guatemalan girl and her grandmother grow closer as they weave some special creations and then make a trip to the market in hopes of selling their wares.

***Alice Nizzy Nazy: The Witch of Santa Fe*, Tony Johnston [RL3 • ILK-3]**

Manuela has lost her sheep, and their tracks lead right to Alice Nizzy Nazy's fence. Will Alice have to face the beady-eyed old woman who people say likes to eat children?

***Amazing Grace*, Mary Hoffman [RL2 • ILK-3]**

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.

***Ancient Egypt*, Robert Nicholson & Claire Watts [RL3 • IL3-6]**

Journey into Civilization.

***Baseball Ballerina*, Kathryn Cristaldi [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A baseball-loving girl worries that the ballet class her mother forces her to take will ruin her reputation with the other members of the baseball team. Step into Reading Step 2.

***Bein' with You This Way*, W. Nikola-Lisa [RL3 • ILK-3]**

As they play in the park, a group of children discover that despite their physical differences—straight hair, curly hair; brown eyes, blue eyes; light skin, dark skin—they are all really the same.

***The Bracelet*, Yoshiko Uchida [RL2 • ILK-3]**

During World War II, Emi and her family are sent to an internment camp for Japanese Americans. Although she loses the bracelet that a friend had given her, she still remembers the feeling of friendship.

Grade 2



Accountability *continued*

Coconut Kind of Day Lynn Joseph [RL2 • ILK-3]

Poems that ring with Caribbean rhythm follow a young girl throughout her day in Trinidad.

Cornrows, Camille Yarbrough [RL3 • ILK-3]

When Mama and Great-Aunt Grammaw weave the striking cornrow patterns of Africa into the children's hair, their gentle voices also weave a tale full of pride and heritage.

The Day of Ahmed's Secret, Florence Parry Heide & Judith Heide Gilliland [RL2 • ILK-3]

As young Ahmed finishes delivering bottles of propane gas, he treasures a special secret he can't wait to share with his family. Ahmed has learned to write his name.

Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley?, Rebecca Caudill [RL2.7 • ILK-3]

When Charley Cornett starts school in the Appalachian Mountains, he is told that the highest honor a student can have is to carry the flag—a reward to the helpful child.

The Egyptian Cinderella, Shirley Climo [RL3.3 • ILK-3]

A masterful retelling of an ancient Egyptian version of the Cinderella tale mixes both fact and legend.

The Fossil Girl: Mary Anning's Dinosaur Discovery, Catherine Brighton [RL2.8 • ILK-3]

In 1810 11-year-old Mary Anning and her brother Joe discover a large bony head sticking out of the cliff-face. Mary risks life and limb to make one of the great scientific discoveries of the century.

The Great Pumpkin Switch, Megan McDonald [RL2 • ILK-3]

An old man tells his grandchildren how he and a friend accidentally smashed the pumpkin his sister was growing and had to find a replacement.

Here Comes the Strikeout!, Leonard Kessler [RL1 • ILK-3]

Hitting the ball is hard work, but after lots of practice and advice from his friend Willy, Bobby learns how.

I Like Me!, Nancy Carlson [RL2 • ILK-3]

A simple story about a little pig who feels good about herself and her accomplishments.

Matthew's Dream, Leo Lionni [RL2 • ILK-3]

In this gentle introduction to art appreciation, Matthew's poor parents hope that perhaps he'll become a doctor, but a trip to the museum inspires the young mouse to pursue his dream of becoming an artist.

The Mystery of the Hairy Tomatoes, George Edward Stanley [RL2.5 • IL2-4]

Tomatoes are disappearing from Mrs. Rushton's garden, and she blames Noelle's dog, Rover. Noelle and Todd have to find the real culprit before Rover ends up in doggy jail. Third Grade Detectives #3/Ready-for-Chapters.

On the Court with...Hakeem Olajuwon, Matt Christopher [RL4 • IL3-7]

Delves into the life of the all-star basketball center, exploring the paths he has traveled, the hardships he has overcome, and the highs and lows of his career.

Pedrito's Day, Luis Gray [RL2.4 • ILK-3]

There are many ways to show that you're growing up. But, as Pedrito discovers, being honest is one of the best.

Ragtime Tumpie, Alan Schroeder [RL2 • ILK-3]

Tumpie, a young black girl who will later become famous as the dancer Josephine Baker, longs to find the opportunity to dance amid the poverty and vivacious street life of St. Louis in the early 1900s.

Strega Nona, Tomie dePaola [RL4 • ILK-3]

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

Wanted...Mud Blossom, Betsy Byars [RL4.8 • IL3-7]

The Blossom family has an especially eventful weekend during which Junior Blossom loses the school hamster and Pap's dog Mud is put on trial for the hamster's murder.

The Wednesday Surprise, Eve Bunting [RL2 • ILK-3]

Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday, but the best surprise of all comes when Grandma stands up and reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.

Grade 2



Trustworthiness

***Amigo*, Byrd Baylor [RL2 • ILK–4]**

The lovely, winning story of the friendship between a boy and a prairie dog.

***Annie and the Wild Animals*, Jan Brett [RL2 • ILK–3]**

When Annie's cat disappears, she attempts friendship with a variety of unsuitable woodland animals.

***Best Friends for Frances*, Russell Hoban [RL2 • ILK–3]**

The irrepressible Frances teaches Albert, the badger next door, about friendship.

***Bunny Cakes*, Rosemary Wells [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Ruby sends Max to the store to get the ingredients for the tasty cake she is planning to bake for her grandmother, but Max wants to get something for the earthworm cake he is trying to make, so he must convince the grocer that his item is something originally on Ruby's list.

***Cactus Hotel*, Brenda Z. Guiberson [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Brings to life the youngest child's fantasies about the desert world and a giant saguaro cactus.

***The Desert Alphabet Book*, Jerry Pallotta [RL2 • ILK–3]**

The parched, mysterious deserts of the world are the landscapes for this alphabetic array of plants, animals, and phenomena.

***The Desert Is Theirs*, Byrd Baylor [RL3 • IL1–4]**

A lyrical description of the relationship between the desert and the many creatures, including man, who live there.

***Desert Voices*, Byrd Baylor [RL4 • IL1–5]**

Desert inhabitants describe the beauty of their home.

***Honey, I Love and Other Poems*, Eloise Greenfield [RL4 • IL2–6]**

A young girl tells of the simple joys of everyday life in 16 poems that touch the important aspects of a child's life.

***How to Survive Third Grade*, Laurie Lawlor [RL3.4 • IL2–5]**

Through his friendship with Jomo Mugwans, the new boy from Kenya, Ernest discovers that being a friend is the best way of all to get a friend.

***I'm in Charge of Celebrations*, Byrd Baylor [RL3 • IL3–6]**

A dweller in the desert celebrates a triple rainbow, a chance encounter with a coyote, and other wonders of the wilderness.

***Jamaica and the Substitute Teacher*, Juanita Havill [RL2.6 • ILK–3]**

Jamaica copies from a friend during a spelling test because she wants a perfect paper, but her substitute teacher Mrs. Duval helps her understand that she does not have to be perfect to be special.

***Matthew and Tilly*, Rebecca C. Jones [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Set in the diverse neighborhood of a big city, this poignant and universal story of friendship tells about 2 best pals who share everything—even making up after a quarrel.

***The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*, selected by Jack Prelutsky [ILK–3]**

More than 550 poems by American, English, and anonymous authors.

***Zelda and Ivy*, Laura Kvasnosky [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Zelda and Ivy are sisters with a flair for the dramatic. Whether they're performing a circus act, fashioning their tails in the latest style, or working wonders with "fairy dust," their exploits are described with wit and charm in a trio of stories exploring the intimate dynamic between an older and younger sister.

Grade 3



Kindness

***Donavan's Word Jar*, Monalisa DeGross [RL3 • IL2–5]**

When the jar Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he finds a special way to give his words away and get something wonderful in return.

***The Gardener*, Sarah Stewart [RL3 • ILK–12]**

Lydia Grace Finch is an engaging, determined little girl who brings smiles to people's faces and hopes to make even her cantankerous Uncle Jim smile.

***Going Home*, Eve Bunting [RL2.8 • ILK–3]**

After a trip to Mexico for Christmas, Carlos realizes that home can be anywhere, because it is in the hearts of the people who love you.

***In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, Javaka Steptoe [ILK–6]**

In this intergenerational collection of poetry by new and established African American writers, fatherhood is celebrated with honor, humor, and grace.

***Not My Dog*, Colby Rodowsky [RL3.4 • IL2–5]**

Ellie wanted a puppy, but got Preston, a full grown dog that her Great-aunt Margaret could no longer keep. Resentful at first, Ellie finally accepted Preston as her own.

***The Paint Brush Kid*, Clyde Robert Bulla [RL3.1 • IL2–4]**

Nine-year-old Gregory paints pictures representing the life of the Mexican American old man known as Uncle Pancho and attempts to save him from losing his house. Stepping Stone Book.

***Thank You, Mr. Falker*, Patricia Polacco [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Overjoyed at the thought of starting school and learning to read, Trisha is dismayed when all the letters and numbers are jumbled up. Only Mr. Falker recognizes her problem and takes the time to lead her to the magic of reading.



Citizenship

***Aani and the Tree Huggers*, Jeannine Atkins [RL3.5 • IL1–4]**

Based on true events in India in the 1970s, young Aani and the other women in her village defend their forest from developers by wrapping their arms around the trees, making it impossible to cut them down.

***Angels in the Dust*, Margot Theis Raven [RL2.8 • ILK–3]**

A young girl growing up in the heart of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s witnesses the people of her community becoming true friends, joining together like angels to help life go on. Based on a true story.

***Araminta's Paint Box*, Karen Ackerman [RL3 • IL1–3]**

When her family moves to California in 1847, Araminta and her paint box become separated, but through a series of new owners, the paint box finds its way across the country and back to Araminta.

***Aurora Means Dawn*, Scott Russell Sanders [RL3 • ILK–3]**

After traveling from Connecticut to Ohio in 1800 to start a new life in the settlement of Aurora, the Sheldons find that they are the first family to arrive there and realize that they will be starting a new community by themselves.

***Beautiful Warrior: The Legend of the Nun's Kung Fu*, Emily Arnold McCully [RL3 • ILK–3]**

The story of 2 unlikely kung fu masters and how their skill in martial arts saves them both.

***The Bus Ride*, William Miller [RL3.1 • ILK–3]**

An African American girl discovers how one child can make a difference when she refuses to sit in the back of a bus.

***Get Set! Swim!*, Jeannine Atkins [RL3.3 • IL1–4]**

A young Puerto Rican girl learns about the value of teamwork and family pride at her first big swim meet.

***Grace's Letter to Lincoln*, Peter & Connie Roop [RL3.7 • IL2–4]**

On the eve of the 1860 presidential election, as war clouds gather and the South threatens to secede, 11-year-old Grace decides to help Abraham Lincoln get elected by writing and advising him to grow a beard. (Based on a true story.) Hyperion Chapters.

***Swamp Angel*, Anne Isaacs [RL4 • ILK–4]**

Along with other amazing feats, Angelica Longrider, also known as Swamp Angel, wrestles a huge bear, known as Thundering Tarnation, to save the winter supplies of the settlers in Tennessee.

Grade 3



Kindness

***The Five Chinese Brothers*, Claire Huchet Bishop [RL4 • ILK–3]**

Classic story of the Five Chinese Brothers who use their extraordinary abilities to save the life of the First Chinese Brother, unfairly condemned to death for the accidental drowning of a selfish and naughty boy.

***Halmoni and the Picnic*, Sook Nyul Choi [RL3 • ILK–3]**

When Yunmi’s class plans a picnic in Central Park, her Korean grandmother, Halmoni, agrees to chaperone. But Yunmi worries that the other children will make fun of Halmoni’s traditional Korean dress and unfamiliar food.

***The Hunterman and the Crocodile: A West African Folktale*, Baba Wague Diakite [RL3 • ILK–3]**

A tale about the importance of living in harmony with nature.

***One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale*, Demi [RL4.1 • IL1–4]**

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl.

***Rosie and Michael*, Judith Viorst [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Rosey and Michael’s friendship is big enough for jokes, for sharing possessions, for aiding each other in emergencies, and even for being mad once in a while.

***Talking Walls*, Margy Burns Knight [RL5 • IL4–12]**

Notable walls from six continents. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O’Brien. Text and notes explain walls and their context. Appended world maps. Great vehicle for discussing multicultural issues and barriers.



Respect

***Angel Child, Dragon Child*, Michele Maria Surat [RL2 • IL1–4]**

A heartfelt, gentle story about an immigrant child from Vietnam and her adjustment to a new school in the United States.

***Blubber*, Judy Blume [RL4.3 • IL4–7]**

Jill, a 5th-grader, relates how her classmates go after Linda Fischer, an overweight classmate.

***The Carp in the Bathtub*, Barbara Cohen [RL2 • ILK–4]**

Two children try to rescue the carp their mother plans to make into gefilte fish for the Seder.

***Crow Boy*, Taro Yashima [RL3 • IL1–4]**

A shy mountain boy in Japan leaves his home at dawn to go to the village school and returns at sunset.

***Daniel’s Duck*, Clyde Robert Bulla [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Daniel is hurt when others laugh at his wood carving, until he learns that giving people pleasure takes a very special gift.

***Dealing with Anger*, Marianne Johnston [RL3 • IL1–4]**

This helpful book emphasizes the importance of compromise and positive thinking in dealing with anger. PowerKids Press.

***Freckle Juice*, Judy Blume [RL2.1 • IL2–4]**

Andrew wants freckles more than anything else, so Sharon offers to sell him her secret freckle recipe.

***Goodbye, Vietnam*, Gloria Whelan [RL5 • IL3–7]**

The plight of the Vietnamese boat people comes alive in this story about a young girl’s harrowing escape from her war-torn homeland.

***Harlem: A Poem*, Walter Dean Myers [RL3 • ILK–12]**

Words and pictures together connect readers to the spirit of Harlem in its music, art, literature, and everyday life, and to how it has helped shape us as a people.

Grade 3



Respect *continued*

***The Hundred Dresses.* Eleanor Estes [RL3 • ILK–3]**

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

***I Am Rosa Parks.* Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins [RL2.6 • IL1–4]**

In simple, lively language, Rosa Parks describes her life from childhood to the present and recounts the events that shook the nation. Her story is powerful, inspiring and unforgettable. Puffin Easy-to-Read Level 3.

***Irene and the Big, Fine Nickel.* Irene Smalls [RL3 • ILK–3]**

The story of an independent young girl and a lucky nickel.

***Jamaica Tag-Along.* Juanita Havill [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Jamaica doesn't want a younger child to play with her, until she remembers how she felt when her older brother excluded her from his games.

***Joshua's Masai Mask.* Dakari Hru [RL3 • IL1–4]**

Fearing he will be ridiculed for playing the kalimba in the talent show, Joshua uses a magical Masai mask to transform himself into different people he thinks are more interesting, before realizing that his own identity is valuable.

***Julius, the Baby of the World.* Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Lilly knows her baby brother is nothing but dreadful, until she claims him for her own.

***The Kid in the Red Jacket.* Barbara Park [RL4.5 • IL3–7]**

Every kid's worst nightmare—moving—has come true for 10-year-old Howard Jeeter, who fears a future of anonymity as the new kid in town, despite the friendship of his weird little neighbor.

***King of the Playground.* Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Whenever Kevin goes to the playground, he runs into Sammy, who threatens to do terrible things to him. With the help of his dad, Sammy is able to bring about a final confrontation that leads to the tentative beginnings of a friendship.

***The Lotus Seed.* Sherry Garland [RL3 • IL1–5]**

A young Vietnamese girl saves a lotus seed and carries it with her everywhere to remember a brave emperor and the homeland that she has to flee.

***Matthew and Tilly.* Rebecca C. Jones [RL2 • ILK–3]**

Set in the diverse neighborhood of a big city, this poignant and universal story of friendship tells about 2 best pals who share everything—even making up after a quarrel.

***Molly's Pilgrim.* Barbara Cohen [RL2.1 • ILK–3]**

Told to make a doll like a Pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly's Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving Russia to seek religious freedom—much to Molly's embarrassment.

***Never Say Quit.* Bill Wallace [RL4 • IL3–6]**

Angry when they are excluded from the soccer team, sixth-grader Justine and the rest of the school misfits form their own team and begin training with a coach who drinks heavily but gives them a special gift.

***Oliver Button Is a Sissy.* Tomie dePaola [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A little boy must come to terms with the teasing and ostracism he experiences because he'd rather read, paint, and dance than participate in sports.

***Onion Tears.* Diana Kidd [RL3.2 • IL2–5]**

Nam-Huong, a Vietnamese girl, wants to adjust to her new life in Australia, but she misses her parents and her beloved grandfather and is haunted by her experiences as a refugee.

Grade 3



Respect *continued*

Owen Foote, Second Grade Strongman, Stephanie Greene [RL3.3 • IL1–4]

Owen, a second grader who is being teased for his small size, discovers that his friend Joseph is just as concerned about being overweight, and they share their fear of being humiliated by the school nurse.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully, James Howe [RL2.8 • IL1–4]

A bully calls Pinky a sissy because he likes the color pink, but a wise neighbor helps him deal with the situation and stay true to himself. Ready-to-Read Level 3.

Ramona the Pest, Beverly Cleary [RL5 • IL3–7]

Adventures with Ramona.

The Shortest Kid in the World, Corinne Demas Bliss [RL2 • IL1–3]

Emily the Shrimp is shorter than anybody, even her own little brother. Then a tiny girl with an upbeat attitude comes to town, and Emily learns that if you're clever, ~short~comings can become towering assets. Step into Reading Step 2.

Smoky Night, Eve Bunting [RL3 • ILK–4]

When the Los Angeles riots break out in the streets of their neighborhood, a young boy and his mother learn the value of getting along with others no matter what their background or nationality.

A Weekend with Wendell, Kevin Henkes [RL2 • ILK–3]

Poor Sophie. What could be worse than spending a weekend with Wendell? When the children play house, Wendell is the mother, father, and the five children; Sophie is the dog. The weekend is torture until Sophie turns the tables.

William's Doll, Charlotte Zolotow [RL2 • ILK–3]

More than anything, William wants a doll. Then one day, someone really understands his wish and makes it easy for others to understand too.

Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree, William Miller [RL3 • ILK–4]

Based on autobiographical writings of Zora Neale Hurston, this is the true story of the famous writer who as a young girl learned about hope and strength from her mother.



Accountability

Bunnica Strikes Again!, James Howe [RL4.6 • IL3–7]

Chester vows to take matters into his own hands (or rather paws), and keep Bunnica under control.

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest, Lynne Cherry [RL3 • ILK–3]

A man exhausted from chopping down a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest puts down his axe. As he sleeps, the animals who live in the tree plead with him not to destroy their world.

A Horse Called Raven, Steven Farley [RL4 • IL3–7]

Danielle's priorities begin to change when the little black colt to whom she's beginning to get attached falls ill with a dangerous flu virus. Young Black Stallion #2.

Lucy on the Loose Ilene Cooper [RL2.8 • IL2–5]

When his beagle Lucy runs off chasing a big orange cat, Bobby must overcome his shyness in order to find them again. Road to Reading Mile 5: Chapter Books.

My Louisiana Sky, Kimberly Willis Holt [RL4.7 • IL4–7]

Set in the South of the 1950s, this tender coming-of-age novel explores a 12-year-old girl's struggle to accept her grandmother's death, her mentally deficient parents, and the changing world around her.

Grade 3



Trustworthiness

Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo [RL4.8 • IL3–7]

Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, helps 10-year-old Opal make new friends, begin to find her place in the world, and let go of some of the sadness left by her mother's abandonment 7 years earlier.

Ka-Ha-Si and the Loon: An Eskimo Legend, Terri Cohlene [RL3 • IL3–6]

Retells the legend of Ka-ha-si, who acquires great strength and boldness and uses them to rescue his people in times of peril. Includes information on the customs and lifestyle of the Eskimos.

Llama's Secret: A Peruvian Legend, Argentina Palacios [RL2 • IL2–5]

A Peruvian rendition of the Great Flood story, in which a llama warns the people and animals to seek shelter on Huillcacto to avoid the rising sea, Mamacocha. Legend of the Americas.

Mrs. Katz and Tush, Patricia Polacco [RL3 • ILK–3]

A long-lasting friendship develops between Larnel, a young African American, and Mrs. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, when Larnel presents Mrs. Katz with a scrawny kitten without a tail.

Pedrito's Day, Luis Gray [RL2.4 • ILK–3]

There are many ways to show that you're growing up. But, as Pedrito discovers, being honest is one of the best.

Strega Nona's Magic Lessons, Tomie dePaola [RL3 • ILK–3]

Big Anthony disguises himself as a girl in order to take magic lessons from Strega Nona.

Grade 4



Kindness

***Belle Prater's Boy*, Ruth White [RL4.7 • IL4–9]**

Everyone in Coal Station, Virginia, has a theory about what happened to Belle Prater, but 12-year-old Gypsy wants the facts.

***Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis [RL5.2 • IL4–8]**

Ten-year-old Bud hits the road in search of his father and his home.

***Joey Pigza Loses Control*, Jack Gantos [RL4 • IL3–7]**

Joey, ADD, but under control with improved meds, goes to spend time with his estranged, non-medicated ADD dad and must decide between control and his newfound friendship with his father. Parents' Choice Award. Sequel to ~Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key~.

***The Music of Dolphins*, Karen Hesse [RL5 • IL4–7]**

A girl raised by dolphins must choose between two worlds in this novel about what it means to be a human being.

***My Life in Dog Years*, Gary Paulsen [RL6.2 • IL4–8]**

The author has owned dozens of unforgettable dogs, and here are his favorites—one to a chapter.

***Nory Ryan's Song*, Patricia Reilly Giff [RL4.4 • IL3–7]**

Twelve-year-old Nory must summon the courage and ingenuity to find food, to find hope, to find a way to help her family survive during the Irish potato famine of 1845.

***Seedfolks*, Paul Fleischman [RL5 • IL4–9]**

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

***Witness*, Karen Hesse [RL5 • IL4–7]**

The year is 1924, and a small town in Vermont is falling under the influence of the Ku Klux Klan. Two girls, one black and the other Jewish, are among those who are no longer welcome. As the potential for violence increases, heroes—and villains—are revealed, and everyone in town is affected.



Citizenship

***Barrio: José's Neighborhood*, George Ancona [RL4 • IL2–5]**

A young first-generation American celebrates the festive, intimate spirit of his community.

***Fight for Life*, Laurie Anderson [RL3.6 • IL4–7]**

With the help of her veterinarian grandmother and the other volunteers at the Wild Heart Animal Clinic, 11-year-old Maggie rescues sick puppies from an illegal puppy mill. Wild at Heart #1.

***Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Beecher Preachers*, Jean Fritz [RL4.2 • IL3–7]**

Slavery made Harriet Beecher Stowe so angry she couldn't keep quiet. She firmly believed that words could make change, and by writing ~Uncle Tom's Cabin~, she hastened the Civil War and changed the course of America's history.

***Homeless*, Laurie Anderson [RL4 • IL4–7]**

Dr. Mac, Sunita, and the other volunteers at the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic become involved in efforts to save feral and abandoned cats. Wild at Heart #2.

***Koi's Python*, Miriam Moore & Penny Taylor [RL3.7 • IL2–4]**

Eleven-year-old Koi is eager to kill a python as part of the rite of passage to manhood among his Batetela people, but in the meantime he must face a bully who is picking on an old hunter in the village marketplace. Hyperion Chapters.

***Weslandia*, Paul Fleischman [RL4 • IL2–5]**

When Wesley overturns a plot of ground in his yard to see what new and unknown seeds might blow into it, he ends up with a self-sufficient civilization with its own staple food crop.

Grade 4



Kindness

***Babushka's Doll*, Patricia Polacco [RL3.7 • ILK-3]**

Natasha's constant demands for attention keep her grandmother, Babushka, hopping, until Babushka lets the little girl play with a very special doll that comes to life and teaches Natasha just how difficult a demanding child can be.

***Chicken Sunday*, Patricia Polacco [RL2 • ILK-3]**

To thank old Eula for her wonderful Sunday chicken dinners, the children sell decorated eggs and buy her a beautiful Easter hat.

***The Hare and the Tortoise: A Fable from Aesop*, retold by Helen Ward [RL3 • ILK-4]**

Aesop's original lesson about the victory of perseverance over arrogance is enhanced as we learn about the relative speeds of a host of animals.

***Meteor!*, Patricia Polacco [RL2 • ILK-3]**

One summer Grandma and Grandpa find their lives dramatically changed when a meteor crashes into their Michigan farmyard.

***Night on Neighborhood Street*, Eloise Greenfield [RL3 • ILK-3]**

A collection of poems exploring the sounds, sights, and emotions enlivening a black neighborhood during the course of one evening.

***Pink and Say*, Patricia Polacco [RL3 • IL2-6]**

Drawing from the rich store of Civil War reminiscences handed down in her family from generation to generation, the author tells the true story of a remarkable wartime friendship.

***Pinky and Rex and the Bully*, James Howe [RL2.8 • IL1-4]**

A bully calls Pinky a sissy because he likes the color pink, but a wise neighbor helps him deal with the situation and stay true to himself. Ready-to-Read Level 3.

***Rechenka's Eggs*, Patricia Polacco [RL2.5 • ILK-3]**

Old Babushka is preparing her eggs for the Easter Festival when she takes in Rechenka, an injured goose, who shows her that miracles really can happen.

***Thunder Cake*, Patricia Polacco [RL2 • ILK-3]**

A grandmother finds a way to dispel her grandchild's fear of thunderstorms.



Respect

***Angel Child, Dragon Child*, Michele Maria Surat [RL2 • IL1-4]**

A heartfelt, gentle story about an immigrant child from Vietnam and her adjustment to a new school in the United States.

***China: The Culture*, Bobbie Kalman [RL4.5 • IL3-9]**

A celebration of the cultural achievements of China's 4000-year-old civilization. The origins of many of New China's celebrations are traced back to China's ancient past. Includes index and glossary.

***China: The Land*, Bobbie Kalman [RL4.5 • IL3-9]**

Examines China's ancient and recent histories in a simplified but meaningful way while presenting the most current information about China's development and modernization. Includes index and glossary.

***China: The People*, Bobbie Kalman [RL4.5 • IL3-9]**

Candid photographs, intimately portraying the Chinese people going about their daily business, depict how the changing face of China has altered the daily lives of its people. Includes index and glossary.

Grade 4



Respect *continued*

***Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine [RL4 • IL3–7]**

At her birth, Ella of Frell was the unfortunate recipient of a foolish fairy’s gift—the “gift” of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her—whether it’s hopping one foot for a day and half, or chopping off her own head!

***Hello, My Name Is Scrambled Eggs*, Jamie Gilson [RL5.5 • IL4–7]**

Seventh-grader Harvey Trumble thinks it will only take a month or so to turn Tuan, a Vietnamese refugee, into a Harvey clone. But the timing and the results are something else again.

***The Hundred Dresses*, Eleanor Estes [RL3 • ILK–3]**

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

***If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*, Ellen Levine**

3 2–5

Thirty six questions about immigration and Ellis Island are answered with fascinating, well-chosen details, including quotes from those who actually passed through the famed immigration center.

***In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Bette Bao Lord [RL4 • IL3–6]**

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn, where she starts to feel at home and make friends when she discovers baseball and the Brooklyn Dodgers.

***Leo the Lop*, Stephen Cosgrove [RL3 • IL1–4]**

The other bunnies laugh at Leo because his ears hang down instead of up, but a possum teaches him that you should be happy with yourself the way you are. A Serendipity Book.

***The Lotus Seed*, Sherry Garland [RL3 • IL1–5]**

A young Vietnamese girl saves a lotus seed and carries it with her everywhere to remember a brave emperor and the homeland that she has to flee.

***Pinky and Rex and the Bully*, James Howe [RL2.8 • IL1–4]**

A bully calls Pinky a sissy because he likes the color pink, but a wise neighbor helps him deal with the situation and stay true to himself. Ready-to-Read Level 3.

***Sister*, Eloise Greenfield [RL4 • IL3–6]**

All of the memories, both happy and sad, in Doretha’s diary have given her the courage and the strength she needs to be herself.

***Someday Angeline*, Louis Sachar [RL4 • IL3–7]**

As an eight-year-old genius in the sixth grade, Angeline is not too popular, but she tries to adjust to being different.

***Who Belongs Here? An American Story*, Margy Burns Knight [RL4 • IL4–12]**

Story of a 10-year-old Cambodian immigrant to the U.S. Explores the question “What if everyone whose ancestors came from somewhere else were sent back?” Great cultural diversity discussion tool. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O’Brien.

***Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family*, Lensey Namioka [RL4.5 • IL3–7]**

Yingmei Yang has changed her name to Mary now that she is learning to “be American,” but it’s hard since her family sticks to their Chinese customs.

***Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear*, Lensey Namioka [RL4.5 • IL3–7]**

Everyone in the Yang family is a talented musician except for 9-year-old Yingtao, the youngest Yang. Even after years of violin lessons from his father, Yingtao cannot make beautiful music.

***You’re a Brave Man*, Julius Zimmerman, Claudia Mills [RL4 • IL3–7]**

In this sequel to ~Losers, Inc.~ Julius Zimmerman proves to his mother that her criteria for success isn’t the only way to be successful.

***Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*, Lloyd Moss [RL2 • ILK–3]**

A unique primer to musical instruments, told in rhyme, that is a counting book as well as a celebration of classical music.

Grade 4



Accountability

***Bunnacula Strikes Again!*, James Howe [RL4.6 • IL3–7]**

Chester vows to take matters into his own hands (or rather paws), and keep Bunnacula under control.

***The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*, Lynne Cherry [RL3 • ILK–3]**

A man exhausted from chopping down a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest puts down his axe. As he sleeps, the animals who live in the tree plead with him not to destroy their world.

***A Horse Called Raven*, Steven Farley [RL4 • IL3–7]**

Danielle's priorities begin to change when the little black colt to whom she's beginning to get attached falls ill with a dangerous flu virus. *Young Black Stallion #2*.

***Lucy on the Loose*, Ilene Cooper [RL2.8 • IL2–5]**

When his beagle Lucy runs off chasing a big orange cat, Bobby must overcome his shyness in order to find them again. *Road to Reading Mile 5: Chapter Books*.

***My Louisiana Sky*, Kimberly Willis Holt [RL4.7 • IL4–7]**

Set in the South of the 1950s, this tender coming-of-age novel explores a 12-year-old girl's struggle to accept her grandmother's death, her mentally deficient parents, and the changing world around her.



Trustworthiness

***Baseball in April and Other Stories*, Gary Soto [RL5 • IL4–9]**

Events of everyday life reveal big themes—youth/age, love/friendship, success/failure—in this collection of short stories featuring Latino kids as they perform in the school talent show, go out on dates, and take part in activities.

***Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis [RL5.2 • IL4–8]**

Ten-year-old Bud hits the road in search of his father and his home.

***A Day's Work*, Eve Bunting [RL4 • ILK–3]**

A young Mexican American tries to help his grandfather, who doesn't speak English, find a job.

***Faith, Hope, and Chicken Feathers*, Andrea Wyman [RL6.7 • IL3–7]**

Sophie, YL, and Harper, all new kids to the 6th-grade, struggle to get along both at school and in family situations. They come to depend on their unique friendship to survive their difficulties.

***Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia*, Carmen Lomas Garza [RL4 • IL3–7]**

The author describes her experiences growing up in Texas. *Bilingual English/Spanish*.

***The Gnome from Nome*, Stephen Cosgrove [RL3 • IL1–4]**

The gnome and his companion, the otter, learn that love and friendship are the keys to staying warm in the cold, snowy land of Alaska. *A Serendipity Book*.

***Look Who's Playing First Base*, Matt Christopher [RL3 • IL3–7]**

Newly arrived from the Soviet Union and completely new to baseball, Yuri nearly loses his spot on the team and his friendship with Mike.

***Meet Danitra Brown*, Nikki Grimes [RL3 • ILK–3]**

In 13 spirited rhymes, Zuri narrates her and Danitra's story, an unforgettable portrait of the many ways true friends manage to bring out the best in each other.

***A Traitor Among the Boys*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL5.1 • IL3–7]**

Despite a New Year's resolution to be nice to their neighbors, the Malloy girls, the Hatford boys find themselves continuing their rivalry and war of practical jokes.

Grade 5



Kindness

***The Adventures of Spider: West African Folktales*, retold by Joyce Cooper Arkhurst [RL3 • IL1–5]**

A collection of stories that brings to life a favorite character from West African folklore, the mischievous and clever Spider. From how he got a thin waist to why he lives on ceilings, these tales feature his outrageous wit.

***Beat the Turtle Drum*, Constance C. Greene [RL4.6 • IL4–8]**

Kate relates the death of her 11-year-old sister Joss in an accidental fall.

***The Big Wave*, Pearl S. Buck [RL4 • IL2–5]**

A Japanese boy learns the joys of living after surviving a tragic tidal wave that destroys his family and village.

***Cinderella*, Marcia Brown [RL3 • IL1–4]**

A free translation of the cherished fairy tale classic.

***The Diary of Melanie Martin*, Carol Weston [RL5 • IL3–7]**

When Melanie Martin heads to Italy on a family vacation with her art-obsessed mom, her grumpy dad, and her little brother, she has no idea what she's in for. As she discovers Michelangelo, Italian ice cream, and poetry, she also realizes how much her family means to her.

***Faith, Hope, and Chicken Feathers*, Andrea Wyman [RL6.7 • IL3–7]**

Sophie, YL, and Harper, all new kids to the 6th-grade, struggle to get along both at school and in family situations. They come to depend on their unique friendship to survive their difficulties.

***Freedom River*, Doreen Rappaport [RL3 • IL2–5]**

Describes an incident in the life of ex-slave John Parker, who became a successful businessman in Ripley, Ohio, and who repeatedly risked his life to help slaves escape to freedom. Coretta Scott King Illustrator award.

***Heaven: A Novel*, Angela Johnson [RL5.2 • 5+]**

Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

***Junebug and the Reverend*, Alice Mead [RL4.8 • IL3–7]**

Having moved out of the housing project and into a new home along with his mother and sister, 10-year-old Junebug discovers that bullies are everywhere and that the elderly can make great friends.

***The King's Equal*, Katherine Paterson [RL3.2 • IL2–5]**

In order to wear the crown of the kingdom, an arrogant young prince must find an equal in his bride. Instead, he finds someone far better than he.

***Lily's Crossing*, Patricia Reilly Giff [RL4.6 • IL3–7]**

A young girl learns that World War II is bound to change everyone, even the Americans who never leave home.

***Lone Wolf*, Kristine L. Franklin [RL5.5 • IL4–7]**

When a large family moves into the house near where he and his father live in the woods, Perry's friendship with the oldest girl helps him come to terms with his sister's death and his parents' divorce.

***A Long Way from Chicago*, Richard Peck [RL5 • IL3–7]**

Joey and his sister, Mary Alice—two city slickers from Chicago—make their annual summer visit to Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town.

***Mick Harte Was Here*, Barbara Park [RL5 • IL3–7]**

After her brother Mick is killed, Phoebe Harte's world is turned upside down.

***Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*, John Steptoe [RL2 • ILK–3]**

This African tale evokes the Cinderella story in its portrayal of two sisters, spiteful Manyara, and considerate Nyasha, and the young king searching for a bride.

Grade 5



Kindness *continued*

***Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails*, Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak [RL3 • IL3–6]**

Explores the Inuit belief that the Northern Lights are the souls of the dead, playing soccer in the sky.

***P.S. Longer Letter Later*, Paula Danziger & Ann M. Martin [RL5 • IL4–8]**

A complex and emotionally rich novel about 2 friends coping with overwhelming change.

***The Paper Bag Princess*, Robert Munsch [RL2 • ILK–2]**

Elizabeth, a princess, is slated to marry Ronald, a prince, when a dragon comes along, smashes her castle, and carries Ronald away.

***The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett [RL5.4 • IL5–9]**

A self-centered English orphan forgets her own troubles as she and her invalid cousin make friends with Dickon and the world of growing things.



Citizenship

***The Adventures of Blue Avenger*, Norma Howe [RL5.9 • IL7–12]**

What does a normal 16-year-old boy who becomes the hero of his own comic strip, who falls in love with a girl named Omaha Nebraska Brown, and who invents a recipe for perfect dripless lemon meringue pie have to do with the 16th-century heretic Giordano Bruno and ending the plague of handgun violence in America?

***Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes*, Floyd Cooper**

3.8

K–4

Young Langston Hughes was a dreamer, he dreamed about heroes and places, but most of all he dreamed about having a happy home. When he began turning his dreams into beautiful prose, he discovered where his home really was—in the words and rhythms of his poetry.

***The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*, Langston Hughes [RL6.1 • IL3–7]**

A collection of 59 poems, selected by the author for young readers. Includes lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many of which explore the black experience.

***Harlem: A Poem*, Walter Dean Myers [RL3 • ILK–12]**

Words and pictures together connect readers to the spirit of Harlem in its music, art, literature, and everyday life, and to how it has helped shape us as a people.

***Home*, Michael J. Rosen, ed. [RL3 • ILK–3]**

Thirty acclaimed children's book authors and illustrators contribute original stories, poems, and artwork to create this beautiful celebration of the joys of home.

***Kids with Courage*, Barbara A. Lewis [RL5 • IL4–9]**

Relates the stories of kids who made a difference in their neighborhood, community, or the world by helping in such areas as crime, life-saving, and the environment.

***Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, Andrea Davis Pinkney [RL5 • IL5–8]**

Lively collective biography of 10 extraordinary African American women from Sojourner Truth to Shirley Chisholm. Includes bibliography and allegorical oil portraits. Great read-aloud. Coretta Scott King Honor award.

***Night on Neighborhood Street*, Eloise Greenfield [RL3 • ILK–3]**

A collection of poems exploring the sounds, sights, and emotions enlivening a black neighborhood during the course of one evening.

Grade 5



Kindness

Bat 6, Virginia Euwer Wolff [RL4.8 • IL5–9]

In small town, post-World War II Oregon, twenty one 6th-grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

Breakaway, Paul Yee [RL6 • IL7–12]

Set in 1932 during the Depression in Vancouver. Eighteen-year-old Kwok-ken Wong, the only Chinese boy at his school, finds himself alienated by racism until he joins the Chinese community's soccer team.

Firegold, Dia Calhoun [RL5 • IL5–10]

After fleeing to the mountains to escape from being blamed for something he didn't do, 13-year-old Jonathon must survive the most dangerous test of his life.

Flip-Flop Girl, Katherine Paterson [RL5 • IL3–7]

Vinnie Matthews needs a miracle—one that will bring her father back to life and let her family go home to Washington.

The Janitor's Boy, Andrew Clements [RL5.4 • IL3–7]

Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is one of the janitors. His embarrassment causes him to lash out in anger against his father by vandalizing a desk, but the punishment, performing janitorial duties after school, helps him see his father in a new way.

My Brother, My Sister, and I, Yoko Kawashima Watkins [RL6 • IL6–12]

Yoko, her brother, and her sister live in abject poverty in Japan at the end of World War II. Their lives become even more desperate when the factory they live in burns, Yoko's sister is hospitalized, and Yoko's brother is accused of murder.

The View From Saturday, E.L. Konigsburg [RL5 • IL3–7]

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their 6th-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.



Respect

Angel Child, Dragon Child, Michele Maria Surat [RL2 • IL1–4]

A heartfelt, gentle story about an immigrant child from Vietnam and her adjustment to a new school in the United States.

Crossing the Starlight Bridge, Alice Mead [RL4.4 • IL3–7]

Rayanne Sunipass, a young Wabanaki girl, experiences difficulties in balancing old ways with the demands of the modern world.

Felita, Nicholasa Mohr [RL4 • IL2–6]

Felita is saddened when her family has to move from the neighborhood she loves so much, but finds that moving back after being gone is also very difficult.

The Friendship, Mildred D. Taylor [RL3.8 • IL2–5]

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Gaffer Samson's Luck, Jill Paton Walsh [RL4.7 • IL3–7]

The struggle by newcomer James to be accepted leads to a confrontation with the village gang and a challenging search for his elderly neighbor's "luck," hidden long ago.

The Gold Cadillac, Mildred D. Taylor [RL3.6 • IL2–5]

Two black girls living in the North are proud of their family's beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

Grade 5



Respect *continued*

***Iggie's House*, Judy Blume [RL4.3 • IL4–7]**

When Grove Street gets its first black family, Winnie is a welcoming party of one.

***Keystone Kids*, John R. Tunis [RL5 • IL4–8]**

When two young brothers join the Brooklyn Dodgers, one becomes team manager and is faced with the task of uniting a team rife with dissension and prejudice against the new Jewish rookie catcher.

***Mayfield Crossing*, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson [RL4.5 • IL4–8]**

When the little school at Mayfield Crossing is closed, Meg and her friends are excited about going to the bigger, newer school at Parkview.

***Mississippi Bridge*, Mildred D. Taylor [RL4 • IL3–7]**

A young white boy witnesses the harsh treatment of black people when they are pushed off the bus to make room for white passengers. When the bus plunges into the river, the black people, forced to walk home in the rain, come to help.

***My Name Is Maria Isabel*, Alma Flor Ada [RL3 • IL2–5]**

Third grader Maria Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the U.S., wants to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity.

***Nettie's Trip South*, Ann Turner [RL3 • IL1–5]**

A 10-year-old northern girl encounters the ugly realities of slavery when she visits Richmond, Virginia, and sees a slave auction.

***Sixth Grade Nickname Game*, Gordon Korman [RL4.4 • IL3–7]**

Best friends Jeff and Wiley are a legend. There is practically no one in their school who hasn't been nicknamed by the duo. But now some of the nicknames they invented are backfiring on them.

***Song of the Trees*, Mildred D. Taylor [RL4 • IL2–7]**

The trees were Cassie's friends. What would happen to them now that Daddy was away?

***Swamp: Bayou Teche, Louisiana, 1851*, K. Duey & K.A. Bale [RL4.2 • IL3–7]**

Wealthy young Paul Courville's family makes no secret of their disdain for the Cajun community living on Courville land. But when danger befalls Paul on an alligator hunt, Lily, a young Cajun girl, refuses to turn her back on him when his life is in danger. Survival!

***Taking Sides*, Gary Soto [RL5 • IL3–7]**

When Lincoln Mendoza moves from a San Francisco barrio to the suburbs, his allegiances are torn. Should he remain loyal to his old school, a focal point of his ethnic identity, or make a place for himself in his new world?



Accountability

***Amber Brown Goes Fourth*, Paula Danziger [RL3 • IL2–5]**

It's a new school year, and Amber Brown is on the lookout for a new best friend and a way to deal with her parents' recent divorce.

***Crossing the Starlight Bridge*, Alice Mead [RL4.4 • IL3–7]**

Rayanne Sunipass, a young Wabanaki girl, experiences difficulties in balancing old ways with the demands of the modern world.

***Ereth's Birthday*, Avi [RL4.7 • IL3–7]**

Feeling neglected on his birthday, Ereth, the cantankerous old porcupine, sets out looking for his favorite treat and instead finds himself acting as "mother" to three young fox kits.

***The Girl with the White Flag: An Inspiring Story of Love and Courage in Wartime*, Tomiko Higa [RL5 • IL5–9]**

A spellbinding biographical account of a 7-year-old's wanderings for 7 weeks in 1945 in battle-torn Okinawa.

Grade 5



Accountability *continued*

Guests, Michael Dorris [RL4.5 • IL3–7]

A Native American boy discovers the inevitability of change as he grows up.

Jaguar, Roland Smith [RL5.8 • IL4–8]

While accompanying his father on an expedition up the Amazon River to a jaguar preserve in Brazil, 14-year-old Jacob must contend with dangerous animals and fortune hunters.

The Last Lobo, Roland Smith [RL5.3 • IL4–8]

When Jacob travels with his grandfather back to the Hopi reservation where he was born, he gets a lot more than a quiet trip to the desert. An endangered wolf is hunting on the reservation and Jacob must do everything in his power to save it.

Mayfield Crossing, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson [RL4.5 • IL4–8]

When the little school at Mayfield Crossing is closed, Meg and her friends are excited about going to the bigger, newer school at Parkview.

My Name Is Maria Isabel, Alma Flor Ada [RL3 • IL2–5]

Third grader Maria Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the U.S., wants to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity.

North by Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad, Katherine Ayres [RL5 • IL5–9]

A courageous and poignant story of the Underground Railroad, told through the journal entries and letters of a 16-year-old girl.

Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails, Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak [RL3 • IL3–6]

Explores the Inuit belief that the Northern Lights are the souls of the dead, playing soccer in the sky.

The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11, Amy Hest [RL4 • IL3–6]

A funny, poignant novel of a young girl's longing to fit into a new life without forgetting the old.

To Walk the Skypath, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL5.4 • IL3–7]

Billie is a 10-year-old Seminole Indian who lives with his family on a mangrove island in the Florida Everglades. Because he is the first in his family to attend school, he now walks in two worlds—the traditional and the modern.

The Year of the Sawdust Man, A. LaFaye [RL5.8 • IL4–8]

Set in Louisiana during the Depression, a headstrong young girl must cope with her free-spirited mother's departure. Her struggle to come to terms with the new shape of her family is both poignant and penetrating, a timeless story of the changing face of love.



Trustworthiness

Ghost Boy, Iain Lawrence [RL4.4 • IL7+]

Unhappy in a home seemingly devoid of love, a 14-year-old albino boy, who thinks of himself as Harold the Ghost, runs away to join the circus, where he works with the elephants and searches for a sense of who he is.

Jubilee Journey, Carolyn Meyer [RL5 • IL5–10]

Emily Rose Chantier, the bi-racial 13-year-old great-granddaughter of Rose Lee Jefferson is invited to Dillon, Texas to celebrate Juneteenth and to learn about her roots. Sequel to ~White Lilacs~.

Letters from the Mountain, Sherry Garland [RL5 • IL5–10]

Taylor's mother sends him to spend the summer with elderly relatives who live in a rural mountain community after he becomes involved in a gang.

Music from a Place Called Half Moon, Jerrie Oughton [RL5 • IL5–10]

Edie Jo struggles with her own feelings about integration and fear as she becomes friends with Cherokee Fish in a summer filled with arson, racism, and murder.

The Rebounder, Thomas J. Dygard [RL5 • IL5–10]

Doug Fulton, coach of the Hamilton High Panthers, is certain that transfer student Chris Patton can lead the team to a championship, but a tragic accident has made Chris decide to never play basketball again.

Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli [RL5 • IL5–9]

Stargirl, a unique ex-homeschooler, enrolls at Mica High and is shunned, celebrated and loved for her nonconformity.

Grade 6



Kindness

***Adam and Eve and Pinch Me*, Julie Johnston [RL6 • IL7+]**

After a long series of unhappy foster homes, Sara's latest family wins her over with love and caring.

***Amos Fortune, Free Man*, Elizabeth Yates [RL5 • IL5–8]**

The true and inspirational story of one man committed above all to serving his countrymen—both African and American.

***Baby*, Patricia MacLachlan [RL4.5 • IL4–7]**

A girl and her family find an abandoned baby in their driveway.

***The Barn*, Avi [RL5.2 • IL4–6]**

Ben is summoned home from boarding school to care for his father, who has suffered a stroke, while his older siblings work on the farm. Ben becomes convinced that his father will recover if they can fulfill his dream for a new barn.

***Bearstone*, Will Hobbs [RL5.4 • IL4–9]**

Having been abandoned by his parents and raised by his Ute Indian grandmother, 14-year-old Cloyd is sent to a Colorado ranch to live with a lonesome old miner. Cloyd's love for the old man helps him transcend his resentment.

***The Cay*, Theodore Taylor [RL5 • IL4–9]**

An exciting adventure of 2 survivors of a shipwreck washed ashore on a desolate island.

***Colt*, Nancy Springer [RL5.9 • IL3–7]**

A young boy with a crippling disease learns, through a horseback riding program, to overcome his own anxieties and to help others in dealing with their own problems.

***Missing May*, Cynthia Rylant [RL5.8 • IL5–9]**

After the death of the beloved aunt who raised her, 12-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

***My Father's Dragon*, Ruth Stiles Gannett [RL5.8 • IL3–5]**

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island.

***A Night Without Stars*, James Howe [RL6 • IL5–9]**

When 11-year-old Maria must go to the hospital for open-heart surgery, she finds strength in her friendship with a badly-scarred burn victim.

***What Hearts*, Bruce Brooks [RL6 • IL5–9]**

Four interrelated stories about significant moments in the life of a brilliant boy named Asa who learns about baseball, survival, and the power of the words of love.

***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*, Kimberly Willis Holt [RL5.4 • IL5–9]**

Set during the Vietnam War, Cal and Todd befriend Zachary, "the fattest boy in the world," after he is abandoned in their small Texas town. 1999 National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature.

***Yolonda's Genius*, Carol Fenner [RL5.2 • IL4–9]**

The story of Yolonda, a straight-A student, and her brother Andrew, who is having trouble learning to read but is a musical genius who can imitate with his harmonica any sound he hears.

Grade 6



Citizenship

***Cages*, Peg Kehert [RL5 • IL5–8]**

After losing an acting role and fighting with her alcoholic stepfather, Kit is arrested for shoplifting and ordered to work, as part of her sentence, at an animal shelter.

***The Case of the Goblin Pearls*, Laurence Yep [RL5 • IL3–7]**

Lily and her aunt, a Chinese American movie actress, join forces to solve the theft of some priceless pearls and stop the operator of a sweatshop in San Francisco's Chinatown.

***The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*, Paula Danziger [RL6 • IL5–9]**

Marcy organizes a student protest on behalf of her suspended English teacher.

***Downsiders: A Novel*, Neal Shusterman [RL5.8 • IL5+]**

Far below the New York City subways is a maze of tunnels connecting the rooms where the Downsiders live. Although contact with the Topside is strictly forbidden, 14-year-old Talon is strangely drawn to the surface, where he befriends a lonely Topsider named Lindsay, and their two worlds collide in an earth-shattering way.

***Hello, My Name Is Scrambled Eggs*, Jamie Gilson [RL5.5 • IL4–7]**

Seventh-grader Harvey Trumble thinks it will only take a month or so to turn Tuan, a Vietnamese refugee, into a Harvey clone. But the timing and the results are something else again.

***Holes*, Louis Sachar [RL5.8 • IL7+]**

In a compelling novel that is both serious and funny, with a rich vein of tenderness running through it, Louis Sachar has created a narrative puzzle in which the characters cannot escape their destinies.

***Whirligig*, Paul Fleischman [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Sixteen-year-old Brent Bishop is sent on an unusual journey of repentance-building wind toys across the land after he inadvertently causes the death of a young woman.



Kindness

***Anastasia Has the Answers*, Lois Lowry [RL6.1 • IL3–7]**

Thirteen-year-old Anastasia Krupnik is looking for the answers to some of life's big questions—like why she has to be the most uncoordinated person in gym class.

***Can You Sue Your Parents for Malpractice?*, Paula Danziger [RL5 • IL8–12]**

Between school and her parents (whom she wants to sue for malpractice), Lauren Allen feels she has no rights at all.

***Cat Running*, Zilpha Keatley Snyder [RL6.1 • IL3–7]**

When 11-year-old Cat Kinsey builds a secret hideout to escape her unhappy homelife, she gets to know a poor family who came to California after losing their Texas home to the dust storms of the 1930s.

***Maniac Magee*, Jerry Spinelli [RL5 • IL3–8]**

Not every boy becomes a legend in his own time. That's what happened to Maniac Magee, who earned his nickname by doing brave and foolish things, like running away from an unloving home, living in the zoo, and bringing people closer.

***The Robber and Me*, Josef Holub [RL4.8 • IL3–7]**

A heartwarming story about the triumph of friendships and the bonds between newfound fathers and sons. Set in 19th-century rural Germany, this is the story of how one orphan boy struggles against a town's prejudice to do what he believes is right.

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred D. Taylor [RL5 • IL5–9]**

A Southern black family is determined to maintain their pride and independence against hard times and racial inequities.

***Under the Blood-Red Sun*, Graham Salisbury [RL4.7 • IL5–9]**

Tomi was born in Hawaii, and his grandfather and parents were born in Japan. When Pearl Harbor is attacked by the Japanese, Tomi's father and grandfather are arrested and he must be the man of the house.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, Christopher Paul Curtis [RL6.1 • IL5+]**

Story narrated by Kenny, 10, about his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan, and their trip to Birmingham, Alabama, during one of the Civil Rights Movement's most tragic events.

Grade 6



Respect

***Crazy Lady!*, Jane Leslie Conly [RL6 • IL5–10]**

Vernon and his friends often ridicule alcoholic Maxine and her mentally disabled son Ronald. When the social service tries to put Ronald into a special home, Vernon finds himself fighting to help keep Maxine and her son together.

***Darnell Rock Reporting*, Walter Dean Myers [RL5 • IL5+]**

A 13-year-old African American boy doubts his own abilities until he writes a school newspaper article about a homeless man.

***The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman [RL6 • IL7+]**

In medieval England, a homeless girl finds her place in the world.

***Shades of Gray*, Carolyn Reeder [RL4.9 • IL4–9]**

A 12-year-old Virginia boy struggles to adjust to a new family following the deaths of his parents and siblings. Set in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Winner of the Scott O'Dell award.

***The Sign of the Beaver*, Elizabeth George Speare [RL5.7 • IL5–9]**

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in 18th-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

***Won't Know Till I Get There*, Walter Dean Myers [RL4 • IL5–10]**

After getting caught spray-painting a subway car, Steve and his foster brother Earl are forced to work in a nursing home with a bunch of feisty seniors who refuse to be stereotyped by anyone.



Accountability

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Rayanne Sunipass, a young Wabanaki girl, experiences difficulties in balancing old ways with the demands of the modern world.

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Grade 6



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Emily Rose Chantier, the bi-racial 13-year-old great-granddaughter of Rose Lee Jefferson is invited to Dillon, Texas to celebrate Juneteenth and to learn about her roots. Sequel to ~White Lilacs~.

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Edie Jo struggles with her own feelings about integration and fear as she becomes friends with Cherokee Fish in a summer filled with arson, racism, and murder.

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Doug Fulton, coach of the Hamilton High Panthers, is certain that transfer student Chris Patton can lead the team to a championship, but a tragic accident has made Chris decide to never play basketball again.

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Stargirl, a unique ex-homeschooler, enrolls at Mica High and is shunned, celebrated and loved for her nonconformity.

Grade 7



Kindness

***After the Rain*, Norma Fox Mazer [RL6.7 • IL7–12]**

After discovering her grandfather is dying, 15-year-old Rachel gets to know him better than ever before and finds the experience bittersweet.

***Catherine, Called Birdy*, Karen Cushman [RL6 • IL7+]**

Catherine, a spirited and inquisitive young woman of a good family, narrates in diary form the story of her 14th year—the year 1290.

***Crash*, Jerry Spinelli [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Seventh grader John “Crash” Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and John’s grandfather’s stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

***The Friends*, Rosa Guy [RL7 • IL6–12]**

Phyllisia, a lonely and harassed teenage girl, is befriended by a kindly ragamuffin.

***The Incredible Journey*, Sheila Burnford [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Three pets trek through hundreds of miles of Canadian wilderness to return to the family they love.

***Make Lemonade*, Virginia Euwer Wolff [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Told in an unusual poetic form, ~Make Lemonade~ concerns the complex but nurturing relationship between 14-year-old college-bound LaVaughn and 17-year-old Jolly, a single parent.

***Quake!*, Joe Cottonwood [RL5.1 • IL5–9]**

A fast-paced story about three kids left home alone during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake focuses on the bravery, compassion, and generosity of people in distress.

***Toning the Sweep*, Angela Johnson [RL7 • IL7–9]**

A special relationship exists between 14-year-old Emily and her grandmother, who is dying of cancer. 1994 Coretta Scott King award winner.



Citizenship

***Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy*, Seymour Reit [RL5.7 • IL5–9]**

In 1861, Emma Edmonds joined the Union Army. Cropping her hair and posing as a slave, a peddler, and a Southern gentleman, Emma became a master of disguise in service to her country.

***The Big Wander*, Will Hobbs [RL5.5 • IL5–9]**

As he searches for his uncle through the rugged Southwest canyon country, 14-year-old Clay becomes involved with a group of Navajo Indians who are trying to save some of the last wild mustangs.

***The Boys from St. Petri*, Bjarne Reuter [RL5 • IL7+]**

In 1942, a group of young men begin a series of increasingly dangerous protests against the German invasion of their Danish homeland.

***California Blue*, David Klass [RL6 • IL6+]**

John Rodgers already has a difficult relationship with his father, but when he unexpectedly discovers a rare species of butterfly, father and son find themselves on opposite sides of a stormy environmental issue.

***An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*, Judith Ortiz Cofer [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Twelve stories about young people caught between their Puerto Rican heritage and their American surroundings.

Grade 7



Citizenship *continued*

A Jar of Dreams, Yoshiko Uchida [RL4 • IL4–8]

Growing up in depression-era California, Rinko feels left out because she is Japanese.

Mississippi Challenge, Mildred Pitts Walter [RL5.5 • IL7+]

Describes the struggle for civil rights for blacks in Mississippi from the time of slavery to the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Christopher Book Award.

Smuggler's Island, Avi [RL5 • IL5–9]

Living on a poor island in 1932, a young boy determines, despite his family's bitter opposition, to identify and somehow bring to justice the liquor smugglers who have been terrorizing the island.

The Young Landlords, Walter Dean Myers [RL5 • IL6–10]

Five devoted friends become landlords and try to make their Harlem neighborhood a better place to live.



Kindness

Hoops, Walter Dean Myers [RL4.7 • IL7–12]

Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of Harlem until the savage underworld of sports and big money forces him to make a choice.

The Last Safe Place on Earth, Richard Peck [RL5.5 • IL5–9]

Todd, 15, thinks life in the quality community of Walden Woods is perfect until his dream girl, Laurel, reveals the forces of censorship at work in his town.

Taking Terri Mueller, Norma Fox Mazer [RL5 • IL7+]

Was it possible to be kidnapped by your own father? Terri finds herself torn between the two people who love her most.

Tangerine, Edward Bloor [RL5 • IL6+]

Paul Fisher's older brother, Erik, is a high school football star, but to Paul he's no hero.

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock, Jerry Spinelli [RL5 • IL4–9]

Thirteen-year-old Maisie joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates.

Thunder Rolling in the Mountains, Scott O'Dell & Elizabeth Hall [RL5 • IL5–9]

Narrated by Chief Joseph's strong and brave daughter, this is a powerful account of the tragic defeat of the Nez Perce Indians by the United States Army in 1877. Scott O'Dell's final novel (finished by his wife).

Whatever Happened to Janie?, Caroline B. Cooney [RL5 • IL7+]

In ~The Face on the Milk Carton,~ Janie Johnson discovered the horrible truth about her own kidnapping. Now, Janie's nightmare still isn't over. Is she Janie Johnson, or Jennie Spring? In which world does she really belong?

Grade 7



Respect

***Define “Normal”*, Julie Anne Peters [RL3.6 • IL7+]**

When Antonia agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor, she never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will become a good friend and will help her deal with the serious problems she faces at home.

***Dacey’s Song*, Cynthia Voigt [RL5 • IL6–12]**

With her grandmother’s help, Dacey learns to cope with life’s problems. Sequel to *~Homecoming~*.

***Freak the Mighty*, Rodman Philbrick [RL5 • IL6+]**

An emotionally charged novel about 2 boys, a slow learner too large for his age, and a tiny, crippled genius, who forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

***Gideon’s People*, Carolyn Meyer [RL6 • IL5–9]**

Torn between youthful rebellion and their traditional heritages, two boys from very different cultures—one Amish, one Orthodox Jew—discover just how similar they really are.

***Popcorn Days & Buttermilk Nights*, Gary Paulsen [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Carley recalls the extraordinary summer when, as a troubled 14-year-old, he first came to northern Minnesota to stay with his blacksmith Uncle David and gained not only new skills but also a new sense of self.

***Runs with Horses*, Brian Burks [RL6 • IL7–9]**

Runs with Horses is a member of the last, small group of Apaches continuing to resist capture by the U.S. Army. His training for manhood does not prepare him for the threat of surrender.

***Skeeter*, K. Smith [RL5.5 • IL5–9]**

Two boys learn about hunting and themselves when they befriend an elderly black woodsman.

***The Star Fisher*, Laurence Yep [RL5 • IL5–9]**

When a Chinese-American family moves to West Virginia to open a laundry and start new lives, they find that not everyone in town is ready to welcome them. With courage and a sense of humor, they show that they are there to stay.

***Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Stargirl, a unique ex-homeschooler, enrolls at Mica High and is shunned, celebrated and loved for her nonconformity.

***Sweetgrass*, Jan Hudson [RL6 • IL6–12]**

A 15-year-old Blackfoot Indian girl proves herself during a year of challenge and devastation for her tribe and her people.



Accountability

***Alice in April*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL5.2 • IL4–9]**

Alice has 2 problems. She’s about to turn 13 and her father’s about to turn 50. Her aunt tells her she will be “woman of the house” now—it’s an awesome responsibility!

***The Black Pearl*, Scott O’Dell [RL5 • IL6–9]**

In rural Mexico, 16-year-old Ramon harvested the fabulous giant Pearl of Heaven, but all it earned him was powerful enemies.

***Climb or Die*, Edward Myers [RL5 • IL5+]**

After a car accident on a snowy Colorado pass seriously injures their parents, athletic 14-year-old Danielle and her brainy younger brother, Jake, must scale a mountain to find help.

***Driver’s Ed*, Caroline B. Cooney [RL6 • IL6+]**

Three teenagers’ lives are changed forever when they thoughtlessly steal a stop sign from a dangerous intersection and a young woman is killed in an automobile accident there.

Grade 7



Accountability *continued*

***Lyddie*, Katherine Paterson [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Impoverished farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker. When working conditions threaten the health of co-workers, she has to make a choice—speak up and risk her job, or be silent.

***My Brother, My Sister, and I*, Yoko Kawashima Watkins [RL6 • IL6–12]**

Yoko, her brother, and her sister live in abject poverty in Japan at the end of World War II. Their lives become even more desperate when the factory they live in burns, Yoko's sister is hospitalized, and Yoko's brother is accused of murder.

***The Pigman*, Paul Zindel [RL7 • IL9–12]**

Story of a meaningful relationship which knows no generation limits.

***Possibles*, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Following the death of her father, a 12-year-old girl takes a summer job instead of going to camp with a friend as planned.

***Queenie Peavy*, Robert Burch [RL5 • IL4–9]**

A rebellious, self-defeating 13-year-old comes to terms with her father's undependability and learns to face life's realities.

***Search for the Shadowman*, Joan Lowery Nixon [RL5 • IL3–7]**

A contemporary boy in Texas clears the blemish on his family's history by using the Internet to help solve a murder.

***Shadow Boxer*, Chris Lynch [RL5 • IL5+]**

After their father dies of boxing injuries, George is determined to prevent his younger brother, who sees boxing as his legacy, from pursuing a career in the sport.



Trustworthiness

***Anna of Byzantium*, Tracy Barrett [RL5 • IL6–12]**

Historical fiction about a Middle Ages princess of Byzantium and her life in the palace and subsequent banishment to a convent by her brother when he comes to power.

***Beyond the Burning Time*, Kathryn Lasky [RL5.5 • IL7+]**

A courageous young girl is forced to confront the hysteria of the Salem witch trials in order to save her mother.

***Black Beauty*, Anna Sewell [RL6 • IL7–10]**

Most famous of all animal stories, uniquely told from Beauty's point of view.

***It's a Matter of Trust*, Marcia Byalick [RL5 • IL5–9]**

A teenager's life is changed forever when her father is indicted in a cutback and bribery scandal.

***Nothing but the Truth*, Avi [RL6 • IL6–12]**

A 9th-grader's suspension for singing the National Anthem during homeroom becomes a national news story.

***Shiloh*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor [RL5 • IL3–7]**

Marty's deception in secretly keeping a beagle pup that he knows belongs to a cruel owner causes him heartache and trouble as one lie leads to another. A near tragedy reveals his secret and brings Marty face-to-face with the owner.

Grade 8



Kindness

Babyface, Norma Fox Mazer [RL5 • IL7–12]

A warm, funny, moving story about the pains and pleasures of family, friendship, and falling in love.

A Begonia for Miss Applebaum, Paul Zindel [RL6 • IL7–12]

When Zelda and Henry pay a call on Miss Applebaum, a favorite teacher ill with cancer, they discover an exuberant woman for whom science is glorious magic, charity is a way of life, and New York's Central Park is heaven on Earth.

The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton [RL4.6 • IL8–12]

Story of a rough gang of long-haired teenagers from the wrong side of the tracks.

Phoenix Rising, Karen Hesse [RL6 • IL5–9]

Thirteen-year-old Nyle learns about relationships and death when 15-year-old Ezra, who was exposed to radiation leaked from a nearby nuclear plant, comes to stay at her grandmother's Vermont farmhouse.

The Second Bend in the River, Ann Rinaldi [RL5 • IL4–8]

Rebecca Galloway, a pioneer girl, falls in love with Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief, and must choose a future with him or on her family homestead.

A Solitary Blue, Cynthia Voigt [RL6 • IL7–12]

Jeff Greene falls into a solitary depression before finally realizing that love can be hidden but still be strong, and that one can be alone and not be lonely.

Something for Joey, Richard Peck [RL8 • IL7+]

While John Cappalletti was winning the Heisman Trophy, his brother Joey was suffering from leukemia. But John had a special medicine for Joey—touchdowns.

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes, Chris Crutcher [RL8 • IL7+]

Obese Eric "Moby" Calhoun and his scarred classmate Sarah Byrnes slowly learn to open themselves up to friendship after years of mockery and abuse.

Stranded, Ben Mikaelson [RL6 • IL4–8]

Koby saves the lives of 2 pilot whales stranded near her home in the Florida Keys and in the process gains a new sense of self-worth.

Summer of My German Soldier, Bette Greene [RL7 • IL7–12]

The moving story of a dangerous friendship between a 12-year-old Jewish girl and a German POW during World War II.



Citizenship

Behind the Lines, Isabelle Holland [RL5.3 • IL5+]

During the New York Draft Riot of 1863, a young Irish Catholic girl helps an African American man make a daring escape from an angry mob.

The Bomb, Theodore Taylor

5.2 7+

A 16-year-old boy goes to great measures to keep the U.S. government from conducting atomic bomb testing on his island home. Based on the true story of atomic weapons testing at Bikini Atoll in the western Pacific Ocean.

The Day They Came to Arrest the Book, Nat Hentoff [RL6.2 • IL7–12]

School newspaper editor Barney Roth protests library censorship efforts.

Drummers of Jericho, Carolyn Meyer [RL7 • IL7+]

A Jewish girl experiences anger, loneliness, and fear when she stands up for her religious rights.

Grade 8



Citizenship *continued*

***Flight 116 Is Down*, Caroline B. Cooney [RL7 • IL7–12]**

A deafening roar fills the air and the sky glows red as flight #116 crashes in the woods just beyond Heidi's house. Mustering strength and courage she never knew she had, Heidi works with others to help the victims.

***Leroy and the Old Man*, W.E. Butterworth [RL5.4 • IL6–12]**

When Leroy witnesses a mugging, he must decide whether to remain safe and silent or speak up and reveal what he saw.

***My Brother Sam Is Dead*, James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier [RL5.8 • IL6–9]**

Tim is torn between his brother's patriotism and his father's Tory sympathies.

***The Pushcart War*, Jean Merrill [RL6.7 • IL5–9]**

Determined to get rid of the huge, rude trucks that clog up city streets and traffic, New York City's pushcart peddlers declare war.

***Stones in Water*, Donna Jo Napoli [RL5.6 • IL5–9]**

Kidnapped from a movie theater in Venice, Roberto and Samuele must support and protect each other when forced to labor in Nazi work camps.



Kindness

***The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier [RL6.7 • IL7+]**

A high school boy refuses to be intimidated by the society and people around him.

***A Day No Pigs Would Die*, Robert Newton Peck [RL7 • IL6–9]**

The story of growing up on a Shaker farm touches the whole cycle of life and death with simplicity.

***The Land*, Mildred D. Taylor [RL5.5 • IL7–12]**

Paul-Edward, son of a white plantation owner and a slave mother of African-Indian heritage, follows his dream of owning his own land through hard work and determination. Prequel to ~Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.~

***Painting the Black*, Carl Deuker [RL5 • IL6–9]**

Ryan must choose between his love for the game of baseball and his sense of integrity—two things that, in his mind, baseball should bring together.

***Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*, Suzanne Fisher Staples [RL6.5 • IL8–12]**

Set against the backdrop of desert life in present-day Pakistan, this is a passionate and deeply personal portrait of a young girl's struggle for identity in a culture that forbids even token expressions of independence by women.

***Sing Down the Moon*, Scott O'Dell [RL5.3 • IL5–10]**

The forced migration of Navajos from their Arizona homeland is told from the Indian point of view.

***Warriors Don't Cry (abridged)*, Melba Pattillo Beals [RL6 • IL6+]**

An abridged young reader's edition of the vivid, gripping story of a teenager's historic battle for integration.

Grade 8



Respect

***Banner in the Sky*, James Ramsey Ullman [RL6 • IL7–12]**

When his father dies while trying to climb Switzerland's greatest mountain, the Citadel, young Rudi knows he must make the assault himself.

***Brian's Song*, William Blinn [RL7 • IL8–12]**

Highly acclaimed television screenplay adapted from ~I Am Third~ by Gale Sayers.

***The Friends*, Kazumi Yumoto [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Kiyama and his friends Kawabe and Yamashita become fascinated and curious about death when Yamashita's grandmother dies.

***Jungle Dogs*, Graham Salisbury [RL4.7 • IL5–9]**

Boy Regis loves his family and their Hawaiian village, but he is terrified of the wild dogs in the jungle. He is determined to face them and show his brother that you don't always have to fight to win a battle.

***Let the Circle Be Unbroken*, Mildred D. Taylor [RL6 • IL6–12]**

This inspiring story of a loving, close-knit black family confronted with racial injustice contributes to a deeper understanding of what it means to be black today.

***Letters from the Mountain*, Sherry Garland [RL5 • IL5–10]**

Taylor's mother sends him to spend the summer with elderly relatives who live in a rural mountain community after he becomes involved in a gang.

***Music from a Place Called Half Moon*, Jerrie Oughton [RL5 • IL5–10]**

Eddie Jo struggles with her own feelings about integration and fear as she becomes friends with Cherokee Fish in a summer filled with arson, racism, and murder.

***Rumble Fish*, S.E. Hinton [RL5.1 • IL7–12]**

James is the number one tough guy in junior high until a series of explosive events shatters his world.



Accountability

***An Acquaintance with Darkness*, Ann Rinaldi [RL5 • IL6+]**

In the turbulent aftermath of Lincoln's assassination, Emily Pigbush confronts her own personal pain when her mother dies, her friend Annie Surratt's mother is jailed for her role in Lincoln's murder, and she realizes that her physician uncle has become involved in body snatching.

***The Body of Christopher Creed*, Carol Plum-Ucci [RL5.3 • IL7–12]**

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

***Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card [RL9 • IL9+]**

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and nearly destroyed the human species. To avoid this happening again, the world government begins breeding military geniuses, one of whom is Ender Wiggin. Ender #1.

***The Face on the Milk Carton*, Caroline B. Cooney [RL6 • IL6–12]**

The riveting story of a young girl who recognizes her face on a milk carton in an ad for a missing child.

***Frozen Fire*, James Houston [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Matthew and his Eskimo friend, Kayak, set out on a dangerous overland rescue mission when Matthew's father is lost in the Canadian Arctic during a geological mission. Based on the actual experiences of a boy lost in the Canadian Arctic.

***The Giver*, Lois Lowry [RL6 • IL5–9]**

The Newbery-winning novel about Jonas, the Receiver of Memory, who lives in a seemingly perfect futuristic world. The author, Lois Lowry, also won a Newbery for ~Number the Stars.~

Grade 8



Accountability *continued*

***Haveli*, Suzanne Fisher Staples [RL7 • IL7+]**

The sequel to the Newbery Honor book, *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*, continues the story of a young Pakistani woman and her passionate struggle against the traditions of an ancient past.

***Homeless Bird*, Gloria Whelan [RL5.2 • IL3–7]**

When 13-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

***Jacob Have I Loved*, Katherine Paterson [RL7 • IL6–9]**

My beautiful and golden twin sister was adored by everyone except me—the one who should have loved her best.

***Monster*, Walter Dean Myers [RL5.1 • IL7–12]**

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. Prinz award winner.

***Moving Mama to Town*, Ronder Thomas Young [RL4.2 • IL5+]**

Set in the rural South of 1947. When his father runs off, 13-year-old Freddy becomes the man of his family, finds a job, an apartment, and moves his mother and younger brother to town. Winner of the International Reading Association Award.

***No Promises in the Wind*, Irene Hunt [RL7 • IL7–10]**

15-year-old Josh must make his own way in the pitiless years of the Great Depression.

***The Planet of Junior Brown*, Virginia Hamilton [RL6 • IL5–9]**

Already a leader in New York's underground world of homeless children, Buddy Clark takes on the responsibility of protecting the overweight, emotionally disturbed friend with whom he has been playing hooky from 8th grade.

Secret of the Ruby Ring

Yvonne MacGrory 7

5–9 Lucy is given a magic ring that grants 2 wishes. She travels back in time with the first wish to an Irish castle in 1885 and loses the ring. Will she make it back to her own time? Winner of Ireland's Bistro Award for Best First Novel of the Year.

***Tears of a Tiger*, Sharon M. Draper [RL7 • IL7–12]**

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

***Trout Summer*, Jane Conely [RL4 • IL7+]**

Thirteen-year-old Shana and her 12-year-old brother Cody are staying at a forest cabin for the summer. Their tranquil days are upset when a troubled old man decides to go over the falls one last time.

***The Voices of Silence*, Bel Mooney [RL5 • IL5–9]**

Romanian life during Communist rule was hard on 13-year-old Flora, but she didn't mean to endanger her father—and now only she can save him. A Parents' Choice Gold Award winner.

***Wrestling Sturbridge*, Rich Wallace [RL6 • IL7–9]**

A coming-of-age book centered around seeking a place for himself, not only on the wrestling team, but also with his father, best friend, and girl friend.

Grade 8



Trustworthiness

***Carolina Autumn*, Carol Lynch Williams [RL3.8 • IL6–10]**

Carolina is recovering from the death of her father and her sister as well as dealing with a traitorous girlfriend, her first boyfriend, her first days of high school, and trying to repair a relationship with her grieving mother.

***The Eagle Kite*, Paula Fox [RL4.8 • IL8–12]**

Liam's father is dying from AIDS supposedly from a transfusion. Liam feels betrayed by his family's deceptions and lies.

***I'll Be Seeing You*, Lurlene McDaniel [RL5 • IL7–9]**

Carley must decide whether to tell handsome, hospitalized, possibly permanently blinded Kyle that she has a facial deformity and risk ruining their relationship.

***Ironman*, Chris Crutcher [RL7 • IL7+]**

Bo Brewster is forced to attend group anger-management classes. The group helps him understand his lifelong anger at his father and becomes his greatest support in training to be a triathlete.

***The Only Alien on the Planet*, Kristen D. Randle [RL6 • IL7–12]**

Ginny never thought she would fall for someone like Smitty. But the more she tries to understand his quiet pain, the more she falls deeply in love with him. Eventually, Smitty lets Ginny into his troubled, hidden world, and they begin the gradual process of healing—together.

***Slake's Limbo*, Felice Holman [RL5 • IL6–10]**

Thirteen-year-old Aremis Slake, a victim of life's hard knocks, goes underground but comes up stronger than ever.

***To JayKae: Life Stinx*, Jean Davies Okimoto [RL5 • IL5–10]**

Jason is miserable at home, but becomes even more miserable when his new cyber-girlfriend asks him to send her a picture, and he panics and instead sends her one of his handsome new step-brother.