

The John Pitman Library At Marymount of Santa Barbara

~ ~ ~ Summer Reading Sizzles ~ ~ ~

“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”
~Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Dear Marymount Community of Readers,

From those moments when reading first became possible, reading and a rich interior life have been close companions. Books engage the mind and the heart with an efficiency and delight no other advanced technology has yet matched.

We want our Marymount community to read, and to read well, because we believe that through the patient and active process of reading, we will come to know intimately ourselves and our place in the world.

If our students are to become life-long readers, they need time to read, they need to see that the adults around them value reading, and they need a variety of reading choices.

The Summer Reading Sizzles list offers suggestions of books arranged by age groups within types of characters, hoping to spark a conversation among readers of all ages.

Libraries speak your language!

The summer reading selections below are categorized as:

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|-----------------|---------------|
| ⇒ Balanced | ⇒ Open-minded |
| ⇒ Caring | ⇒ Principled |
| ⇒ Communicators | ⇒ Reflective |
| ⇒ Inquirers | ⇒ Risk-takers |
| ⇒ Knowledgeable | ⇒ Thinkers |

Suggestions for choosing books to read:

- Choose books that have themes your child will understand.
- Ask questions: Why do you think he did that? What do you think is going to happen next? What would happen if?
- Be dramatic in your reading. Use different voices for different characters
- Let your child read to you.
- Read slowly enough to let the story soak in.
- Every once in a while, run your finger along the words as you're reading them.
- Let your child turn the pages for you.
- Give your child plenty of time to look over the pictures.
- Share books with your child every day, even for a few minutes.
- Websites for Additional Book Lists:
 - www.ala.org
 - <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids/booknook/gradedbooklists>
 - <http://www.ttpl.org/kidsweb/books>

Balanced

The characters in these books understand the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Song and Dance Man Ackerman, Karen (4-6 years)
Three children follow their Grandpa to the attic. When he pulls out his top hat, cane, and tap shoes, they discover that he once was a dancer on the vaudeville stage.

Me, all alone, at the end of the world Anderson, M. T. (8-11 years)
This beautifully illustrated book depicts the quiet outdoor life of a content boy. One day, the boy's life, and the forest, is turned upside down by the construction of a theme park. The human impact on the environment is emphasized in this story.

I like Myself Beaumont, Karen (4-6 years)
In rhyming text, a little girl enthusiastically describes all the different aspects of herself, which she likes and would not change.

Gifts Bogart, JoEllen (5-7 years)
A grandmother travels the world bringing back mementos from everywhere she has been. In rhyming text the author describes the diverse interests of the grandmother.

A Fine, Fine School Creech, Sharon (5-9 years)
When Mr. Keene, the exemplary principle of this fine, fine school extends school to include Saturday, the entire weekend, and eventually the summer break, Tillie has to re-establish some balance between school life and other loves.

The Village of round and Square Houses Grifalconi, Ann (7-9 years)
From the perspective of the African village of Tos, a folktale explaining why the men live in square houses and the women live in round. Each group has time to be together and a time to be apart.

One of Each Hoberman, Mary Ann (5-8 years)
Oliver Tolliver, the terrier who lives alone in his perfect little house with one of everything, discovers through a chance encounter with an attractive cat lady that his life is unbalanced without friendships.

My Great-Aunt Arizona Houston, Gloria (7-9 years)
A true story, Arizona grew up to be a beloved teacher. She always dreamed of the places she would visit one day. Even though she never traveled to these places, she lived a full, rich life.

Cinder Enda Jackson, Ellen (5-9 years)
Cinderella and Cinder Edna were neighbors. Both worked long hours for their wicked step-mother and step-sisters. Their situations changed in different ways though. Cinderella is rescued by her fairy godmother, while Edna depends on strength, self-reliance, and a positive attitude to change her situation for the better.

The Gift of Nothing McDonnell, Patrick (5-9 years)
This book is an interesting look at our super-consumer society. Sometimes the only gift a friend can give to someone with everything is nothing but friendship.

- Albert le Blanc* Butterworth, Nick (5-8 years)
When Albert Le Blanc arrives at Mr. Jolly's toy shop, the other toys think that he is the saddest looking bear that they have ever seen. They devise a plan to cheer him up with hilarious and heart-warming results.
- A Circle of Friends* Carmi, Giora (7-9 years)
A young boy shares his snack with a homeless man to begin a cycle of sharing and caring. This is a story without words with delightful pen and ink drawings.
- Miss Rumphius* Cooney, Barbara (6-10 years)
After making her girlhood dreams of world travel and living by the sea come true, a retired librarian follows her grandfather's old advice of doing something to make the world more beautiful, and then passes that wisdom on to her grandniece.
- Bagels from Benny* Davis, Aubrey (5-8 years)
Benny inadvertently helps a homeless man when he regularly takes bagels to the synagogue for God. The story explores the values of caring, sharing, and giving thanks.
- Old Thomas and the Little Fairy* Demers, Dominique (7-10 years)
Old Thomas, an angry, bitter old man who lives by the sea, finds a little girl washed up on the shore. He nurses her back to health and again experiences happiness, companionship, and the joy of caring for another.
- Crispin the Pig who Had It All* Dewan, Ted (6-10 years)
Crispin is so spoiled that he fails to appreciate what he has, or to understand that people are more important than things. He learns a lesson in this Christmas story.
- Big Ben* Ellis, Sarah (5-7 years)
Ben thinks he's too little to do anything until his older siblings produce his first report card, grading him on all the things little brothers do best.
- The Cat Who Loved Potato Soup* Farrish, Terry (5-8 years)
This is a story of love and heroism. The cantankerous and delightful characters are an elderly man and his cat.
- Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* Fox, Mem (5-8 years)
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge is a little boy, who lives beside a nursing home. He has many friends there, but his favorite is Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper, because she has four names just like he does. When Miss Delacourt loses her memory, Wilfrid develops a plan to help her find it.
- Koala Lou* Fox, Mem (5-8 years)
Koala Lou decides to enter the Bush Olympics. Her mother has become so busy that she forgets to tell Koala Lou how much she loves her. Koala Lou hopes to win her mother's love and a medal all at the same time.

Erika's Story Innocenti, Roberto (9 years +)
In 1944, a young child is thrown from a train bound for a Nazi death camp. She was raised by a woman, who risked her own life to save her. This is a haunting and beautiful recollection of Erika's experiences.

Rose Blanche Innocenti, Roberto (9-12 years)
During World War II, a young German girl's curiosity leads her to discover a group of starving children imprisoned by the Nazi regime. Secretly, she visits regularly to bring food to them. This story of compassion and caring amidst the horrors of war is most suitable for students in grade 5 and up.

Frog and Toad are Friends Lobel, Arnold (4-7 years)
Five tales recount the adventures of two best friends--Frog and Toad. Friends appreciate each other's strengths and forgive weaknesses.

Chicken Sunday Polacco, Patricia (7-10 years)
Three children of different races and religions join forces to purchase a special Easter hat for their beloved grandmother and friend, Miss Eula.

Mrs. Katz and Tush Polacco, Patricia (7-10 years)
Larnel, a Young African-American boy, and Ms. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, begin a special and supportive friendship when Larnel gives Mrs. Tush an abandoned kitten.

Thank You, Mrs. Falker Polacco, Patricia (7-11 years)
At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

Silver Packages Rylant, Cynthia (7-11 years)
Every year at Christmas a rich man rides a train through Appalachia and throws gifts to the poor children, who are waiting, so that he can repay a debt he owes the people who live there.

Whale Brother Steiner, Barbara (7-10 years)
Omu is a young Inuit boy who aspires to be a carver and a musician. He is frustrated in his efforts by a lack of maturity and depth of feeling. His discovery of a pod of killer whales, and his care of its dying leader, provide the inspiration and insight to develop his talents to the fullest.

Communicators

The characters in these stories understand, and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Diary of a Spider Cronin, Doreen (6-9 years)
This book is a simple and comical journal from a young spider's perspective.

Diary of a Worm Cronin, Doreen (6-9 years)
This book is a simple and comical journal from a young worm's perspective.

- Click Clack Moo* Cronin, Doreen (6-9 years)
The farm animals communicate to Farmer Brown by typing and writing their demands.
- Dear Tooth Fairy* Durant, Alan (5-7 years)
This book details letters between the tooth fairy and a little girl, who is uncertain about giving up her newly loosened tooth.
- Diary of a Wombat* French, Jackie. (5-7 years)
Few words are used to describe the antics of a wombat's everyday life.
- The Crow that went OINK* Moot, Bernard (7-9 years)
This comical barnyard tale centers on a cow that 'OINKS,' who strikes up a friendship with a pig. This duo help each other to eventually be accepted by the other animals.
- Sitti's Secrets* Nye, Naomi Shihab (9-11 years)
An American girl visits her grandmother, who does not speak English, in her Middle Eastern village. The book illustrates their new relationship, despite the language difference.
- I Speak English for my Mom* Stanek, Muriel (9-11 years)
A young Mexican American girl must translate for her mother, until one day, her mother realizes that she must learn English in order to find a better job.
- Dear Baby; Letter from Your Big Brother* Sullivan, Sarah (7-9 years)
Before the arrival of his baby brother, Mike decides to write letters to him, which detail several humorous, heartfelt family moments.
- Dear Mrs. LaRue; Letters from Obedience School* Teague, Mark (9-11 years)
Detective LaRue; Letters from the Investigation. Sequel
This hilarious book is comprised of letters that Ike, the dog writes to his owner, Mrs. LaRue, of why he wrongfully has been sent to obedience school.

Inquirers

The characters in these plot lines develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research, and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning, and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

- More than Anything Else* Bradby, Marie (5-8 years)
This is the story of the young life of Booker T. Washington, as he works with his father and brother in a salt mine, but dreams of the day when he will be able to read.
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears* Brett, Jan (4-7 years)
Lost in the woods, a tired and hungry girl finds the house of the three bears where she helps herself to food and goes to sleep.
- The Mitten* Brett, Jan (4-7 years)
Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes.

- Odd Boy Out; Young Albert Einstein* Brown, Don (5-8 years)
This picture book biography of Albert Einstein, focuses on his oddness as a child, and his disinterest in school, and the significance of his discoveries in physics.
- Verdi* Cannon, Janell (5-8 years)
A young python does not want to grow slow and boring like the older snakes he sees in the tropical jungle where he lives.
- Counting on Frank* Clement, Rod (7-12 years)
A boy and his dog present amusing counting, size comparison, and mathematical facts.
- Are You My Mother?* Eastman, P. D. (4-7 years)
A little bird, who has fallen out of the nest, asks animals, planes, and boats, “Are you my mother?” until he finds his own mother.
- Olivia . . . and the Missing Toy* Falconer, Ian (4-8 years)
When her best toy mysteriously disappears, Olivia the feisty pig is determined to find out who is responsible.
- Stella, Queen of the Snow* Gay, Marie-Louise (4-7 years)
Stella answers all of Sam’s questions about snow while introducing him to playing in it.
- Around the World: Who’s Been Here?* George, Lindsay Barrett (5-8 years)
A teacher travels around the world viewing animals in their natural habitats and writes back to her class about her findings.
- Small Green Snake* Gray, Libba Moore (4-7 years)
Despite his mother’s warning not to wander, Small Green Snake wiggles away to investigate a new sound from across the garden wall.
- The Snowy Day* Keats, Ezra Jack (4-7 years)
The book follows the adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.
- The Librarian Who Measured the Earth* Lasky, Kathryn (8-12 years)
This book describes the life and work of Eratosthenes, the Greek geographer and astronomer, who accurately measured the circumference of the Earth.
- Why Explore?* Lendroth, Susan (5-8 years)
This is the ultimate statement in a picture book form of humanity’s thirst for knowledge.
- What the Animals Were Waiting For* London, Jonathan (5-9 years)
This book tells the story of the dramatic cycles of life on the African savannah.
- The Name of the Tree* Lottridge, Celia Barker (5-9 years)
When the other animals fail at the task, the slow but wise turtle finds a way to obtain the bountiful fruits of a magic tree.

- Snowflake Bentley* Martin, Jacqueline Briggs (5-9 years)
This is a biography of a self-taught scientist, who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formation.
- Meteor!* Polacco, Patricia (5-9 years)
A quiet rural community is dramatically changed when a meteor crashes down in the front yard of the Gaw family.
- Curious George Visits the Library* (or other titles) Rey, Margret & H. A. (4-7 years)
Curious George arrives at the library just in time for story hour, but it is hard for the little monkey to sit still.
- Starry Messenger* Sis, Peter (8-12 years)
This book depicts the life of the famous scientist, mathematician, astronomer, philosopher, physicist, Galileo Galilei.
- From One to One Hundred* Sloat, Teri (4-7 years)
An ingenious counting book, with thousands of items imaginatively arranged for finding.
- Yellow & Pink* Steig, William (6-10 years)
Two painted wooden figures argue about where they came from, whether they just happened by accident, or were created by some other being.
- Where are you going, Manyoni?* Stock, Catherine (5-8 years)
The story is of a child's long walk to school in rural Zimbabwe, encountering several wild animals on the way.
- How much is a Million?* Swartz, David M. (6-9 years)
Text and pictures try to make possible the conceptualization of a million, a billion, and a trillion.
- Jumanji* Van Allsburg, Chris (8-12 years)
Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game.

Knowledgeable

These stories explore concepts, ideas, and issues that have local and global significance. They acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon Atkins, Jeannine (9-11 years)
Mary Anning knew how to remove fossils safely from their rocky bed and how to recognize something different about the row of teeth, which led to her discovery of the first fossil skeleton. This was the knowledge gained through hand and eye and from patience and experience.

One Grain of Rice Demi (8-10 years)
The knowledge of arithmetic enables the young girl to outwit the greedy rajah, who refuses to share his stored rice with his starving people.

My Great-Aunt Arizona Houston, Gloria (7-11 years)
Knowledge of the world through travel was a dream that Great-Aunt Arizona could never afford, but she gained knowledge that next best way --- through her books.

What You Know First MacLachlan, Patricia (7-11 years)
The family is preparing to move away from their farm and the elder daughter is reflecting on all the things she knew and loved from her earliest days so that when her baby brother is older she can tell him all about the farm.

How to Dig a Hole to the Other Side of the World McNulty, Faith (8-10 years)
Children marvel at this book because of the amazing description and measurements of the interior of our planet and because of how all of this was calculated.

The Bee Tree Polacco, Patricia (6-11 years)
To show his granddaughter the value of books, a grandfather leads a growing crowd in search of the tree, where the bees keep all their honey.

Officer Buckle and Gloria Rathman, Peggy (7-9 years)
Office Buckler knows all about safety, but when he tries to impart that knowledge to the students in school, he bores them to sleep. No matter, because his dog, Gloria, knows all this stuff too, and she knows exactly how to make the children sit up and take note!

The Houdini Box Selznick, Brian (9-11 years)
Houdini has promised to tell young Victor the secrets of all his famous escaping tricks, but he dies before he can share them. All he leaves for the boy is a locked box with someone else's initials on it. Surely this cannot contain the knowledge Victor craves?

Ibn Sina (Avicenna) Prince of Physicians Shah-Kazemi, Reza (8-11 years)
This is an exquisitely illustrated picture book biography about the scholar, whose vast knowledge of the human body and medicine made him one of the greatest figures in the history of medicine.

If the World Were a Village Smith, David J. (10+ years)
This book details the basic facts about the numbers, nationalities, and needs of humanity across the globe. You need a good map of the world in addition to the book. There's information that will startle and provoke much thinking and discussion.

Tops and Bottoms Stevens, Janet (7-9 years)
Hare and Bear negotiate over the kitchen garden. The deal is one takes the tops and the other takes the bottoms of the veggies. Hare knows his vegetables, so he always knows which way to call it in order to stay on top of his game.

The Library Stewart, Sarah (5-10 years)
Elizabeth Brown loves to read more than anything else, but when her collection of books grows and grows, she must make a change in her life.

Voices of Ancient Egypt Winters, Kay (9-11 years)
If the worker of Ancient Egypt could speak to us, how much more we would know about their lives. Writing in role, the author has created a fascinating and compelling way to extend our knowledge.

Heckedy Peg Wood, Audrey (7-11 years)
A mother is able to rescue her children from the witch because she knows them so well.

Open-minded

The characters in these books understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values, and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Herb, the Vegetarian Dragon Bass, Jules (5-8 years)
Herb, a gentle vegetarian is wrongly accused of eating people. Herb is rescued by a brave girl who convinces the other knights to accept his lifestyle.

Old Henry Blos, Joan (5-9 years)
When an unusual man named Henry moves into a vacant house, the people in the community criticize him for his untidy house and yard. They make several attempts to change him, but Henry will have none of it. Finally he gets fed up with the neighbors, packs up, and moves away. Henry and the community end up being unhappy with this outcome.

Stellaluna Cannon, Janell (5-8 years)
When a baby bat is knocked out of his mother's safe arms, she lands in a bird's nest. Stellaluna must learn to adapt to the lifestyle of a bird, even though she finds their habits very peculiar. She discovers that even though they are very different, they are very much alike.

The Camel's Lament Carryl, Charles (5-8 years)
This humorous poem is about a camel, who compares his life with that of many other animals. While the camel comments on the living conditions of the other animals, he surmises that anyplace does for him.

The Brand New Kid Couric, Katie (6-9 years)
Laslo, the new boy in second grade, speaks and dresses differently than the other students. Instead of welcoming him, the children taunt and tease him, and exclude him for their games. Ellie finally realizes that his life is miserable and invites him to play, discovering that he is not that different from her. She then invites her friends to try to get to know him.

Snow in Jerusalem Da Costa, Deborah (6-9 years)
Two boys, one Muslim and one Jewish, living in different quarters of Jerusalem, discover that they have been caring for the same white cat. At first they are angry at each other, and jealous of the cat's attention. Eventually they work out a compromise which suits all three of them.

- Oliver Button is a Sissy* De Paola, Tomie (5-8 years)
Oliver Button is teased and ostracized because he prefers to dance and read and paint rather than play sports. When he participates in a contest and loses, he is disappointed until his classmates recognize him.
- The Sissy Duckling* Fierstein, Harvey (5-8 years)
Unlike any of the other boy ducklings, Elmer likes to draw, bake, and perform puppet shows. When Elmer plays baseball with the other boys, it is a disaster, and he later hears his father call him a sissy. In the end, Elmer proves himself a hero, and the other ducks begin to accept him for who he is.
- Feathers and Fools* Fox, Mem (6-8 years)
This is a contemporary fable about a flock of peacocks and a flock of swans, who fear each other because of their perceived differences. Over time their fears escalate, and the flocks begin to fight; killing until every bird is dead. There is hope for peace in the future when two surviving eggs hatch and the baby birds notice how very much alike they are.
- How My Parent Learned to Eat* Friedman, Ina (7-10 years)
An American soldier meets and falls in love with a Japanese woman, and she with him. They are self-conscious because he can't use chopsticks, and she has no idea how to use a knife and fork. They refuse to eat with each other, until it is time for the soldier's ship to leave, and he wants to ask her to marry him. In the end they both try to learn the other's way of eating.
- Teammates* Golenblock, Peter (8-11 years)
This story recounts the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson, when he became the first black player to join the previously all white Brooklyn Dodgers during the 1940s. This story describes the acceptance and support that Jackie received from his team mate Pee Wee Reese.
- Henry and the Kite Dragon* Hall, Bruce Edward (6-9 years)
Based on true events, this is the story of a group of Chinese American children, who help Grandfather Chin make gorgeous kites. When the local children from the Italian part of town continually throw stones and ruin these kites, the Chinese children become very angry and decide to retaliate. Soon they discover that the Italian children are only trying to protect their pet pigeons, who are frightened of the kites. Once each side understands the others' problem, they quickly work out a solution.
- Amazing Grace* Hoffman, Mary (6-9 years)
Although a classmate says that Grace cannot play the part of Peter Pan in the school play, because she is a black girl, Grace decides, that she will try. Grace discovers, with the help and support of her family, that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.
- The Most Magnificent Mosque* Jungman, Ann (6-8 years)
Three naughty boys, play in the gardens of the great mosque in Cordoba. When the boys are seen throwing rotten oranges, and are caught by the Caliph's soldiers, their punishment is to work in the gardens of the mosque. When they grow up and discover that the mosque is to be torn down by a Christian king, the young men decide that they must speak up on behalf of the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims, who all value the mosque.

Hooway for Wodney Wat Lester, Helen (5-8 years)
Rodney is the object of constant teasing from his classmates, because he has a speech impediment. When a new student arrives at school who bullies the entire class, Rodney rises to the occasion and drives her away.

Hope Monk, Isabell (7-10 years)
Hope loves spending time with her great-aunt, but one day the visit is spoiled by a thoughtless, ignorant comment by one of Aunt Poogee's friends. Later that night, Aunt Poogee tells Hope the story of her name, of the strength and courage of her ancestors, and the significance of her mixed-race heritage.

Ish Reynolds, Peter (5-9 years)
Ramon is devastated one day when his older brother laughs at his drawings. He is frustrated by trying to make them look just right, until his little sister's enthusiasm allows him to look at his art in a new way.

Wanda's Monster Spinelli, Eileen (5-7 years)
Wanda is frightened of the monster in her closet, despite what her parents and brother tell her. But Granny helps Wanda understand the monster's point of view, which gives Wanda a whole new perspective.

Pugdog U'Ren, Andrea (5-8 years)
When Mike discovers that his new puppy is a female, he begins to treat her differently. Mike's pre-conceived ideas regarding the proper way to treat a female are completely lost on Pug herself. This is an amusing examination of gender-role stereotypes.

Odd Velvet Whitcomb, Mary (5-8 years)
Velvet is an unusual girl, who dresses and behaves differently, and is ignored by the other girls in her class. As the year unfolds, the children discover that her different behaviors make her an interesting person, and they come to appreciate her.

The Other Side Woodson, Jacqueline (6-9 years)
Two girls, one white and one black, gradually come to know each other by sitting together on the fence that is meant to divide them. At the end of the summer, Clove and Annie, jump off the fence to play together with the other girls, who earlier, would have nothing to do with Annie.

Share the Sky Ye, Ting-xing (6-9 years)
When a young Chinese girl, who lives with her grandparents, finally rejoins her parents in Canada, she is full of doubts. She has many misconceptions, but soon learns that life in the new land, though different in many ways, is full of excitement and wonder, and is not so very different after all.

Principled

The characters in these stories act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice, and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups, and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Koi and the Kola Nuts: A tale from Liberia Aardema, Verna (5-8 years)

An African folktale in which the son of the chief must make his way in the world with only a sack full of kola nuts, and the help of some creatures that he has treated with kindness. He discovers that his selfless acts are repaid in full measure.

The Gold Coin Ada, Alma Flor (6-9 years)

Juan has been a thief for many years. When he follows Doña Josefa to steal her gold, he encounters many people, who have been helped by the old woman. By the time he finds her, he has been transformed from his experiences into someone who knows the joys of honest work and helping others.

A Picture Book of Rosa Parks Adler, David A. (7-9 years)

This is a simple biography in picture book form suitable for primary and lower junior readers.

The Summer My Father was Ten Brisson, Pat (6-9 years)

While planting a garden together, a father recalls to his daughter how, when he was a child, he participated in ruining a neighbor's garden. In time, he musters up the courage to apologize to the old man, and attempts to make up for the vandalism by helping to replant the garden.

A Day's Work Bunting, Eve (7-10 years)

Francisco, a young Mexican American boy, is desperate to help his Spanish-speaking grandfather find a job. Without thinking, he lies to his employer about his grandfather's qualifications. When the two pull plants instead of weeds, Francisco is mortified. When his grandfather learns the truth, he insists on redoing the work before being paid.

Your Move Bunting, Eve (9-11 years)

One night while their mom is at work, ten-year-old James and his six-year-old brother, Isaac, meet a group of boys, who give James some tasks to perform as an initiation into their gang. After participating in an act of vandalism, and confronting some dangerous older boys, James worries that he has placed his younger brother at risk. James finds the courage to refuse the gang's offer of membership.

Guji Guji Chen, Chih-Yuan (5-8 years)

Guji Guji is a crocodile born into a family of ducks. He loves his family. One day three bad crocodiles try to persuade Guji Guji to serve up his duckling brothers and sisters to them. Instead he thinks of a clever way to stop them and teach them a lesson.

The Name Jar Choi, Yangsook (7-10 years)

A young girl is embarrassed by her unusual Korean name, and wishes to change it on the first day of school in America. She is encouraged to be known by her Korean name, after several English names don't suit her and the special meaning of her Korean name.

The Story of Ruby Bridges Coles, Robert (9-11 years)
Repeatedly, Ruby walked through the jeering mob of white parents into her empty classroom. She could have enjoyed going to school with her fellow black children, but she, like her parents, believed that she was doing the right thing for the whole black community.

The Yellow Star: Deedy, Carmen Agra (9-11 years)
The Legend of King Christian of Denmark King Christian knew he could not save Denmark from Hitler's armies, but he refused to co-operate with them. Led by their king, every Danish citizen donned the yellow star in order to thwart the Nazis' effort to identify Danish Jews.

Reginald Newman, Jeff (5-7 years)
A humorous story about a bull named Reginald, who lives in the jungle with some very unwelcoming animals. Reginald is always true to himself, and ignores the threats, taunts, and teasing of the other jungle residents. By being consistently friendly and helpful, he eventually earns their respect.

A Bad Case of Stripes Shannon, David (6-8 years)
Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she refuses to eat them because she is willing to do anything to fit in with her friends. When Camilla arrives at school, she begins to take on the appearance of everything around her. The problem escalates until an old woman encourages her to eat some lima beans. Camilla learns that appearances aren't as important as being true to oneself.

The Composition Skarmeta, Antonio (9-11 years)
Set in a military dictatorship in Latin America, this book explores the moral dilemma faced by a third grade student named Pedro. He is asked by a government official to betray his parents by writing a composition about "What My Family Does at Night." Pedro decides to lie to the officials to protect his family.

Freedom on the Menu: Weatherford, Carole Boston (9-11 years)
Young blacks take a stand against discrimination at the lunch counter, and the civil rights movement takes a big step forward. This is a picture book version of a true story.

Reflective

The characters in the stories on this list give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

The Cat Who Walked Across France Banks, Kate (6-8 years)
After his owner dies, a cat wanders the countryside of France, unable to forget the home he had in the stone house by the edge of the sea.

Only Opal: The Diary of a Young Girl Cooney, Barbara (7-9 years)
A touching diary of Opal Whiteley, an orphaned child, who works hard for her foster family, but has her own secret dreams.

Stormy Night Lemieux, Michele (7-10 years)
A child and her dog ponder life's great questions throughout a story night.

- Zen Shorts Muth, Jon J. (7-10 years)
Three classic Zen stories are told in a frame story of three children, who meet a strange and wonderful bear.
- Christmas Tapestry Polacco, Patricia (8-11 years)
Jonathan is unhappy about his family's first Christmas in their new parish, but when a chance meeting leads to a Christmas miracle, he understands why things happened as they did.
- Michael Rosen's Sad Book Rosen, Michael (8-11 years)
They author looks back with sadness and joy at the too-short life of his son, Eddie.
- Many Moons Thurber, James (8-10 years)
This is the classic story of a little girl, who solves the problem of how have the moon.
- Elsina's Clouds Winter, Jeanette (6-8 years)
A young Basotho girl from South Africa paints her house and waits for her ancestors to bring the rain.

Risk-takers

The characters in these book approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought. They exhibit the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas, and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

- Another Important Book* Brown, Margaret Wise (4-8 years)
Illustrations and simple rhyming text describe how a child grows from ages one through six.
- The Important Book* Brown, Margaret Wise (4-8 years)
Points out how all things, from an apple to a spoon, and from the sky to a shoe, have certain important qualities that are special about them, and that the most important thing about you is that you are you.
- Roller Coaster* Frazee, Marla (4-7years)
Twelve people set aside their fears and ride a roller coaster, including one person, who has never done so before.
- The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* Gerstein, Mordecai (5-12 years)
A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.
- Courage to Fly* Harrison, Troon (7-10 years)
Meg has come to the city from a small Caribbean island, and is finding it hard to adjust to the city with its high buildings---she stays in her apartment, afraid to go out. She learns that, like the little injured bird she rescues, she needs to brace the outside world and fly in order to flourish.
- Sheila Rae, the Brave* Henkes, Kevin (4-8 years)
When brave Sheila Rae, who usually looks out for her sister Louise, becomes lost and scared one day, Louise comes to the rescue.

Alfie Gets in First Hughes, Shirley (3-7 years)
Alfie accidentally locks his mother and baby sister Annie Rose outside, and can't reach the latch to let them in. Soon the whole neighborhood is involved in getting the door open.

Mirette on the High Wire McCully, Emily Arnold (4-8 years)
Mirette learns tightrope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a celebrated tightrope artist, who has withdrawn from performing because of fear.

Name of the Child Reynolds, Marilyn (7-10 years)
Sent to stay with his aunt and uncle on an isolated farm to avoid the flu epidemic of 1919, a fearful boy must save a baby by driving a wagon through the deserted countryside in a terrible rainstorm.

Emily Just in Time Slepian, Jan (6-8 years)
As a small girl grows from "not-being-able" to "now-she-can" she wonders if she will ever spend a whole night at her grandmother's house without being afraid.

Brave Irene Steig, William (4-8 years)
Brave Irene, the dressmaker's daughter, ventures out into a fierce snowstorm to deliver the beautiful ball gown her mother has made for the duchess.

Suki's Kimono Uegaki, Chieri (7-9 years)
A little girl declares that on the first day of school she will wear the kimono that her grandmother brought her during her visit from Japan, no matter what anyone says.

Ira Sleeps Over Waber, Bernard (6-8 years)
A little boy is excited at the prospect of spending the night at his friend's house, but worries how he'll get along without his teddy bear, Foo Foo.

Courage Waber, Bernard (7-10 years)
This book provides examples of the many kinds of courage found in everyday life, and in unusual circumstances, from tasting the vegetable before making a face, to being a firefighter or police officer.

Little Farmer Joe Whybrow, Ian (5-7 years)
During the first night he has ever spent away from home, Joe helps his uncle with a sheep and her new baby lamb, and finds that comforting the animals helps lessen his own fear.

Thinkers

These books present characters, who exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Leonardo and the Flying Boy Anholt, Laurence (8-11 years)
Readers learn about da Vinci's numerous accomplishments in art, engineering, and science in this story of the experiences of his young apprentices.

- Elephants Can Paint Too!* Arnold, Katya (5-11 years)
In this true story about Asian elephants, readers learn about a program that teaches these great creatures how to paint.
- I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* Beaumont, Karen (5-8 years)
The child in this story decides to paint himself when he is told not paint the walls. To the tune of "It ain't gonna rain no more," this delightful story teaches children about music, art, and the human body.
- Crickwing* Cannon, Janell (5-8 years)
Crickwing is a cockroach with a talent for sculpting. A good idea combined with his artistic talent saves the day when leaf-cutter ants are attacked by their enemies, the army ants.
- Emily's Art* Catalanotto, Peter (5-8 years)
Even though the judge at the first grade art show mistakes Emily's picture of her dog for a rabbit, Emily continues to work to improve her artistic skills.
- Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson* Ehrlich, Amy (7-11 years)
Biologist and environmentalist, Rachel Carson, is described as a person who was always curious and wondering. This biography of the author of the "Silent Spring" is an inspiring account of the power of individuals to make a difference in the world.
- Westlandia* Fleischman, Paul (7-11 years)
Wesley decides to make his own civilization during the summer vacation. Working in his backyard, he uses his imagination and skill to create a unique and self-sufficient community.
- Dog's Night* Hooper, Meredith (7-11 years)
Once a year after the museum closes for the night, all of the dogs in the paintings at the National Gallery, jump out of their pictures for a night of fun in the museum's halls. One year some of the dogs return to the wrong pictures. This story offers an enjoyable approach to art appreciation and the creativity expressed in the works of several artist.
- Galimoto* Karen, Lynn (5-8 years)
In Africa, a toy vehicle made of wire called a galimoto, is made by a small boy named Kondi. He must wander throughout the village to find what he needs amidst discarded materials. He then designs and creates the toy for all of the village children to enjoy.
- Baseball Bats for Christmas* Kusuqak, Michael (5-7years)
The children of the Arctic community of Repulse Bay have never seen trees. They decide that the funny things sent to them on year at Christmas must be baseball bats. Christmas trees are used in a novel and creative way.
- The Librarian Who Measured the Earth* Lasky, Kathryn (9-11 years)
The Greek philosopher Eratosthenes was the writer of the first geography book, and the first to discover how to accurately measure the circumference of the earth. Many colorful illustrations accompany the explanations of his work.

Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life MacLeod, Elizabeth (9-11 years)
Many of Alexander Graham Bell's inventions are highlighted in MacLeod's biography of a great inventor and thinker. Photographs and reproductions of Bell's original drawings provide a fascinating visual account of his work.

Katie and the Mona Lisa Mayhew, James (8-11 years)
Katie is invited into one of the most famous paintings in the world, the Mona Lisa, by the Mona Lisa herself. Together they visit other artists of the Italian Renaissance.

Katie Meets the Impressionists Mayhew, James (8-11 years)
On a visit to an art gallery with her grandmother, Katie becomes so interested in the work of the Impressionists that she enters the paintings of Renoir, Monet, and Degas.

The Dot Reynolds, Peter (5-9 years)
This is the tale about the creative spirit in all of us. Vashti is a little girl who can't draw. Her teacher's invitation to "make a mark and see where it takes you," leads Vashti on a surprising journey.

The Genius of Leonardo Visconti, Guido (9-11 years)
This biographical account of the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci is told by his servant, Giacomo. Many of da Vinci's original words and drawings are included.

The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq Winter, Jeanette (8-11 years)
A librarian in war-torn Iraq is determined to protect and save her community's priceless collection of books. Alia Muhammad Baker's creative solutions for saving the books amidst bombings and fires and danger to personal safety are an inspiration to all who love books.