

# Picture Books to Support Character Education Lessons



Picture books expand children's experiences and provide opportunities for classroom discussion. The following picture books reflect positive character traits including the traits outlined in the popular Six Pillars of Character program. Students can see themselves or friends in storybook characters and wonder how the characters will solve their challenges. Classroom teachers have the opportunity to emphasize positive character traits by reading and discussing quality children's picture books with their students.

The picture books are organized by character traits that are placed in alphabetical order starting with the Six Pillars of Character traits and followed by additional positive character traits. There is also a listing of videos available from the San Diego County Office of Education's Media Services and a list of helpful websites that provide lesson plans, units, and other support material.

# Six Pillars of Character

Trustworthiness—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

Respect—Treat others with respect and 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

Responsibility—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

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

Caring—Be kind • Be compassionate and show that you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

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

—From http://www.charactercounts.org

# Picture Books That Support the Six Pillars of Character Traits

Caring

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Little Match Girl* Brimner, Larry Dane. *The Sidewalk Patrol* 

Bunting, Eve. Night Tree

Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story

Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels Cohen, Barbara. Molly's Pilgrim Bang, Molly. The Paper Crane Delton, Judy. Two Good Friends

dePaola, Tomie. *Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs* dePaola, Tomie. *Now One Foot, Now the Other* Fine, Edith Hope. *Under the Lemon Moon* 

Fleming, Candace. Boxes for Katje

Fox, Mem. Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Fox, Mem. *Tough Boris* Freeman, Don. *Corduroy* 

Lionni, Leo. Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse

Lionni, Leo. Tico and the Golden Wings

Martin, Bill Martin, Jr. Knots on a Counting Rope

McPhail, David. The Teddy Bear

Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Walks the Dog

Miller, William. The Piano

Ness, Evaline. Sam, Bangs & Moonshine

Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons

Perrault. Cinderella

Polacco, Patricia. Chicken Sunday Polacco, Patricia. I Can Hear the Sun Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say Polacco, Patricia. Rechenka's Eggs Polacco, Patricia. Thank You Mr. Falker

Ransome, Arthur. The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship

Schertle, Alice. *Down the Road*Saltzberg, Barney. *Crazy Hair Day*Saltzberg. Barney. *Mrs. Morgan's Lawn*San Souci, Robert D. *The Talking Eggs* 

Sharmat, Marjorie. Gladys Told Me to Meet Her Here

Sharmat, Marjorie. Mooch the Messy Simont, Marc. The Stray Dog Soto, Gary. Chato and the Party Animals Stanley, Diane. Raising Sweetness Steptoe, John. Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

Turner, Ann. *Katie's Trunk*Turner, Ann. *Nettie's Trip South* 

Viorst, Judith. Tenth Good Thing About Barney

Zolotow, Charlotte. William's Doll.

#### **Fairness**

Brimner, Larry. The Noodle Game

Brown, Marcia. Stone Soup

Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Friend

Cohen, Barbara. Molly's Pilgrim

Cronin, Doreen. Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

Hoffman, Mary. Amazing Grace Kimmel, Eric. Cactus Soup

Krull, Kathleen. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez

Lester, Helen. Me First

Lovell, Patty. Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon

Pfister, Marcus. Rainbow Fish

Scieszka, Jon. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

Seuss, Dr. The Sneetches

Viorst, Judith. Alexander Who Use to Be Rich Last Sunday

Various Authors. The Little Red Hen

Kindness

Cohen, Miriam. *Best Friends* Cole, Joanna. *Bully Trouble* Bang, Molly. *The Paper Crane* 

Friedman, Ina R. How My Parents Learned to Eat

Hutchins, Pat. My Best Friend Brown, Marcia. Stone Soup dePaola, Tomie. William's Doll Henkes, Kevin. Chrysanthemum Keats, Ezra Jack. Goggles!

Polacco, Patricia. Thank You, Mr. Falker

Seuss, Dr. Horton Hears a Who!

Steptoe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side* 

# Respect

Adler, Carole S. Get Lost, Little Brother

Aliki. Two of Them

Andersen, Hans Christian. The Ugly Duckling

Bartone, Elisa. Peppe the Lamplighter Beaumont, Karen. I Like Myself! Borden, Louise. A. Lincoln and Me Brimner, Larry Dane. The Sidewalk Patrol Brimner, Larry Dane. School Rules

Brown, Marc. Arthur's Eyes

Brown, Marcia. Once a Mouse: A Fable Cut in Wood Bruchac. Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story

Bunting, Eve. The Wednesday Surprise
Bunting, Eve. On Call Back Mountain
Bunting, Eve. So Far From the Sea
Bunting, Eve. Smoky Night
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels

Burton, Virginia Lee. Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna* Carle, Eric. *Grouchy Ladybug* 

Child, Lauren. I Will Never, Not Ever, Eat a Tomato

Cohen, Miriam. Best Friends Coles, Babette. Prince Cinders

Curtis, Jamie Lee. Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born

dePaola, Tomie. Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs dePaola, Tomie. Now One Foot, Now the Other

Ets, Marie. Play with Me

Fine, Edith Hope. Under the Lemon Moon

Fleischman, Paul. Weslandia

Fox, Mem. Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge Friedman, Ina R. How My Parents Learned to Eat

Freeman, Don. Come Again, Pelican Garland, Sherry. The Lotus Seed Greenfield, Eloise. Daydreamers

Grimm. The Frog Prince

Kellogg, Steven. *Johnny Appleseed* Lester, Helen. *Tacky the Penguin* Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat* 

Lionni, Leo. Inch by Inch

Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad All Year Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad Are Friends Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad Together Lovell, Patty. Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon Marshall, James. George and Martha Marshall, James. George and Martha Enco.

Marshall, James. *George and Martha Encore* Marshall, James. *George and Martha One Fine Day* 

McPhail, David. Sisters

Miles, Miska. Annie and the Old One

Miller, William. *The Piano* O'Neill, Alexis. *Recess Queen* 

Peet, Bill. Big Bad Bruce

Perrault. Cinderella

Perrault. The Sleeping Beauty

Polacco, Patricia. The Keeping Quilt

Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say

Rylant, Cynthia. Scarecrow

Say, Allen. The Bicycle Man

Sendak, Maurice. Where the Wild Things Are

Seuss, Dr. The Lorax

Shannon, David. A Bad Case of Stripes

Sharmat, Marjorie. Bartholomew, the Bossy

Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler's Gift

Shea, Pegi Deitz. The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story

Silverstein, Shel. The Giving Tree

Spier, Peter. People

Steig, William. Amos & Boris

Galdone, Paul. The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Stevenson, James. Wilfred the Rat

Thurber, James. Many Moons

Turkle, Brinton. Thy Friend, Obadiah

Van Allsburg, Chris. The Polar Express

Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over

Wells, Rosemary. Yoko

Williams, Margery. Velveteen Rabbit

Williams, Vera B. A Chair for My Mother

Winter, Jeanette. Follow the Drinking Gourd

Wiesniewski, David. Golem

Winthrop, Elizabeth. Dumpy La Rue

Woodson, Jacqueline. The Other Side

Yangsook, Choi. The Name Jar

Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy

Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon

Zolotow, Charlotte. The Quarreling Book

Zolotow, Charlotte. William's Doll

## Responsibility

Arnold, Tedd. The Signmaker's Assistant

Bartone, Elisa. Peppe the Lamplighter

Berenstain, Stan and Jan. Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room

Brimner, Larry. The Promise

Brown, Marc Tolon. Arthur's Computer Disaster

Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story

Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels

Burton, Virginia Lee. Katy and the Big Snow

dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush

dePaola, Tomie. Strega Nona

Fox, Mem. Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild

Gramatky, Hardie. Little Toot

Grimm. Little Red Riding Hood

Havill, Juanita. Jamaica's Find

Henkes, Kevin. Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

Heyward, Du Bose. The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes

Joose, Barbara. Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail

Kay, Verla. Gold Fever

Kellogg, Steven. Can I Keep Him?

Krauss, Ruth. The Carrot Seed

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley

Mayer, Mercer. Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp

Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons

Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy

Peet, Bill. The Wump World

Perrine, Mary. Salt Boy

Polacco, Patricia. Chicken Sunday

Polacco, Patricia. Mrs. Katz and Tush

Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say

Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Schertle, Alice. Down the Road

Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler's Gift

Seuss, Dr. Horton Hatches the Egg

Shannon, David. No, David!

Steig, William. Brave Irene

Van Allsburg, Chris. *Two Bad Ants* Van Allsburg, Chris. *Jumanji* 

Viorst, Judith. Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday

Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over

Ward, Lynd. The Biggest Bear

# Citizenship

Adler, David A. The Babe & I

Baylor, Byrd. Hawk, I'm Your Brother

Blos, Joan. Old Henry

Bunting, Eve. Fly Away Home

Carlson, Nancy. How to Lose All Your Friends

Cooney, Barbara. Miss Rumphius

Creech, Sharon. A Fine, Fine School

Cronin, Doreen. Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

Cronin, Doreen. Duck for President

dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of Bluebonnet

Deedy, Carmen Agra. The Yellow Star

Guthrie, Donna. A Rose for Abby

Henkes, Kevin. Chrysanthemum

Johnson, D.B. Henry Hikes to Fitchburg

Keates, Ezra Jack. Goggles!

Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort

McPhail, David. The Teddy Bear

O'Neill, Alexis. Recess Queen

Polacco, Patricia. Thank You, Mr. Falker

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. The Flag We Love

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. One Hundred Is a Family

Saltzberg, Barney. Crazy Hair Day

Seuss, Dr. The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins

Wahl, Jan. Candy Shop

Yangsook, Choi. The Name Jar

# Trustworthiness

Aesop. The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Andersen, Hans Christian. The Emperor's New Clothes

Beskow, Elsa. Pelle's New Suit

Burton, Virginia Lee. Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

Chorao, Kay. Molly's Lies

Demi. The Empty Pot

Hayes, Joe. Juan Verdades: The Man Who Couldn't Tell a Lie

Hoban, Russell. Bargain for Frances

Lionni, Leo. Swimmy

Marshall, James. George and Martha

Monjo, F. N. The Drinking Gourd

Ness, Evaline. Sam, Bangs & Moonshine

Peet, Bill. Cowardly Clyde

Piper, Watty. The Little Engine That Could

Silverstein, Shel. The Giving Tree

Soto, Gary. Too Many Tamales

Turkle, Brinton. Adventures of Obadiah

Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy

# Picture Books That Support Positive Character Traits

Although the following character traits aren't adjectives used in Six Pillars of Character, they are traits that are important for students to read and learn about. Some of the traits could easily be folded into the Six Pillars of Character study, but it might also be helpful to use additional adjectives to describe positive characteristics. The following character traits were identified by Susan Hall in *Using Picture Storybooks to Teach Character Education* (Oryx Press). The listed books are available in schools that contract for School Library Service or are available for circulation from School Library Service. Hall's outstanding, comprehensive resource is also available for loan from the San Diego County Office of Education's Library Media Service.

#### Cooperation

Cooper, Helen. Pumpkin Soup Ernst, Lisa Campbell. Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons

Rathmann, Peggy. Officer Buckle and Gloria

# Courage

Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote Such, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat

Joose, Barbara. Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle

McCully, Emily Arnold. Mirette on the High Wire Ryan, Pam Muñoz. Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride Ryan, Pam Muñoz. When Marian Sang

Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler's Gift* Ward, Lynd. *The Biggest Bear* 

Ward, Lynd. *The Biggest Bear* Yorinks, Arthur. *Hey, Al* 

# Diligence

dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Ernst, Lisa Campbell. Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt
Hopkinson, Deborah. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
London, Jonathan. Hip Cat
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley
McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle
Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons
Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy
Robbins, Ruth. Baboushka and the Three Kings
Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener

#### Discernment

Bunting, Eve. On Call Back Mountain
Bunting, Eve. Smoky Night
Conrad, Pam. The Rooster's Gift
McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle
Rathmann, Peggy. Officer Buckle and Gloria
Say, Allen. Allison
Say, Allen. Emma's Rug
Say, Allen. Grandfather's Journey
Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener
Yorinks, Arthur. Hey, Al

# **Empathy**

Ackerman, Karen. Song and Dance Man
Borden, Louise. A. Lincoln and Me
Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Fleming, Candace. The Hatmaker's Sign
Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat
Say, Allen. Grandfather's Journey

Schertle, Alice. *Down the Road* Yolen, Jane. *Owl Moon* 

## **Forgiveness**

Bang, Molly. When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry
Bunting, Eve. Smoky Night
Bunting, Eve. So Far from the Sea
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Cooper, Helen. Pumpkin Soup
Schertle, Alice. Down the Road
Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler's Gift
Sendak, Maurice. Where the Wild Things Are

#### **Fortitude**

Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
Fleming, Candace. The Hatmaker's Sign
Joose, Barbara. Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley
McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle
Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. The Glorious Flight
Shea, Pegi Deitz. The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story
Steig, William. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

# Generosity—Giving

Bunting, Eve. December
Cooper, Helen. Pumpkin Soup
Leodhas, Sorche Nic. Always Room for One More
Miller, William. The Piano
Robbins, Ruth. Baboushka and the Three Kings
Say, Allen. Allison
Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener

## Helpfulness

Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story
Fleming, Candace. The Hatmaker's Sign
Hopkinson, Deboray. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Levitin, Sonia. Nine for California
McCully, Emily. Mirette on the High Wire
Miller, William. The Piano
Wiesniewski, David. Golem

## Honesty

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. When Bluebell Sang
Joose, Barbara. Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail
Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Blah Blah
Ness, Evaline. Sam, Bangs & Moonshine
Schertle, Alice. Down the Road
Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler's Gift
Soto, Gary. Too Many Tamales

#### Hope

Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera

dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush

Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Honk!* Garland, Sherry. *The Lotus Seed* 

Kay, Verla. Gold Fever

McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle

Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. The Glorious Flight Shea, Pegi Deitz. The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story

Shulevitz, Uri. Snow

Steig, William. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

Van Allsburg, Chris. The Polar Express

Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon

#### Justice

Bunting, Eve. *So Far From the Sea* Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels* 

Lester, Helen. Hooway for Wodney Wat Lester, Helen. Princess Penelope's Parrot Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Blah Blah Mosel, Arlene. The Funny Little Woman Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Turner, Ann. Katie's Trunk

Van Allsburg, Chris. The Sweetest Fig

Wiesniewski, David. Golem

## Loyalty

Bang, Molly. Goose
Bemelmans, Ludwig. Madeline's Rescue
Conrad, Pam. The Rooster's Gift
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Garland, Sherry. The Lotus Seed
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Nolen, Jerline. Raising Dragons
Stanley, Diane. Raising Sweetness
Wiesniewski, David. Golem

## **Patience**

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story* dePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener* Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Bracelet* 

## Perseverance

Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera Cole, Babette. Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzia Crum) dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk! Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
London, Jonathan. Hip Cat
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mirette on the High Wire
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mouse Practice
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley
Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. The Glorious Flight
Tunnell, Michael. Mailing May

#### **Prudence**

Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts Ernst, Lisa Campbell. When Bluebell Sang Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Walks the Dog Thurber, James. Many Moons Zemach, Harve. Duffy and the Devil

#### Resourcefulness

Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote
Cole, Babette. Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzia Crum)
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk!
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts
Fleischman, Paul. Weslandia
Haley, Gail E. A Story, A Story
Hall, Donald. Ox-Cart Man
Hopkinson, Deborah. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Levitin, Sonia. Nine for California
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mouse Practice
Taback, Simms. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat
Tunnell, Michael. Mailing May
Zemach, Harve. Duffy and the Devil

## **Self-Discipline**

Bang, Molly. When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush Henkes, Kevin. Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit Soto, Gary. Too Many Tamales Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon

# Tolerance

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskkogee Story* Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels* Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Honk!* Hest, Amy. *The Purple Coat* Lyon, George. *A Traveling Cat* Say, Allen. *Allison* Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Bracelet* 

## Videos Available from Audiovisual Services

Audiovisual Services has recently purchased two video series that focus on character traits. They are available for circulation from schools that contract for Audiovisual Services by contacting us via e-mail at AVInfo@avsrv2.sdcoe.k12.ca.us, by phone (619) 718-4986, or fax (619) 291-5995.

*Popcorn Park Puppets in Six Pillars of Character*—Help your students explore six essential character virtues (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) with the Popcorn Park Puppets. Each video in this series features the puppets entangled in problems that require them to sort out right from wrong. Complete with inspiring songs and humor, these videos provide a fun way to engage students in thinking, talking, and writing about the kinds of people they want to be. (Grades K–5)

*Integrity Matters*—A collection of entertaining, attention-capturing character education videos created for elementary school children, Integrity Matters<sup>TM</sup> teaches students how to become people of integrity through learning and practicing basic values. (Grades 1-6)

# Websites

Looking for additional resources on character education? Here are a few helpful websites.

## www.charactercounts.org

Information about the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship is available on this website.

# www.CharacterEd.Net

This website is a place for students, teachers, schools, and communities to facilitate character education. It provides ready-to-use curriculum, activities, and resources.

# www.bu.edu/education/caec

This resource is from the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character—Boston University. It provides helpful information for teachers including sample lesson plans on a variety of character traits.

# www.goodcharacter.com

An excellent source for free resources, materials, lessons plans, and a host of other information to support character education for teachers is found on this website.

# www.giraffe.org

The Giraffe Project moves people to "stick their necks out for the common good." They are the creators of the K-12 "Giraffe Heroes Program."



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