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CHARACTER COUNTS!SM



Books emphasizing the Six Pillars of CharacterSM

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Citizenship

Updated October 2008

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COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.
www.charactercounts.org

Trustworthiness

Think "true blue"

- Be honest
- Don't deceive, cheat or steal
- Be reliable — do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

Books to Support this Character Trait:

Franklin Fibs
J-PIC BOURGEOIS

In this funny story, Franklin learns it's always better to tell the truth.

The Principal's New Clothes
J-PIC CALMENSEN

In this version of the Andersen tale two tailors persuade the vain principal of P.S. 88 that they will make him an amazing, one-of-a-kind, suit that will be visible only to intelligent people who are good at their jobs.

Swimmy
J-PIC LIONNI

Swimmy, a small orphaned fish, shows his friends how, with ingenuity and hard work, they can conquer their fears and overcome the dangers of the wet world.

The Honest-to-Goodness Truth
J-PIC MCKISSACK

After promising never to lie, Libby learns that it's not always necessary to blurt out the whole truth either.

Brave Irene
J-PIC STEIG

When her mother, the town dressmaker, falls ill, little Irene Bobbin braves a fierce snowstorm and other perils and pitfalls to deliver a beautiful ball gown to the duchess.

A Bargain for Frances
J-EASY HOBAN blue dot

Thelma usually outsmarts Frances until Frances decides to teach her a lesson about friendship.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
J-FIC AVI

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

On My Honor
J-FIC BAUER

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook
J-FIC PARKER

Junie B. Jones experiences glee while showing off her new furry mittens in kindergarten, but disaster strikes when they disappear from the playground.

The Empty Pot
J398.2 DEMI

When Ping admits that he is the only child in China unable to grow a flower from the seeds distributed by the Emperor, he is rewarded for his honesty.

The Lion's Whiskers: An Ethiopian Folktale
J398.2 Day

In this tale from the Amhara people of Ethiopia, a patient woman uses her experience with a wild lion to win the love of her new stepson.

Citizenship

Think regal purple as representing the state

- Do your share to make your school and community better
- Cooperate
- Get involved in community affairs
- Stay informed; vote
- Be a good neighbor
- Obey laws and rules
- Respect authority
- Protect the environment

Books to Support this Character Trait:

The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore)
J-PIC BERENSTAIN

The bears in Bear Country grow concerned about how pollution and waste of natural resources are damaging the world around them, so they form The Earthsavers Club.

Old Henry
J-PIC BLOS

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

Crickwing
J-PIC CANNON

A lonely cockroach named Crickwing has a creative idea that saves the day for the leaf-cutter ants when their fierce forest enemies attack them.

Seedfolks
J-PIC FLEISCHMAN

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.

A Pig is Moving In!
J-PIC FRIES

Dr. Fox, Henrietta Hen, and Nick Hare are worried when a pig moves in, but they are pleasantly surprised at what a good neighbor he turns out to be.

Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons
J-PIC ROSENTHAL

Using the activity of making and eating cookies, this book defines important concepts such as respect, cooperation and patience.

Mr. Putter & Tabby See the Stars
J-EASY RYLANT blue dot

When Mr. Putter cannot sleep after eating too many of Mrs. Teaberry's pineapple jelly rolls, he and Tabby take a moonlit stroll that ends with the perfect neighborly gathering.

Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole
J-EASY YEE yellow dot

Mouse and his downstairs neighbor, Mole, discover that when they help each other, housecleaning and other daily tasks are much easier.

Aldo Ice Cream
J-FIC HURWITZ

Nine-year-old Aldo discovers the pleasures of doing volunteer work to help the older citizens of the community and the satisfactions of earning his first money on his own for unselfish reasons.

The Next-Door Dogs
J-FIC RODOWSKY

Although terrified of dogs, nine-year-old Sara forces herself to face a Labrador retriever and a Dalmatian when she must help her next-door neighbor, who has fallen and broken her leg.

Stone Soup
J398.2 MUTH

Three wise monks trick a poor, frightened community into finding happiness by teaching them the magic of generosity.

Caring

Think of a heart

- Be kind
- Be compassionate and show you care
- Express gratitude
- Forgive others
- Help people in need

Books to Support this Character Trait:

The Scarebird

J-PIC FLEISCHMAN

A lonely old farmer realizes the value of human friendship when a young man comes to help him and his scarecrow with their farm.

I Like Your Buttons!

J-PIC LAMSTEIN

When a little girl compliments her teacher about the buttons on her outfit, it starts a chain reaction of goodwill, good deeds, and thoughtfulness throughout the day.

Enemy Pie

J-PIC MUNSON

Hoping that the enemy pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend.

A Chair for My Mother

J-PIC WILLIAMS

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

Mr. Popper's Penguins

J-FIC ATWATER

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

Because of Winn-Dixie

J-FIC DICAMILLO

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Martin's Mice

J-FIC KING-SMITH

A farm cat who doesn't want to catch mice keeps a family of them as pets in the barn; but then he is given away to a townswoman and acquires a new perspective.

Bridge to Terabithia

J-FIC PATERSON

J-NEWBERRY PATERSON

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a cultivated newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Toads and Diamonds

J398.2 HUCK

Two step-sisters receive appropriate gifts for their actions: one's words are accompanied by flowers and jewels, the other's by toads and snakes.

The Black Geese: A Baba Yaga Story from Russia

J398.2 LURIE

When her little brother is taken away by the black geese belonging to the terrible witch, Baba Yaga, Elena searches for him in the great dark forest.

Brave Jack and the Unicorn

J398.2 MCNAUGHTON

Sent out into the world to find his missing older brothers, Jack does good deeds for helpless animals along the way, and they repay him when he poses as a suitor to try and save a princess from an evil magician.

Respect

Think The Golden Rule

- Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

Books to Support this Character Trait:

Three Cheers for Catherine the Great

J-PIC BEST

Sara's Russian grandmother has requested that there be no presents at her seventy-eighth birthday party so Sara must think of a gift from her heart.

Clifford's Manners

J-PIC BRIDWELL

Everyone loves Clifford, the big red dog, because Emily Elizabeth has taught him such beautiful manners.

Chester's Way

J-PIC HENKES

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.

Amazing Grace

J-PIC HOFFMAN

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 do.

Do Unto Otters

J-PIC KELLER

Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.

Hooway for Wodney Wat

J-PIC LESTER

All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he can't pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's speech impediment that drives away the class bully.

Monster Manners

J-PIC ROBERTS

An assortment of monsters demonstrate good and bad manners.

Yoko

J-PIC WELLS

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

Don't Hit Me

J-EASY FORD red dot

When best friends get mad over a game of chess, one strikes out and the other reminds him that they should use their words, not their fists, when they disagree. Includes activity ideas for parents and children.

Blubber

J-FIC BLUME

Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target.

Sarah, Plain and Tall

J-FIC MACLACHLAN

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Feathers: A Jewish Tale from Eastern Europe

J398.2 FOREST

A wise rabbi uses a pillow full of feathers to teach a gossipy villager a lesson.

Responsibility

Think being responsible for a garden or finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Persevere: keep on trying!
- Always do your best
- Use self-control • Be self-disciplined
- Think before you act — consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your choices

Books to Support this Character Trait:

Arthur's Computer Disaster J-PIC BROWN

Arthur disobeys his mother by playing his favorite game on her computer, which leads to a lesson in taking responsibility for one's actions.

Miss Rumphius J-PIC COONEY

As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.

Goldilocks Returns J-PIC ERNST

Thirty years after Goldilocks first met the three bears, she returns to fix up their cottage and soothe her guilty conscience.

Erandi's Braids J-PIC MADRIGAL

In a poor Mexican village, Erandi surprises her mother by offering to sell her long, beautiful hair in order to raise enough money to buy a new fishing net.

Horton Hatches the Egg J-PIC SEUSS

When a lazy bird hatching an egg wants a vacation, she asks Horton, the elephant, to sit on her egg--which he does through all sorts of hazards until he is rewarded for doing what he said he would.

My Father's Dragon J-FIC GANNETT

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.

Stone Fox J-FIC GARDINER

In spite of tremendous odds, a ten-year-old boy and his dog are determined to win a dogsled race and the five-hundred-dollar prize.

A Doll Named Dora Anne J-FIC MCDONOUGH

Although her grandmother thinks that Kate is ready to own an heirloom porcelain doll, her mother disagrees until Kate proves herself responsible.

Hatchet J-FIC PAULSEN

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Strega Nona: An Old Tale J398.2 DEPAOLA

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

Tops and Bottoms J398.2 STEVENS

Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the rich and lazy bear down the road.

Fairness

Think of dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded; listen to others
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame others carelessly

Books to Support this Character Trait:

The Pain and the Great One J-PIC BLUME

A six-year-old (The Pain) and his eight-year-old sister (The Great One) see each other as troublemakers and the best-loved in the family.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse J-PIC HENKES

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her to wait a while before showing her new purse, she does something for which she is very sorry later.

Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores J-PIC HOWE

Three mice friends learn that the best clubs include everyone.

Me First J-PIC LESTER

Pinkerton the pig always manages to be first until he rushes for a sandwich and it turns out not to be the edible kind.

The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza J-PIC STURGES

In this version of the traditional tale, the duck, the dog, and the cat refuse to help the Little Red Hen make a pizza but do get to participate when the time comes to eat it.

The Garden of Abdul Gasazi J-PIC VAN ALLSBURG

When the dog he is caring for runs away from Alan into the forbidden garden of a retired dog-hating magician, a spell seems to be cast over the contrary dog.

Dear Mr. Henshaw J-FIC CLEARY

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh J-FIC OBRIEN

Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.

The Adventures of Spider: West African Folktales J398.2 ARKHURST

Presents six tales about Spider, including those which explain how he got a thin waist and a bald head and why he lives in ceilings and dark corners.

The Baker's Dozen: A Colonial American tale J398.2 FOREST

A greedy baker who offends a mysterious old woman suffers misfortune in his business, until he discovers what happens when generosity replaces greed.

Nail Soup J398.2 MADDERN

A traveler stopping at a lonely cottage pulls a rusty nail from his pocket and starts to make nail soup for a grumpy old woman - proving that a merry heart and generous soul produce far better results than whines and demands.