



Literature Connections

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE THAT REINFORCES
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING
AND OPEN CIRCLE CONCEPTS

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Connecting to Children's Literature

One of the goals of Open Circle is to get to the heart of learning. Using children's literature is one way to help students reach that goal. Teachers know that the right story can evoke strong emotional responses in children and stimulate new ways of seeing themselves and others. It is this potential for emotional and intellectual engagement that makes *Literature Connections* an important component of the *Open Circle Curriculum*.

Each book in *Literature Connections* has been selected for its ability to get to the heart of, and reinforce, one or more of the Open Circle concepts. Sharing and discussing literature is one way to promote and strengthen both literacy and social and emotional competencies.

The following list of children's literature includes the books that are annotated at the end of the core lessons in the *Curriculum*, and many other titles related to social and emotional learning. This list is intended to be a starting point for a teacher's own Open Circle literature collection. Teachers and librarians can modify the collection to fit the needs and interests of their students. Similarly, the Discussion Prompts and Activities in the *Literature Connections* component of the core lessons are suggestions for ways that teachers can help students make connections between literature and Open Circle concepts.

Most of the books on the list are appropriate for reading aloud to students in kindergarten through grade five. Reading aloud brings the classroom community together to share and reflect on important social and emotional issues.

This list of books was researched and compiled by Peg Sawyer. The task was accomplished with the assistance of many school librarians and teachers who were very generous with their time. Special thanks to Lisa Rogers, librarian at the Hardy School, Wellesley; Joan Hamilton, librarian at the Pierce School, Brookline; Kathy Lilas, librarian at the Chestnut Hill School, Newton; Judy Mitchell, librarian at the Lilja School, Natick; and Judy Shannon, retired teacher from the Hunnewell School, Wellesley.

We continuously add books to the *Literature Connections* list. To find additional book titles we have collected, visit the Open Circle website at www.open-circle.org/resources.

Literature Connections

Children's Literature that reinforces social and emotional learning and Open Circle concepts.

KEY TO CODES

PB = Picture Book

CB = Chapter Book

K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 = suggested grade level

★ = included in core lessons of the *Open Circle Curriculum*

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Getting To Know One Another

(NAMES/ENTERING NEW SITUATIONS)

Ada, Alma Flor. *My Name is María Isabel*. Atheneum, 1993 **3-4 CB ★**

María Isabel feels upset when her teacher and her classmates call her by the wrong name.

Aliki. *Painted Words; Spoken Memories: Marianne's Story*. Greenwillow Books, 1998.

3-5 PB ★ Through drawings and newly acquired English language skills, Marianne communicates with her classmates.

Choi, Yangsook. *The Name Jar*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. **2-3 PB ★**

Unhei's classmates encourage her to feel proud of her Korean name.

Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*. Greenwillow Books, 1991. **K-1 PB ★**

Chrysanthemum loves her name until her classmates make fun of it.

Henkes, Kevin. *Wemberley Worried*. Greenwillow Books, 2000. **K-1 PB**

Wemberley worries about everything, including going to his first day of school, and whether or not he will fit in.

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *The Upside Down Boy*. Children's Book Press, 2000. **2-5 PB ★**

Juanito feels like his life has been turned upside down when he enters his new school.

Leffler, Maryann. *Jack's Talent*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. **K-1 PB ★**

Jack's teacher helps him discover his special talent – remembering names.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *First Day*. Harcourt, Inc., 2003. **K-1 PB**

In simple, rhyming text, the author describes one little girl's feelings about all the "firsts" she experiences when she enters school.

Morris, Ann. *That's Our School (Series)*. Millbrook Press, 2003. **K-2 PB**

Each book in the series focuses on a different staff member in the school community. (teacher, principal, librarian, and custodian)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Looking Like Me*. Egmont USA, 2009. **3-5 PB ★**

In rhythmic verse, Myers describes how a boy thinks about and celebrates who he is: brother, son, writer, dancer, and dreamer.

- Pak, Soyung. *Sumi's First Day of School Ever*. Viking, 2003. **K-1 PB ★**
Sumi thinks her new school is lonely and scary until a classmate reaches out to her.
- Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
Yoon is reluctant to reveal her Korean name to her classmates.
- Reiser, Lynn. *Margaret and Margarita*. Greenwillow Books, 1993. **K-1 PB**
Two little girls easily leap across a language barrier to become friends.
- Saltzberg, Barney. *Star of the Week*. Candlewick Press, 2006. **1-2 PB ★**
Stanley helps his classmates get to know him better when he is "Star of the Week."

Classroom Rules

- Aliki. *Manners*. Greenwillow Books, 1990. **2-3 PB**
A child's illustrated manual of manners.
- Cech, John. *Aesop's Fables*. Sterling, 2009. **2-3 PB ★**
Fables such as *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, *A Bundle of Sticks*, and *The Cat and the Mice*, illustrate the challenges and benefits of working together and sharing responsibilities.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Greenwillow Books, 1996. **K-3 PB ★**
Lilly loves school, but doesn't like one particular classroom rule.
- Keller, Laurie. *Do Unto Otters: A Book about Manners*. Henry Holt, 2007. **K-2 PB ★**
A humorous explanation of the Golden Rule. An owl gives wise advice to a rabbit who wants to know how to treat his new neighbors, the otters.
- Lester, Helen. *Me First!* Houghton Mifflin, 1992. **K-2 PB ★**
Pinkerton always wants to be first in line, until being first leads to unexpected consequences.
- Shannon, David. *David Goes to School*. Blue Sky Press, 1999. **K-3 PB ★**
When David goes to school he finds out that there are many rules to learn and adjust to.
- Smothers, Ethel Footman. *The Hard Times Jar*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **3-4 PB**
Emma's enthusiasm for books and reading leads to her breaking a class rule about borrowing library books.
- Yee, Wong Herbert. *Big Black Bear*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. **K-3 PB ★**
A bear learns that he has to practice good manners in order to get along with new friends.
- Yolen, Jane. *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* Blue Sky Press, 2007. **PreK-1 PB ★**
The "Do's" and "Don'ts" of one classroom community that includes a very unique student.

What Students Have In Common

- Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*. Harcourt Inc., 1993. **2-3 PB ★**
A baby bat discovers how much it has in common with birds.
- Choi, Sook Nyul. *Halmoni and the Picnic*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. **2-3 PB ★**
Yunmi is afraid that her friends will make fun of her grandmother's customs and food.
- Clements, Andrew. *Big Al*. Atheneum, 2001. **2-3 PB**
Big Al's scary appearance makes it difficult for him to make friends.

- Cummins, Julie. *Country Kid, City Kid*. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
A look at the differences and similarities shared by a country kid and a city kid.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chester's Way*. Greenwillow Books, 1988. **K-2 PB ★**
When Lilly moves into the neighborhood she shakes up an established relationship between Chester and his buddy, Wilson.
- Hoose, Phillip. *Hey, Little Ant*. Tricycle Press, 1998. **2-5 PB ★**
Readers see both sides of the story when an ant tries to convince a boy to spare its life.
- Falwell, Cathryn. *David's Drawings*. Lee & Low Books, 2001. **K-1 PB**
David and his classmates are drawn together by their common interest in art.
- Intrater, Roberta Grobel. *Two Eyes, a Nose, and a Mouth*. Scholastic Inc., 1995. **K-1 PB**
Readers can point out the similarities and differences among peoples' facial features.
- Kerley, Barbara. *One World, One Day*. National Geographic, 2009. **K-5 PB. ★**
Photos capture one day in the lives of children and their families around the world.
- Miller, William. *The Piano*. Lee & Low Books, Inc. 2000. **2-4 PB ★**
Tia and Miss Hartwell become friends when they share their love of music.
- Nye, Naomi, Shihab. *Sitti's Secret*. Aladdin, 1997. **3-4 PB ★**
An American girl visits her grandmother who lives in the Middle East.
- Reiser, Lynne. *Margaret and Margarita*. Greenwillow Books, 1993. **K-1 PB**
Two little girls have more in common than they have differences.
- Rotner, Shelley. *What Can You Do?* Millbrook Press, 2001. **K-1 PB ★**
Photos and text describe children's various talents and interests.
- Schotter, Roni. *Doo-Wop Pop*. HarperCollins, 2008. **2-4 PB ★**
Mr. Searle is a school custodian with a special talent that he shares with students.
- Walsh, Melanie. *My Nose, Your Nose*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
In very simple language, the author points out that, although people have many differences, they have similarities as well.
- Willis, Jeanne. *Susan Laughs*. Henry Holt, 2000. **K-3 PB.**
Susan does most everything that other children do and she happens to be in a wheelchair.

Calming Down/Expressing Anger Appropriately

- Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Gets Angry, Really, Really Angry*. Blue Sky Press, 1999. **K-1 PB ★**
When Sophie gets angry, she feels like an erupting volcano before she calms down.
- Cosby, Bill. *The Meanest Thing to Say*. Cartwheel Books, 1997. **2-3 PB ★**
Little Bill learns to deal with teasing without losing his pride or his temper.
- Coy, John. *Strong to the Hoop*. Lee & Low Books, 1999. **3-5 PB ★**
James tries to stay calm as Marcus bumps him around on the playground in a pickup basketball game.
- Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. Picture Puffins, 1997. **2-3 PB**
Rosalba and her grandmother take an imaginary, soothing flight over New York City.
- Everitt, Betsy. *Mean Soup*. Harcourt Inc., 1992. **K-3 PB**
When a little boy feels upset after a bad day, he yells into a pot of soup.

- Forest, Heather. *The Contest Between the Sun and the Wind*. August House, 2008. **K-3 PB ★**
Gentle persuasion wins out over force.
- Haan, Amanda. *I Call My Hand Gentle*. Viking, 2003. **K PB ★**
Hands can do many things, including protect, hug, throw, build. Most importantly, hands can be gentle.
- Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica's Blue Marker*. Sandpiper, 2003. **1-2 PB ★**
Jamaica shows compassion towards a classmate who is upset about having to move to a new town.
- Harrington, Janice N. *Roberto Walks Home*. Viking, 2008. **2-3 PB ★**
Roberto expresses his anger in different ways when his brother forgets to pick him up from school.
- Hooks, Bell. *Grump, Groan, Growl*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. **K-1 PB ★**
When a bad mood strikes, there is grumping, and groaning galore. One solution? Let it slide!
- Krishnaswami, Uma. *The Happiest Tree: a Yoga Story*. Lee & Low, 2005. **1-3 PB ★**
Learning Yoga helps a student stay calm and focused in school.
- MacLean, Kerry Lee. *Peaceful Piggy Meditation*. Albert Whitman, 2004. **K-1 PB ★**
Facing stressful situations at home, or at school is easier if one knows how to breathe, and stay calm.
- Muth, Jon. *Zen Shorts*. Scholastic Press, 2005. **3-4 PB ★**
Stillwater the bear teaches children how to remain calm when problems crop up.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Come With Me: Poems for a Journey*. Greenwillow Books, 2000. **2-5 Poetry**.
A collection of poems that describe different kinds of journeys, including imaginary travels.
- Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*. Crown Publishers, 1991. **2-3 PB**
A young girl finds comfort and solace in dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family.
- Smith, Linda. *Mrs. Biddlebox*. Harcourt, 2007. **2-5 PB ★**
When Mrs. Biddlebox wakes up in a dreary funk, she turns all the negative elements of the day into ingredients for a most unusual cake.
- Urban, Linda. *Mouse Was Mad*. Harcourt Children's Books, 2009. **K-1 PB ★**
When Mouse feels angry, he tries hopping, stomping, and rolling, with the help of his friends. Finally, he tries standing still and breathing deeply, which makes him feel better.
- Vail, Rachel. *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo!* Scholastic Press, 2001. **K-3 PB ★**
Katie describes how scary it is to feel "Bombaloo," or angry and not listening or behaving well
- Viorst, Judith. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Atheneum, 2009. **2-3 PB ★**
Alexander struggles to stay calm when one frustrating event after another spoils his day.

Williams, Mary. *Cool Cats, Calm Kids: Relaxation and Stress Management for Young People*. Impact Publishers, 1996. **3-4 PB ★**

The text and illustrations in this resource book show children how they can mimic the attitude and poses of cats in order to manage stress.

Wood, Douglas. *A Quiet Place*. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. **2-3 PB**
Readers find out about the special places people go to feel calm, and quiet. Quiet places include the forest, the ocean, or a river, all of which can be visited through one's imagination in times of stress.

Wong, Janet. *Twist: Yoga Poems*. Margaret McElderry Books, 2007. **2-3 PB ★**

Illustrated poems show children how yoga can help with flexibility and relaxation.

Speaking Up/Listening

Button, Lana. *Willow's Whispers*. Kids Can Press, Ltd., 2010. **K-1 PB ★**

Willow has trouble speaking up in school, but ultimately she makes herself heard.

Hector, Julian. *The Little Matador*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. **K-2 PB ★**

A boy shows courage when he demonstrates that he would rather be an artist than a bullfighter, like his father. A perfect companion book for *Ferdinand*, by Munro Leaf.

Heinz, Janisch. *I Have a Little Problem, Said the Bear*. North South Books, 2009. **K-1 PB ★**

A bear can't find anyone in town who will listen to him when he tries to share his problem.

Kelley, True. *The Blabber Report*. Dutton Children's Books, 2007. **1-3 PB ★**

With the help of his classmates, Blabber Mouse overcomes his fear of giving a book report in front of a school audience.

Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. Harcourt, 2003. **1-4 PB ★**

The story of the leading advocate for migrant workers' rights.

Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999. **2-3 PB ★**

Rodney Rat can't pronounce his "R's" and so he is reluctant to speak up. He gains some confidence and finds his voice when he is given the role of "Simon" in a game of "Simon Says."

Lester, Helen. *Listen Buddy*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. **K-1 PB ★**

When a rabbit named Buddy doesn't listen carefully, he finds himself in big trouble!

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Bobbin Girl*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996.

4-5 PB ★ A young girl shows the courage to speak up for her beliefs while she works at a textile mill in Lowell, Massachusetts in the 1830's.

Medearis, Michael. *Daisy and the Doll*. Vermont Family Folklife Center, 2000. **3-5 PB**

Daisy never paid attention to the fact that she looked different from the other children at school, until events unfold around a poetry contest. Daisy deals with reality in a courageous way and speaks her mind before an assembled audience.

O'Neill, Alexis. *Loud Emily*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1998.

2-3 PB ★ Emily uses her talent for speaking loudly to shout out orders on a whaling ship.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *The Big Orange Splot*. Scholastic Inc., 1977. **2-3 PB ★**

Mr. Plumbean paints his house to look like his dreams and convinces his neighbors to do the same.

- Rappaport, Doreen. *Martin's Big Words*. Jump at the Sun, 2007 **K-3 PB ★**
The story of Dr. Martin Luther King and his work to bring about desegregation in the United States.
- Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1995. **2-4 PB ★**
Students don't show their best listening skills during Officer Buckle's safety talks, until Gloria, a police dog, joins the officer on stage.
- Sidman, Joyce. *This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. **4-5 Poetry ★**
Students use poems to convey apologies, as well as forgiveness, to classmates, teachers, and family members.

Nonverbal Signals/Body Language

- Aliki. *Painted Words; Spoken Memories: Marianne's Story*. Greenwillow, 1998. **3-5 PB ★**
Through drawings, and newly acquired English language skills, Mari communicates with her classmates.
- Burleigh, Robert. *Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth*. Silver Whistle, 1998. **2-5 PB ★**
A poetic account of Babe Ruth hitting one of his legendary home runs. The text and illustrations can be used to stimulate a discussion of nonverbal signals used in baseball and beyond.
- Cain, Janan. *The Way I Feel*. Parenting Press, 2000. **K-3 PB ★**
Text and art combine to illustrate feelings of anger, fear, and happiness, to name a few!
- Cheng, Andrea. *Grandfather Counts*. Lee & Low Books, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
With hand signals and smiles, Helen and her Chinese grandfather get to know one another.
- Greenfield, Eloise. *Grandpa's Face*. Philomel Books, 1988. **2-3 PB**
Tamika is sensitive to all the expressions on her Grandpa's face.
- Kachenmeister, Cheryl. *On Monday When it Rained*. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. **K-1 PB ★**
A series of photographs capture one boy's expressive face and body language as he shows various emotions.
- Levine, Ellen. *I Hate English!* Cartwheel Books, 1995. **2-5 PB ★**
Mei Mei finds the transition from Hong Kong to New York difficult. At first, she must rely on nonverbal signals in order to communicate.
- Millman, Isaac. *Moses Goes to School*. Frances Foster Books, 2000. **2-3 PB ★**
Moses and his classmates communicate with American Sign Language and other signals.
- Norworth, Jack. *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*. Aladdin Paperback, 1999. **2-3 PB ★**
An illustrated version of the classic baseball anthem. Students can find examples of nonverbal signals in the illustrations and then give examples of their own.
- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Sitti's Secrets*. Aladdin, 1997. **3-5 PB ★**
Mona and her grandmother use nonverbal signals to communicate with each other.
- Raschka, Chris. *Yo! Yes?* Orchard Books, 1993 **K-5 PB ★**
Two boys communicate using few words but plenty of body language!

Thayer, Ernest. *Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888*. Simon & Schuster, 2003. **4-5 Poetry ★**
In this illustrated version of a classic baseball poem, there are multiple examples of how players, umpires, and fans use nonverbal signals.

Wells, Rosemary. *Noisy Nora*. Puffin, 2000. **K-1 PB**
Without saying a word, Nora lets her family know that she does not like to be ignored!

Practicing Self-Talk

Ghigna, Charles. *Score! 50 Poems to Motivate and Inspire*. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008. **3-5 Poetry ★**
A collection of poems that express positive attitudes and encouragement for people who strive to reach their goals.

Green, Michelle Y., *A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson*. Puffin Books, 2004. **4-5 CB ★**
The biography of Mamie Johnson, one of only three women to play for the Negro Baseball Leagues.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings*. Aladdin, 2006. **2-4 CB ★**
Alta Weiss achieves her dream of being the first woman to pitch for an all-male baseball team .

Johnson, Angela. *Just Like Josh Gibson*. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. **2-5 PB ★**
A young girl's grandmother tells about the day she played on a boy's baseball team and swung the bat "just like Josh Gibson," the Babe Ruth of the Negro Baseball Leagues.

Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. *My Travelin' Eye*. Henry Holt, 2008. **K-2 PB ★**
The story of how one girl deals with problems with her vision. She is a model for dealing positively with something beyond her control.

Krauss, Ruth. *The Carrot Seed*. Scholastic Inc., 1974. **K-1 PB ★**
A young gardener's positive thinking and determination contribute to positive results.

Krull, Kathleen *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph became the Fastest Woman*. Harcourt Brace, 1996. **2-5 PB ★** Wilma Rudolph overcomes the effects of polio to become a gold medalist in Olympic track competition.

Nicholls, Judith. *Billywise*. Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
A brave owlet convinces himself to take a trial flight.

Pilkey, Dav. *Paperboy*. Orchard Books, 1999. **2-5 PB ★**
Delivering newspapers early in the morning takes discipline and commitment from a young boy.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *The Big Orange Splot*. Scholastic Trade, 1993. **K-3 PB ★**
This book tells the story of how originality prevails over conformity.

Piper, Watty. *The Little Engine That Could*. Platt and Munk, 1976. **K-1 PB ★**
An undersized engine, talks itself into trying harder and harder to pull his load of cars up and over a mountain. Readers learn about the power of positive thinking.

Smith, Charles R. *Rimshots: Basketball Pix, Rolls, and Rhythms*. Puffin Books, 2000. **4-5 Poetry ★**
This collection of poems and short essays reflects the emotional, as well as physical, aspects of playing basketball. In the poem "Excuses, Excuses," Smith describes negative self-talk that athletes use when they aren't performing well on the court.

Including One Another

- Bloom, Suzanne. *What About Bear?* Boyds Mills Press, 2010. **K-1 PB ★**
Bear feels left out when Fox comes along and occupies Goose's attention. Goose thinks of things they can all do together.
- Cohen, Miriam. *Will I Have A Friend?* Star Bright Books, 2009. **K-1 PB ★**
Children who arrive for the first day of Kindergarten wonder if they will make friends.
- Coy, John. *Strong to the Hoop*. Lee & Low Books, 1999. **3-5 PB ★**
James wants to join his big brother in a playground pickup basketball game.
- Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*. Candlewick Press, 1999. **2-3 PB ★**
Wesley's differences make him a target of teasing. His unique talents earn him respect, as well as new friends.
- George, Kristine O'Connell. *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems*. Clarion Books, 2002. **5 Poetry ★**
The following poems describe different students' experiences with being included – or not – at school: "Which Lunch Table?" "Kori," "New Friends Talking," "Group."
- Heard, Georgia. *Falling Down the Page: A Book of List Poems*. Roaring Book Press, 2009. **2-4 Poetry ★**
Saying hello is a universal greeting, according to poet Avis Harley. Her poem, "Ways to Greet a Friend," is a "list" of ways to say hello in many different languages.
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. *One of Each*. Little Brown, 2000. **K-1 PB ★**
Oliver Tolliver discovers that it is more fun to have more than one of everything so that he can include friends in all kinds of activities.
- Howe, James. *Horace and Morris, but Mostly Dolores*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. **2-3 PB ★**
Three friends discover that they prefer the kind of club that includes everyone.
- Levine, Gail Carson. *Betsy Who Cried Wolf*. Harper Collins Publishers, 2002. **2-5 PB**
A shepherdess gives a wolf a chance to become her friend and helper.
- Pak, Soyung. *Sumi's First Day of School Ever*. Viking Children's Books, 2003. **K-1 PB ★**
A new friend changes Sumi's mind about school being a lonely place.
- Raschka, Chris. *Yo! Yes?* Orchard Books, 1993. **K-5 PB ★**
One boy reaches out to another in friendship.
- Robbins Jacqui. *The New Girl . . . and Me*. Atheneum Books, 2006. **K-1 PB ★**
The new girl in school has a tough time fitting in, until a classmate takes a chance and makes the first move toward building a friendship.
- Scott, Ann Herbert. *On Mother's Lap*. Sandpiper, 1992. **K ★**
Michael learns that it is a good thing to include his new sibling on mother's lap.

Cooperating

- Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Shoeshine Girl*. Harper Trophy, 1989. **3-5 CB ★**
Sarah Ida learns about the value of cooperation when she takes a job at a shoe shine stand.
- Costello, David Hyde, *I Can Help*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. **PK-K PB ★**
A duckling and his friends illustrate over and over how they help one another.
- DiSalvo-Ryan, Dyanne, *City Green*. Morrow Junior Books, 1994. **2-3 PB ★**
Marcy and her older neighbor encourage community members to help them start a garden in a vacant lot.
- Davis, Aubrey. *The Enormous Potato*. Kids Can Press, 1999. **K-3 PB ★**
When a family cooperates, they are able to harvest a huge potato.
- Hall, Bruce Edward, *Henry and the Kite Dragon*. Philomel Books, 2004. **3-5 PB ★**
Two diverse groups of young people in New York City must find a way to work together when one group's kites frighten the other group's pet pigeons.
- Hills, Tad. *Duck and Goose*. Schwartz and Wade Books, 2006. **1-3 PB ★**
A duck and a goose cooperate to take care of what they think is an egg. By the time they discover that the egg is really a soccer ball, they have become friends.
- Hutchins, Hazel. *Mattland*. Annick Press, 2008. **1-2 PB**
Matt feels alone in his new neighborhood until he starts building a miniature town with sticks, rocks, and mud. A story about community, cooperation, and reaching out.
- Judge, Lita. *One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2007. **3-5 PB**
At the end of World War II, one American community works together to provide shoes that match the foot tracings of their European friends.
- Keller, Holly. *Help! A Story of Friendship*. Greenwillow, 2007. **K-2 PB ★**
Animal friends cooperate when Mouse must be rescued from a deep hole.
- Krauss, Robert. *Herman the Helper*. Aladdin, 1987. **K-3 PB**
An exceptional octopus performs acts of cooperation and helpfulness.
- Lionni, Leo. *It's Mine!* Dragonfly, 1996. **K-5 PB ★**
Three frogs bicker day and night until circumstances force them to cooperate in order to survive.
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Together*. Scholastic Inc., 1971. **2-3 PB**
Frog and Toad cooperate in order to enjoy their adventures and maintain their friendship.
- McNamara, Margaret. *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* Schwartz and Wade Books, 2007. **2-3 PB ★**
When class members cooperate on a math/science project, they make a surprising discovery about pumpkins.
- Muth, Jon J. *Stone Soup*. Scholastic Press, 2003. **4-5 PB ★**
Three monks help restore a sense of community in a village of isolated residents.
- Muth, Jon J. *The Three Questions*. Scholastic Press, 2002. **4-5 PB ★**
A boy finds answers to his three questions in the process of helping others.
- Torres, Leyla. *Subway Sparrow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993. **2-3 PB ★**
People of different ages and ethnic backgrounds cooperate to free a sparrow that is trapped in a subway car.

Williams, Vera. *A Chair for My Mother*. Greenwillow Books, 1982. **2–3 PB ★**
A child and her family cooperate in order to buy a new armchair for their new home after a fire forces them to start over.

Double D Behaviors/Annoying Behavior

Bottner, Barbara. *Bootsie Barker Bites*. Putnam Juvenile Books, 1997. **2–3 PB**

The narrator has to figure out how to deal with Bootsie Barker's bullying behavior.

Brisson, Pat. *The Summer My Father Was Ten*. Boyds Mills Press, 1998. **2–3 PB ★**

What starts out as a harmless prank, results in the destruction of a treasured garden.

Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels*. Voyager Books, 1996. **4–5 CB ★**

When neighborhood buddies see a new guy on the street destroying a bike he borrowed from the "Bicycle Man," they decide they have to report this Double D behavior.

Caseley, Judith. *Bully*. Greenwillow Books, 2001. **2–5 PB ★**

Mickey uses humor to address his friend's negative behavior.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *How to Make Friends with a Giant*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006. **1-2 PB ★**

Two children who stand out from others at school are subjected to Double D behavior by their classmates.

Cosby, Bill. *The Meanest Thing to Say*. Cartwheel, 1997. **2–3 PB ★**

Little Bill goes to his family for help with Double D Behavior issues.

Dakos, Kalli. *If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1990. **2–5 Poetry ★**

Poems such as "Budging Line-Ups" describe the annoyances and other shared experiences of elementary school students.

Dakos, Kalli. *Mrs. Cole on an Onion Roll*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995. **2-5 Poetry ★**

In the poem, "Peter the Pain," a student describes someone who annoys others.

dePaola, Tomie. *Trouble in the Barker's Class*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2003. **K–1 PB ★**

A new student frustrates her classmates when she pushes, grabs, and frowns all the time. An understanding friend is all she needs to change her behavior.

Franco, Betsy and Jessie Hartland, *Messing Around on the Monkey Bars: and Other School Poems for Two Voices*. Candlewick Press, 2009. **2-3 Poetry ★**

The poem, "Jenny's Pencil" describes a common annoying behavior in classrooms - the tap, tap, tapping of a pencil.

Ketteman, Helen. *Armadillo Tattletale*. Scholastic Press, 2000. **2–3 PB ★**

Armadillo annoys everyone by spreading gossip about what he overhears with his enormous ears.

O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*. Scholastic Press, 2002. **1–3 PB ★**

Mean Jean bullies her way around the playground until a new girl arrives at school.

Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books, 1998. **4–5 PB ★**

The author describes how she was teased as a child because of her reading disability.

Rathmann, Peggy. *Ruby the Copycat*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 1993. **K-2 PB ★**

Ruby annoys her classmate by copying her words, her clothing, and her behavior.

Shannon, David. *David Goes to School*. Blue Sky Press, 1999. **K-1 PB ★**

When David goes to school he has trouble following the rules. Sometimes his behavior is annoying to others, and sometimes it is dangerous and destructive.

Shields, Carol Diggory. *Almost Late to School: And More School Poems*. Dutton Children's Books, 2003. **3-5 Poetry ★**

A collection of poems about the challenges of being an elementary school student.

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Big Black Bear*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. **K-1 PB ★**

A bear's annoying behavior makes it difficult for him to make a new friend.

Teasing

Bruchac, Joseph. *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*. Puffin, 2003. **K-3 PB ★**

This version of a Native American tale tells how a squirrel learns a hard lesson about teasing.

Grimes, Nikki. *Meet Danitra Brown*. HarperCollins, 1997. **3-4 PB ★**

Zuri describes how her "splendiferous" friend deals with the challenges of school, including teasing.

Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica and Brianna*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. **K-3 PB ★**

Brianna teases Jamaica about her boots and that temporarily disrupts their friendship.

Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*. Greenwillow Books, 2001. **K-1 PB ★**

Chrysanthemum loves her name until her classmates make fun of it.

Saltzberg, Barney. *Crazy Hair Day*. Candlewick Press, 2003. **2-4 PB ★**

When Larry teases his friend, Stanley about his hair, the whole class tries to convince Stanley that he'll still "fit in" to the class picture.

Waber, Bernard. *Ira Sleeps Over*. Houghton Mifflin, 1972. **K-1 PB ★**

Ira's older sister teases him about bringing his teddy bear to his first away from home sleep over.

Wells, Rosemary. *Timothy Goes to School*. Viking, 2000. **K-1 PB ★**

Claude teases Timothy about his clothes on the first day of school.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. *Suitcase*. HarperCollins, 1999. **4-5 CB ★**

Classmates and certain family members tease Alexander, who is 11 years old and over six feet tall.

Bullying and Bystanders

Bottner, Barbara. *Bootsie Barker Bites*. Paper Star, 1997. **2-3 PB**

The narrator has to figure out how to deal with Bootsie Barker's bullying behavior.

Cohen, Barbara. *Molly's Pilgrim*. Harcourt, Inc. 1983. **2-3, CB ★**

Molly's classmates tease her in a mean way about her different clothes, accent, and her cultural background.

- Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. Harcourt Inc., 1972. **3-5 CB ★**
Wanda is the target of repeated mean teasing by Peggy and her friends. When Wanda moves away because of the teasing, Maddie regrets that she never spoke up in Wanda's defense.
- Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Gulliver Books, 1990. **4-5 PB ★**
Pee Wee Reese, a member of the 1940's Brooklyn Dodgers, takes a public stand in support of his teammate, Jackie Robinson
- Heller, Janet Ruth. *How the Moon Regained her Shape*. Syllvan Dell, 2006. **3-4 PB ★**
Moon feels small and worthless when Sun insults her. Although Comet doesn't witness the Sun's bullying behavior, he notices Moon's reaction to it.
- Ludwig, Trudy. *Just Kidding*. Tricycle Press, 2006. **3-4 PB ★**
When Vince insults C.J. over and over, C.J. goes to trusted adults for help.
- Ludwig, Trudy. *Trouble Talk*. Tricycle Press, 2008. **2-4 PB ★**
A story about the destructive effects of rumor and gossip.
- McCain, Becky Ray. *Nobody Knew What To Do*. Albert Whitman, 2001. **2-4 PB ★**
Some students pick on Ray everyday, and Ray's classmates finally speak up about the bullying behavior.
- Mohr, Nicholosa. *Felita*. Puffin, 1999. **4-5 CB ★**
Felita's parents decide to move to a "better" neighborhood. When Felita experiences the pain of being the target of discrimination and bullying behavior, her family makes a difficult decision.
- Moss, Peggy. *Our Friendship Rules*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2007. **3-4 PB ★**
Alexandra betrays her best friend in order to be accepted by a cool new girl at school.
- Moss, Peggy. *Say Something*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2004. **3-5 PB ★**
A student witnesses her classmates engaging in a variety of negative behaviors towards other students.
- Myers, Christopher. *Wings*. Scholastic Inc., 2000. **4-5 PB ★**
An allegory in which a boy suffers the taunts and teasing of his peers because he is different. One person has the courage to speak upon behalf of the target.
- O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*. Scholastic Press, 2002. **2-3 PB ★**
Mean Jean bullies her way around the playground until a new girl arrives at school.
- Otoshi, Kathryn. *One*. KO Kids Books, 2008. **K-3 PB ★**
A simple tale told with colors and numbers that illustrates the importance of standing up for friends when they are being bullied.
- Perez, L. King. *First Day in Grapes*. Lee & Low, 2002. **3-5 PB ★**
Chico enters a new school and has to deal with the repeated unkind comments of his classmates.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books, 1998. **4-5 PB ★**
The author describes how she was teased as a child because of her reading disability.
- Recorvits, Helen. *Yoon and the Jade Bracelet*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. **3-4 PB ★**
An older student pressures Yoon into giving up her valuable jade bracelet.

Yashima, Taro. *Crow Boy*. Puffin Books, 1976. **2–5 PB ★**
Students tease Chibi repeatedly when he comes to school. Only a sensitive new teacher recognizes Chibi's plight and helps him regain some dignity and self-respect.

Recognizing Differences

GROUP MEMBERSHIP/RECOGNIZING DISCRIMINATION

Ada, Alma Flor. *I Love Saturdays y Domingos*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. **2–5 PB**
A little girl loves her two sets of grandparents, each from a different culture.

Birtha, Becky. *Grandmama's Pride*. Albert Whitman & Company, 2005. **3-5 PB**
Two African-American sisters learn about discrimination, civil rights, and pride, when they visit their grandmother in the South during the late 1950's.

Bregoli, Jane. *The Goat Lady*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2004. **2-4 PB ★**
Neighbors overcome their negative impression of "The Goat Lady" thanks to the courageous initiative on the part of a little girl and her mother.

Bryan, Ashley. *Beautiful Blackbird*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. **K–3 PB**
A folktale from the Ila people of Zambia tells how birds got their black markings. The message of the tale is that beauty comes from within and is not dictated by appearance.

Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*. Harcourt Inc., 1993. **2–5 PB ★**
When a baby bat is raised as a bird, the bat and the birds discover how they are different and how they are alike.

Clements, Andrew. *Extra Credit*. Atheneum, 2009. **4-5 Novel**
As letters pass between Illinois and Afghanistan, three young people learn about the complexities of friendship and cultural differences.

Curtis Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*. Scholastic Press, 2009. **5+ Novel**
Elijah displays courage and empathy when he risks his freedom to help a friend.

English, Karen. *Nadia's Hands*. Boyds Mills Press, 1999. **2–3 PB ★**
Nadia must decide between following a Pakistani tradition and being teased at school.

Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*. Candlewick Press, 1999. **2–5 PB ★**
Wesley's differences make him a target of teasing. Ultimately, his unique talents earn him respect, as well as new friends.

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. Harper Trophy, 2000. **4–5 CB**
Joey, his teachers, and his friends must adjust to the fact that Joey has Attention Deficit Disorder.

Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Gulliver Books, 1990. **4–5 PB ★**
Pee Wee Reese, a member of the 1940's Brooklyn Dodgers, takes a public stand in support of his teammate, Jackie Robinson.

Henkes, Kevin. *Chester's Way*. Greenwillow, 1988. **K–3 PB ★**
When Lilly moves into the neighborhood she shakes up an established relationship between Chester and his buddy, Wilson.

Hesse, Karen. *Just Juice*. Scholastic Signature, 1999. **4–5 CB**
"Juice" and her father overcome problems ranging from reading disabilities to poverty.

- Howe, James. *Horace and Morris Join the Chorus (but what about Dolores?)* Atheneum, 2002. **2-4 PB ★**
Three friends audition for the school chorus, but only two of them are selected.
- Keller, Holly. *Farfallina and Marcel*. Greenwillow Books, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
A caterpillar and a gosling remain friends despite changes in their physical forms.
- King, Casey. *Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made it Happen*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1997. **4-5 CB**
Young people interview adults who had experience with the Civil Rights Movement.
- Lester, Helen. *Tacky the Penguin*. Houghton Mifflin, 1988. **K-3 PB**
Tacky uses his unique qualities to save some fellow penguins from hunters.
- Linn, Grace. *The Ugly Vegetables*. Charlesbridge Publishing, 1999. **2-5 PB**
A mother teaches her daughter that their garden is different in a delicious way.
- Lorbiecki, Marybeth. *Jackie's Bat*. Simon & Schuster, 2006. **2-4 PB ★**
As bat boy for the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers, Joey struggles to deal with his father's views and his own personal experiences with Jackie Robinson.
- Michelson, Richard. *Across the Alley*. Putnam Juvenile Books, 2006. **2-4 PB**
Abe and Willie must build their friendship in secret because of their ethnic and cultural differences.
- Mitchell, Margaree King. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1993. **3-5 PB ★**
Uncle Jed and his niece, Sarah, experience the hardships of segregation in the 1920's.
- Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*. Lee & Low Books, 1995. **4-5 PB ★**
While a Japanese boy and his family are living in an internment camp during World War II, they cope with stress by playing baseball.
- Moss, Peggy. *One of Us*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2010. **2-4 PB**
A story that illustrates how children often struggle with identity as they contemplate belonging to one group or another.
- Nikola-Lisa, W. *Bein' With You this Way*. Lee & Low, 1995. **K-1 PB ★**
Children at a playground celebrate their diversity.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books, 1998. **4-5 PB ★**
In this autobiographical story, the author describes the shame of not being able to read.
- Rotner, Shelley. *Shades of People*. Holiday House, 2009. **K-1 PB ★**
Large photographs of all kinds of children illustrate the concept of the physical differences among people.
- Scieszka, Jon. *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. Puffin, 1996. **2-5 PB**
The Big Bad Wolf tells his side of the story!
- Schmidt, Gary. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. Clarion, 2004. **5+ Novel**
A story based on the little-known history of a Maine island community. When a minister's son befriends an African-American resident of an island of "outcasts," both young people learn firsthand about injustice.
- Suess, *The Sneetches*. Random House, 1961. **K-5 PB**
Being different can give you special advantages, or it can make you a target of negative feelings. Dr. Suess examines this problem in *The Sneetches*.

- Uegaki, Chieri. *Suki's Kimono*. Kids Can Press, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
Suki decides to wear a kimono, a gift from her grandmother, on the first day of school. Her sisters warn her that she will look "weird."
- Uhlberg, Myron. *Dad, Jackie, and Me*. Peachtree, 2005. **3-4 PB**
As a man who is deaf, this father of a young Dodgers fan understands Jackie Robinson's struggle for acceptance and respect
- Walsh, Melanie. *My Nose, Your Nose*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
In very simple language, the author compares the basic differences among people and, most importantly, their similarities.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Birmingham, 1963*. Wordsong, 2007. **5 Poetry**
The tragic story of the church bombing in Birmingham is told in simple, but dramatic verse.
- Whitcomb, Mary E. *Odd Velvet*. Chronicle Books, 1998. **2-3 PB ★**
Once her classmates get to know Velvet, they appreciate her talents and interests.
- Wiles, Deborah. *Freedom Summer*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. **4-5 PB ★**
The implementation of the Civil Rights Bill in the 1960's fails to meet the high hopes and expectations of Joe, who is white, and John, who is African American.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001. **4-5 PB ★**
A friendship develops between two girls, despite fear and prejudice among grown-ups who make the rules and build the fences.

Understanding Feelings

- Bailey, Linda. *When Addie was Scared*. Kids Can Press, 1999. **2-3 PB ★**
Addie overcomes her fear of hawks in order to protect her family's chickens.
- Cain, Janan. *The Way I Feel*. Parenting Press, 2000. **K-1 PB ★**
Text and art combine to explain and illustrate feelings of anger, fear, and happiness, to name a few!
- Catalanotto, Peter. *Emily's Art*. Atheneum, 2001. **2-3 PB**
Emily's artistic spirit is crushed and then revived in this story of a child's first experience with an art contest.
- Evans, Lezlie. *Sometimes I Feel Like a Storm Cloud*. Mondo Publishing, 2007. **K-1 PB ★**
This book describes all kinds of feelings from proud, to sad, to angry.
- Frame, Jeron Ashford. *Yesterday I Had the Blues*. Tricycle Press, 2003. **2-5 PB ★**
Perhaps you've had the "blues," but have you had the "greens," or the "yellows"? This book associates feelings with colors.
- Freymann, Saxton. *How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 1999. **2-5 PB ★**
Expressive fruits and vegetables illustrate a wide variety of emotions. Captions include vocabulary that helps children explore and express their feelings.
- George, Kristine O'Connell. *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems*. Clarion, 2002. **4-5 Poetry ★**
Poems that describe the emotional roller coaster that is middle school.

- Harrington, Janice N. *Roberto Walks Home*. Viking, 2008. **1-3 PB ★**
Roberto's brother forgets to pick him up from school. Roberto expresses his feelings about being forgotten in a variety of ways.
- Hoose, Phillip. *Hey, Little Ant*. Tricycle Press 1998. **2-5 PB ★**
Readers see both sides of the story when an ant tries to convince a boy to spare its life.
- Kachenmeister, Cheryl. *On Monday When it Rained*. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. **K PB ★**
Photographs and text describe one boy's different emotions over a period of seven days.
- Lobel, Arnold, *Frog and Toad*. HarperCollins, 1979. **2-3 PB ★**
Two close friends experience a range of emotions as they work and play together.
- McPhail, David, *The Teddy Bear*. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2002. **3-5 PB ★**
A little boy displays empathy for a homeless man who loses a treasured belonging.
- Menchin, Scott. *Taking a Bath with a Dog*. Candlewick, 2007. **K-1 PB ★**
A little girl asks a variety of characters what makes them happy, and then she comes up with her own list of positive thoughts.
- Park, Frances. *Good-Bye, 382 Shin Dang Dong*. National Geographic, 2002. **2-5 PB**
A little girl must leave her country and adjust to life in America.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Mrs. Katz and Tush*. Bantam Doubleday, 1994. **3-4 PB ★**
A young boy exhibits empathy as he provides service for, and ultimately befriends, an elderly woman.
- Rotner, Shelley. *Lots of Feelings*. Millbrook Press, 2003. **K-1 PB ★**
Close-up photographs of children's faces illustrate a range of emotions.
- Smith, Patricia. *Janna and the Kings*. Lee & Low Books, 2003. **2-3 PB**
Janna experiences a range of feelings in this book, from excitement, and joy, to grief and loneliness, as she shares Saturdays with her grandfather.
- Snihura, Ulana. *I Miss Franklin P. Shuckles*. Annick Press 1998. **1-3 PB ★**
Molly has a summertime pal, but when school starts, she wants nothing to do with him. This is an authentic story of shifting alliances and the resulting broken hearts.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Visiting Day*. Scholastic Inc., 2002. **2-5 PB**
A little girl goes to visit her dad in prison. Told from a child's perspective, the story is all about a family's loyalty and love for each other under difficult circumstances.
- Yoshiko, Uchida. *The Bracelet*. Philomel Books, 1993. **4-5 CB**
A young girl, who is sent to a Japanese internment camp, depends on the memories of a close friendship to sustain her through tough times.

Problem Solving

- Blume, Judy. *The Pain and the Great One*. Bantam Doubleday Dell Books, 1985. **K-2 PB ★**
Two siblings, two points of view.
- Bluthenthal, Diana. *I'm Not Invited?* Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
A little girl thinks she has been left out of her friend's party plans. She must decide whether or not to confront her friend.

- Coffelt, Nancy. *Fred Stays with Me*. Little Brown, 2007. **2-3 PB ★**
A little girl deals with how and when she gets to be with her dog when her parents divorce.
- Davol, Marguerite W. *The Paper Dragon*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997. **4-5 PB**
Mi Fei, the village artist, uses his creative problem-solving skills to conquer a fierce dragon.
- deGroat, Diane. *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire*. SeaStar Books, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
Gilbert is nervous about playing George Washington in a school play. To help prepare for his role, he “borrows” a hat and lies about it. When he finally tells the truth, the show goes on successfully!
- Demi. *The Empty Pot*. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 1990. **2-5 PB ★**
An Emperor selects his successor by finding out which child in his kingdom is the most honest.
- dePaola, Tomie. *The Knight and the Dragon*. Putnam Juvenile, 1998. **K-2 PB**
Two warriors prepare for battle, but ultimately, invent a way to work together peacefully.
- Soto, Gary. *Too Many Tamales*. Putnam Juvenile, 1996. **2-3 PB ★**
Maria must admit that she has lost her mother’s wedding ring and then think of a way to find it.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chester’s Way*. Greenwillow Books, 1988. **K-5 PB ★**
When Lilly moves into the neighborhood she shakes up an established relationship between Chester and his buddy, Wilson.
- Howe, James. *Horace and Morris Join the Chorus (but what about Dolores?)* Atheneum, 2002. **2-3 PB ★**
Three friends audition for the school chorus, but only two of them are selected.
- Jones, Rebecca. *Matthew and Tilly*. Puffin, 1995. **2-3 PB ★**
Two friends find a way to solve the problem that keeps them from playing together.
- Koster, Gloria. *The Peanut-Free Café*. Albert Whitman & Co., 2006. **K-3 PB ★**
Grant, a new student at the Nutley School, must eat at a table by himself in the cafeteria because he is allergic to peanut butter. The Nutley School community helps him feel included.
- Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. Pantheon Books, 1963. **K-3 PB. ★**
A school of red fish has a problem and a little black fish has a way to solve it.
- Lorbiecki, Marybeth. *Jackie’s Bat*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. **2-4 PB ★**
As bat boy for the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team, which includes Jackie Robinson, Joey is torn between doing a good job for the team and dealing with his father’s attitudes.
- Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Houghton Mifflin, 1989. **4-5 CB**
A young girl finds the courage to help save her friend from being discovered and captured by the Nazis.
- Munson, Derek. *Enemy Pie*. Chronicle Books, 2000. **1-3 PB ★**
A father helps his son handle a difficult relationship.
- O’Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. **5 Novel**
Georgina can’t decide which is worse—stealing a dog, which she knows is wrong, or living in a car with her mother and brother.
- Poydar, Nancy. *Zip, Zip...Homework*. Holiday House, 2008. **K-1 PB ★**
Violet’s problem is that she lost her homework and then lied about it.

- Rankin, Laura. *Ruthie and the (Not so) Teeny Tiny Lie*. Bloomsbury USA Publishers, 2007. **K PB ★**
When Ruthie keeps a toy that does not belong to her, she can't stand the strain of telling a lie.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. *Duck! Rabbit!* Chronicle Books, 2009. **K PB ★**
Is it a duck or a rabbit? It depends on your point of view.
- Rumford, James. *Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. **2-5 PB**
Calabash Cat sees the world from many different perspectives.
- Shannon, David. *David Gets in Trouble*. Blue Sky Press, 2002. **K-3 PB**
David makes excuses for all kinds of mistakes. Ultimately he admits how sorry he is!
- Stenn Stryer, Andrea. *Kami and the Yaks*. Bay Otter Press, 2006. **2-4 PB ★**
A young sherpa, who is deaf, must figure out how to rescue a missing yak.
- Torres, Leyla. *Subway Sparrow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993. **2-3 PB ★**
People of different ages and ethnic backgrounds must solve the problem of how to free a sparrow that is trapped in a subway car.
- Watt, Melanie. *Scaredy Squirrel makes a Friend*. Kids Can Press, 2007 **K-1 PB ★**
Squirrel makes elaborate plans in order to make a friend.
- Williams, Karen Lynn, and Mohammad, Khadra. *Four Feet and Two Sandals*. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007. **2-4 PB ★**
Two girls meet at a refugee camp, become friends, and work together to solve a variety of problems.
- Williams, Vera. *A Chair for my Mother*. Greenwillow Books, 1982. **2-3 PB ★**
A child and her family save dimes to buy mother a comfortable arm chair.
- Wong, Janet S. *Minn and Jake*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **3-4 CB**
Minn and Jake encounter a range of problems on their way to becoming friends.

Leadership Skills

- Ada, Alma Flor. *The Gold Coin*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1991. **2-5 PB**
A thief changes his ways when he is inspired by the generosity and goodness of a humble woman. This story illustrates how leadership by example can be an effective way to change someone's behavior.
- Demi. *The Empty Pot*. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 1990. **2-5 PB ★**
An Emperor selects his successor by finding out which child in his kingdom is the most honest.
- Elliott, Laura Malone. *Hunter's Best Friend at School*. HarperCollins, 2002. **1-2 PB ★**
Hunter leads his best friend out of trouble at school by modeling good behavior.
- Giovanni, Nikki. *Rosa*. Henry Holt, 2005. **3-5 PB ★**
The story of Rosa Parks' and her role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Gulliver Books, 1990. **4-5 PB ★**
Pee Wee Reese, a member of the 190's Brooklyn Dodgers, models leadership and courage when he takes a public stand in support of his teammate, Jackie Robinson.

- Henson, Heather. *That Book Woman*. Atheneum, 2008. **1-3 PB**
A “pack-horse” librarian travels through the mountains of rural south to deliver free books to children. Her efforts pay-off when a reluctant reader learns the joy of reading.
- Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. Harcourt, 2003. **3-4 PB ★**
The story of the leading advocate for migrant workers’ rights.
- Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. Dragonfly, 1973. **K-1 PB ★**
A school of red fish has a problem, and a little black fish takes the lead in finding a solution.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Bobbin Girl*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996. **4-5 PB ★**
A young girl learns about courage and leadership while she works at a textile mill in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1830’s.
- Milway, Katie Smith. *One Hen*. Kids Can Press, 2008. **3-4 PB ★**
A small loan enables a boy in Ghana to buy one hen. A year later, he has a modest poultry farm, which he eventually turns into the largest poultry business in Ghana. Based on a true story.
- Park, Linda Sue. *The Firekeeper’s Son*. Clarion Books, 2004. **2-3 PB**
An early 19th century father-son team in Korea overcomes a crisis in order to keep an important fire burning.
- Petrillo, Genevieve. *Keep Your Ear on the Ball*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2007. **2-3 PB ★**
A new student, who is blind, helps his classmates adjust to his way of seeing the world. His new friends, in turn, modify their kickball games so that he can play.
- Reynolds, Peter. *The Dot*. Candlewick Press, 2003. **K-3 PB**
A wise teacher encourages a reluctant art student to “make a mark” and see where it leads.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson*. Scholastic Inc., 2002. **4-5 PB ★**
The biography of Marian Anderson, a courageous African-American opera singer.
- Smothers, Ethel Footman. *The Hard-Times Jar*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **4-5 PB ★**
Emma’s transition to a new school is difficult because of her family’s economic hardships. Her courage helps her face each new challenge.
- Waber, Bernard. *Courage*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. **K-4 PB ★**
Children exhibit many kinds of courage, from jumping into a pool from a diving board, to being the first person to make up after an argument.
- Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra*. Harcourt Children’s Books, 2005. **2-4 PB**
A courageous librarian in Iraq risks her safety to save the books in her library from destruction caused by war.

Literature Connections Resources

If you would like to locate additional books that connect to the themes of Open Circle lessons, you can find them in the thematic indices of the following children's literature resource books and websites.

We continuously add books to the *Literature Connections* list. To find additional book titles we have collected, visit the Open Circle website at www.open-circle.org/resources.

Resource Books

Cianciolo, Patricia J. *Picture Books for Children*. American Library Association, 1997.

Freeman, Judy. *More Books Kids Will Sit Still For: A Read-Aloud Guide*. Bowker, 1995.

Hall, Susan. *Using Picture Books to Teach Character Education*. Oryx Press, 2000.

Harms, Jeanne McLain. *Picture Books to Enhance the Curriculum*. H.W. Wilson Co., 1996.

Lima, Carolyn W. *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books*. Bowker, 1998.

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