



Literature Connections

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

Connecting to Children’s Literature

“If stories are lessons, children won’t take them into their hearts.”

Jacqueline Briggs Martin, children’s book author

One of the goals of the Open Circle Program is to get to the heart of learning. Using the *Literature Connections* component of the curriculum is one way that teachers can help students reach that goal.

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, whether it is Recognizing Differences, Understanding Feelings, or Dealing with Teasing. Sharing and discussing this literature will give children a chance to connect with story characters who have problems and challenges similar to their own.

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* in the core lessons are suggestions for the types of questions teachers can ask students to help them 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 curriculum

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Getting To Know One Another

(NAMES/ENTERING NEW SITUATIONS)

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

K–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.

Cohen, Miriam. *Will I Have A Friend?* Aladdin, 1989. **K–1 PB**

Children who arrive for the first day of Kindergarten wonder if they will make friends.

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.

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. **2–5 PB ★**

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

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.

Reorvits, 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.

- Sanders, Eve. *What's Your Name? From Ariel to Zoe*. Holiday House, 1995. **2–3 PB ★**
Children tell the stories of their names.
- Stojic, Manya. *Hello World! Greetings in 42 Languages around the Globe*. Scholastic Inc., 2002.
K–3 PB Children from around the world say hello in many languages.
- Swanson, Susan Marie. *The First Thing My Mama Told Me*. Harcourt, Inc. 2002. **K–1 PB ★**
A little girl tells about how she learns to recognize and write her name.

Classroom Rules

- Aliki. *Manners*. Greenwillow Books, 1990. **2–3 PB ★**
A child's illustrated manual of manners.
- Cazet, Denys. *Never Spit on Your Shoes*. Orchard Books, 1990. **K–1 PB**
A first grader gives his version of the classroom rules.
- Edwards, Michelle. *Chicken Man*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1991. **2–3 PB ★**
Rody makes all of his jobs on the kibbutz seem so desirable, that other workers want to swap jobs with him. Rody is a great example of a hard worker who accepts responsibilities with a positive attitude.
- Harper, Jessica. *Lizzy's Do's and Don'ts*. HarperCollins Publishers. 2002. **2–3 PB ★**
Lizzy and her mom make up some rules for each other to follow.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Greenwillow Books, 1996. **K–3 PB ★**
Lilly loves school, but doesn't like one particular classroom rule.
- Poole, Amy Lowry. *The Ant and the Grasshopper*. Holiday House. 2002. **2–3 PB ★**
This fable illustrates the importance of sharing responsibilities in any community.
- 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. **4–5 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.

What Students Have In Common

- Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*. Harcourt Inc., 1993. **2–5 PB ★**
A baby bat discovers how much it has in common with birds.
- Caseley, Judith. *Bully*. Greenwillow Books, 2001. **2–3 PB ★**
A boy finds out that he has something in common with someone who bullies him.
- 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*. Simon and Schuster, 1991. **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–5 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.
- Johnson, Angela. *Just Like Josh Gibson*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. **3–5 PB ★**
A determined girl has something in common with the boys on a baseball team.
- Miller, William. *The Piano*. Lee & Low Books, Inc. 2000. **2–5 PB**
Tia and Miss Hartwell become friends when they share their love of music.
- Nye, Naomi, Shihab. *Sitti’s Secret*. Aladdin, 1994. **2–5 PB ★**
An American girl visits her grandmother who lives in the Middle East.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Mrs. Katz and Tush*. Bantam Books, 1992. **2–5 PB ★**
A young black boy and an elderly Jewish woman discover more than one common bond.
- Reiser, Lynne. *Margaret and Margarita*. Greenwillow Books, 1993. **K–1 PB**
Two little girls have more in common than they have differences.
- 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.

Nonverbal Signals/Body Language

- Aliki. *Painted Words; Spoken Memories: Marianthe’s Story*. Greenwillow, 1998. **K–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 homeruns. 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.

- Jonell, Lynne. *When Mommy Was Mad*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002. **K-1 PB ★**
A mother's facial expressions and body language indicate to her son that she is in a bad mood.
- 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 Ballgame*. 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*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1974. **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!
- Wells, Rosemary. *Noisy Nora*. Puffin, 2000. **2-3 PB**
Without saying a word, Nora lets her family know that she does not like to be ignored!

Including One Another

- 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.
- Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. Harcourt Inc., 1974. **2-5 CB ★**
A little girl is teased about her shabby clothes.
- Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*. Candlewick Press, 1999. **2-5 PB ★**
Wesley's differences make him a target of teasing. His unique talents earn him respect, as well as new friends.
- 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*. HarperCollins 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.
- Rosen, Michael. *This is Our House*. Candlewick Press. 1996. **K-3 PB ★**
George won't let anyone into his cardboard box house, until some children turn the tables on him.

Cooperating

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Shoeshine Girl*. HarperTrophy, 1989. 3–5 CB★

Sarah Ida learns about the value of cooperation when she takes a job at a shoe shine stand.

DiSalvo-Ryan, Dyanne, *City Green*. Morrow Junior Books, 1994. 2–5 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.

Ericsson, Jennifer. *She Did It!* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. K–3 PB ★

Sisters quarrel about everything until they decide that compromising is better.

Gregory, Valiska. *When Stories Fell Like Shooting Stars*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996. 4–5 PB ★ Here are two stories that describe similar problems, but different solutions: one approach leads to violence, the other to peace, through cooperation.

Krauss, Robert. *Herman the Helper*. Windmill Books, 1974. 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.

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.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Sweet Strawberries*. Atheneum, 1999. 2–3 PB ★

A grumpy husband learns that being considerate and respectful to others makes life smoother for everyone.

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.

Vagin, Vladimir. *The Enormous Carrot*. Scholastic Inc., 1998. 2–3 PB

A farmer grows a carrot that is so large, he cannot pull it out by himself. Teamwork gets the job done!

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, a bully.
- 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 transform a bully into a friend.
- 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.
- Elliott, Laura Malone. *Hunter’s Best Friend at School*. HarperCollins, 2002. K–3 PB ★
Hunter helps his friend, Stripe, correct his annoying behavior at school.
- Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica and Brianna*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. K–3 PB ★
Jamaica’s envy of Brianna’s pink fur-lined boots leads to teasing and hurt feelings.
- Kelley, True. *Blabber Mouse*. Dutton Children’s Books, 2001. 2–5 PB ★
Blabber Mouse annoys his friends by spreading gossip.
- Kettelman, 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. 2–5 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.
- Shannon, David. *David Goes to School*. Blue Sky Press, 1999. K–3 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 and frustrations of being an elementary school student.
- Wells, Rosemary. *Timothy Goes to School*. Viking, 2000. K–1 PB ★
Timothy finds a friend at school to help him cope with Claude’s taunting and teasing.
- 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/Bullying

- Bottner, Barbara. *Bootsie Barker Bites*. Paper Star, 1997. 2–3 PB ★
The narrator has to figure out how to deal with Bootsie Barker, a bully.
- Caseley, Judith. *Ada Potato*. Greenwillow Books, 1989. 2–3 PB ★
Ada stops playing the violin because some older children make fun of her.
- Caseley, Judith. *Bully*. Greenwillow Books, 2001. 2–5 PB ★
Mickey gets plenty of advice from his family about how to handle a bully.
- Cohen, Barbara. *Molly's Pilgrim*. Harcourt, Inc. 1983. 2–3, CB ★
Molly has a different view of everything in her new country, including what the word pilgrim means.
- Couric Katie, *The Brand New Kid*. Doubleday, 2000. K–3 PB ★
Children tease a new boy in school until they get to know him.
- Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. Harcourt Inc., 1972. 2–5 CB ★
A little girl is teased about her shabby clothes.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*. Greenwillow Books, 1991. K–1 PB ★
Chrysanthemum loves her name until her classmates make fun of it.
- Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica and Brianna*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. K–3 PB ★
Jamaica's envy of Brianna's pink fur-lined boots gets in the way of their friendship.
- Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999. K–1 PB ★
Classmates make fun Rodney Rat until he helps to defeat the class bully.
- Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*. Lee & Low Books, 1995. 4–5 PB ★
A Japanese-American boy is teased about his size and ethnicity.
- 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.
- O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*. Scholastic Press, 2002. 2–3; 4–5 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.
- Reider, Katja. *Snail Started It!* North-South Books, 1997. K–3 PB ★
When Snail insults Pig, he sets off a domino effect of teasing and name-calling among a community of animals.
- 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 sleepover.
- Wells, Rosemary. *Timothy Goes to School*. Viking, 2000. K–1 PB ★
Timothy and his friend Violet cope with the challenges they encounter in school.
- Yashima, Taro. *Crow Boy*. Puffin Books, 1976. 2–5 PB ★
Students tease Chibi 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.

Austin, Margot. *A Friend for Growl Bear*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1999. **K–1 PB**
Once creatures get to know the little bear with a scary growl, they like him.

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.

Carle, Eric. *Slowly, Slowly, Slowly, said the Sloth*. Philomel, 2002. **K–5 PB**
The sloth explains to his friends that he moves slowly, but he is not lazy, or boring.

Cruz Martinez, Alejandro. *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun: The Legend of Lucia Zenteno*. Children's Book Press, 1999. **4–5 PB** Villagers learn an important lesson about respecting differences.

Cutler, Jane. *Mr. Carey's Garden*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996. **2–3 PB**
Mr. Cary's neighbors learn how to see things in a different light.

Dwight, Laura. *We Are All Alike, We Are All Different*. Scholastic Inc., 1991. **K–1 PB★**
Kindergarten children share ways in which they are alike and the ways they are different.

English, Karen. *Nadia's Hands*. Boyds Mills Press, 1999. **2–5 PB ★**
Nadia is caught between following a Pakistani tradition and being teased at school.

Fassler, Joan. *Howie Helps Himself*. Albert Whitman, 1987. **K–1 PB**
Howie is determined to help himself get around.

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

Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. HarperTrophy, 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 Inc., 1998. **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. **2–5 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.
- McPhail, David. *Something Special*. Joy Street Books 1988. **K-3 PB**
Sam discovers his special talent — painting.
- 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.
- 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.
- Puttock, Simon. *The Big Bad Wolf is Good!* Sterling Publishing Co., 2001. **K-3 PB**
Wolf has a difficult time convincing neighbors that he wants to be their friend.
- 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.
- 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!
- Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *Cat Running*. Delacorte Press, 1994. **4-5 CB**
A young girl must overcome prejudice in order to help a family of itinerant workers.
- 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."
- 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.
- 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.

Speaking Up/Listening

Ada, Alma Flor. *My Name is Maria Isabel*. Atheneum, 1993. **4–5 CB ★**
María Isabel reveals her true feelings to her classmates and to her teacher through an essay.

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!

Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999. **K–1 PB ★**
Wodney Wat gains enough confidence to speak up so that his classmates can hear him.

Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Together*. HarperCollins, 1972. **2–3 PB ★**
Two close friends use excellent speaking-up and listening skills to keep their relationship strong.

MacDonald, Alan. *Snarlyhissopus*. Tiger Tales, 2002. **K–1 PB**
Pelican's news gets misinterpreted as the message gets passed from animal to animal.

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. **2–5 PB ★**
Mr. Plumbean paints his house to look like his dreams and convinces his neighbors to do the same.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mrs. Katz and Tush*. Bantam Doubleday, 1994. **2–5 PB ★**
A young boy uses good listening skills to befriend an elderly woman.

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.

Saltzberg, Barney. *What to Say to Clara*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1984.
K–2 PB ★ A boy wants to speak to a new girl in his class, but he can't find the words. Finally he works up the courage to speak up.

Sharmat, Marjorie. *A Big Fat Enormous Lie*. Dutton Children's Books, 1978.
K–5 PB A boy's lie becomes a huge monster and shrinks only when the boy tells the truth.

Understanding Feelings

Babbitt, Natalie. *Bub, or the Very Best Thing*. HarperCollins, 1994. 2–3 PB

A pair of royal parents consults with all kinds of court experts to determine what is the best thing for their child.

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.

Bluthenthal, Diana. *I'm Not Invited?* Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003.

2–3 PB ★ A little girl is sad, confused, and disappointed when she thinks she has been left out of her friend's party plans.

Burleigh, Robert. *Pandora*. Silver Whistle, 2002. 4–5 PB

When Pandora opens a forbidden jar, she releases evil and danger into the world, but manages to hold on to hope.

Cain, Janan. *The Way I Feel*. Parenting Press, 2000. K–3 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.

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.

Heyer, Merilee. *The Weaving of a Dream*. Viking Kestrel, 1986. 4–5 PB

Only one of three sons feels compassion for his mother and is able to complete a difficult task on her behalf.

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.

Hubbard, Woodleigh Marx. *Whoa Jealousy!* G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002. 2–5 PB ★

Jealousy, envy, greed, rivalry are represented by various animals that try to interfere in a child's life.

Lobel, Arnold, *Frog and Toad Together*. HarperCollins, 1972. 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.

Murphy, Mary. *I Feel Happy, and Sad and Angry and Glad*. Dorling Kindersley, 2000. K PB

This simple story connects everyday happenings to feelings.

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. **2–5 PB ★**
A young boy exhibits empathy as he provides service for, and ultimately befriends, an elderly woman.
- 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.
- Step toe, John. *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*. Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books, 1987. **4–5 PB** Of Mufaro’s two daughters, only Nyasha shows true empathy and compassion.
- Wishinsky, Frieda. *Give Maggie a Chance*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd., 2002. **K–1 PB**
Maggie freezes up under the pressure of having to read aloud in class. A classmate comes to Maggie’s rescue.
- 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.

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 CB ★**
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.
- Dakos, Kalli. *Put Your Eyes Up Here and Other School Poems*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003. **2–5 Poetry ★** Poems such as “Ode to My Stress Ball,” and “Worried About Being Worried,” describe students’ attempts to deal appropriately with the strong feelings they experience in school.
- Daly, Niki. *Once Upon a Time*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **2–3 PB ★**
With the help of a friend, Sarie overcomes her fear of reading aloud.
- Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. Dutton, 1991. **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.
- Kroll, Virginia. *Faraway Drums*. Little, Brown and Company, 1998. **2–3 PB ★**
To keep her little sister calm during a noisy night in their new apartment, Jamila tells stories about Africa.

- Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Come With Me: Poems for a Journey*. Greenwillow Books, 2000. **K–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.
- Serfozo, Mary. *Rain Talk*. Scott Foresman, 1990. **K–2 PB ★**
A little girl enjoys the calming sounds of the rain.
- Shulevitz, Uri. *Dawn*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1987. **2–3 PB ★**
Peaceful images of a family camping near a lake can be used to help students calm down.
- Smith, Linda. *Mrs. Biddlebox*. HarperCollins, 2002. **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.
- Vail, Rachel. *Sometimes I’m Bombaloo!* Scholastic Press, 2001. **K–3 PB ★**
Katie describes how scary it is to feel “Bombaloo,” or angry and out of control.
- Williams, Mary. *Cool Cats, Calm Kids: Relaxation and Stress Management for Young People*. Impact Publishers, 1996. **2–5 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.

Problem Solving

- 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.
- 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. *A Day’s Work* Clarion, 1994. **2–5 PB ★**
A migrant worker teaches his grandson about honesty after the young boy twists the truth to secure a day’s work for his grandfather.
- Carlsson-Paige, Nancy. *Best Day of the Week*. Redleaf Press, 1998. **K–3 PB ★**
Two friends cannot agree what to do with a folding table they find on the street. They solve their problem with a creative solution that makes both of them happy.
- Carrick, Carol. *Left Behind*. Clarion, 1988. **2–3 PB ★**
When a boy gets separated from his class in a subway station, he tries to remember the safest way to solve his problem.
- Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. HarperTrophy, 2000. **2–4 CB**.
Through letters to his favorite author, and journal writing, Leigh shares his problems and begins to solve them.

- Cooper, Helen. *Pumpkin Soup*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999. **K-3 PB**
A group of animal chefs realize that they have to cooperate in order to make a successful pumpkin soup.
- 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!
- DeGross, Monalisa. *Donovan’s Word Jar*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1994. **2-3 CB**
Donovan has no idea that his collection of words will make an impact on some lonely residents of his grandmother’s apartment building.
- 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*. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1980. **K-5 PB**
Two warriors prepare for battle, but ultimately, invent a way to work together peacefully.
- Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica’s Find*. Houghton Mifflin, 1987. **2-3, PB ★**
Jamaica finds two items on the playground that don’t belong to her. She returns one and keeps the other, until she feels so badly about it that she seeks her mother’s help.
- 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.
2-5 PB ★ Three friends audition for the school chorus, but only two of them are selected.
- Jones, Rebecca. *Matthew and Tilly*. Dutton Children’s Books, 1991. **2-3 PB ★**
Two friends find a way to solve the problem that keeps them from playing together.
- Katz, Avner. *Tortoise Solves a Problem*. Willa Perlman Books, 1993. **2-3 PB ★**
Tortoise follows the problem-solving steps to figure out how to design a house for his fellow tortoises.
- Keller, Holly. *That’s Mine, Horace*. Greenwillow Books. 2000. **K-1 PB ★**
Horace must solve the problem of returning a little toy truck to its rightful owner.
- Kelley, True. *Blabber Mouse*. Dutton Children’s Books, 2001. **2-5 PB ★**
When a mouse can’t stop gossiping, his friends take things into their own hands to solve the “Blabber Mouse” problem.
- Khan, Rukhsana. *Ruler of the Courtyard*. Viking Children’s Books, 2003. **2-3 PB ★**
Saba’s triumph over one fearful situation gives her the confidence to face new challenges.
- 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.

- 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 Nazi's.
- McCully. *Mirette on the High Wire*. G. P. Putnam's Sons 1992. **2–5 PB ★**
Mirette helps a tightrope walker overcome his fear of falling.
- Munson, Derek. *Enemy Pie*. Chronicle Books, 2000. **K–3 PB**.
A father helps his son handle a difficult relationship.
- Pomerantz, Charlotte. *You're Not My Best Friend Anymore*. Dial Books for Young Readers. 1998. **2–5 PB ★** Molly and Ben have to figure out how to repair their friendship after a misunderstanding temporarily knocks their relationship off the track.
- Rumford, James. *Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. **2–5 PB ★** Calabash Cat sees the world from many different perspectives.
- Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler's Gift*. Dial Books for Young People, 1999. **4–5 PB ★**
A young boy feels remorse after he steals a dreidel from a peddler.
- 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!
- Sharmat, Majorie Weiman. *The Big Fat Enormous Lie*. Dutton, 1978. **2–5 PB**
A boy's lie is illustrated as a big, ugly monster that changes size throughout the story.
- 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.
- Soto, Gary. *Too Many Tamales*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1991. **2–3 PB ★**
Maria must admit that she has lost her mother's wedding ring and then think of a way to find it.
- 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.
- Vaugelade, Anais. *The War*. Carolrhoda Books, 2001. **2–5 PB**
Prince Fabian uses what he knows about human nature to forestall a war between two battling factions, the Reds and the Blues.
- Wong, Janet S. *Minn and Jake*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. **4–5 PB ★**
Minn and Jake encounter an assortment of problems on their way to becoming friends.
- 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.
- Zeifert, Harriet. *Mike and Tony: Best Friends*. Puffin Books, 1994. **2–3 PB**
Even though Mike and Tony are best friends, they disagree about some things.

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.
- Bogacki, Tomeck. *Circus Girl*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. **2–5 PB ★**
A new girl in town helps children in a classroom make new friends.
- Bunting, Eve. *A Day's Work*. Clarion, 1994. **2–5 PB ★**
A migrant worker teaches his grandson about honesty after the young boy twists the truth to secure a day's work for his grandfather.
- Cutler, Jane. *Cello of Mr. O*. Dutton Children's Books, 1999. **4–5 PB ★**
A famous musician demonstrates great courage when his village is attacked during a war. He bravely attempts to unify the villagers with his music despite the danger that threatens his life.
- 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. **K–3 PB ★**
Hunter leads his best friend out of trouble at school by modeling good behavior.
- Freedman, Russell. *Confucius: The Golden Rule*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2002. **4–5 CB ★**
A look at the life and teachings of a Chinese philosopher.
- 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.
- Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. Pantheon Books, 1963. **K–3 PB. ★**
A school of red fish has a problem and a little black fish leads the way to 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.
- 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.
- Parks, Rosa, and Gregory J. Reed. *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today's Youth*. Lee & Low Books, 1996. **4–5 CB ★** A collection of correspondence between children and Rosa Parks.
- Reynolds, Peter H. *The Dot*. Candlewick Press, 2003. **K–3 PB**
A wise teacher gently 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.

Soto, Gary. *Too Many Tamales*. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1991. **2–3 PB ★**
Maria must admit that she has lost her mother’s wedding ring and then think of a way to find it.

Waber, Bernard. *Courage*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. **K–5 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.

Practicing Self-talk

Bogart, Jo Ellen. *Jeremiah Learns to Read*. Orchard Books, 1997. **2–5 PB**
Even though he is elderly, Jeremiah is determined to learn to read and he reaches his goal by working hard at the task.

Curtis, Jamie Lee. *I’m Gonna Like Me: Letting off a Little Self-Esteem*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2002. **K–3 PB ★**
A little girl and boy announce proudly that they like themselves, no matter what kinds of mistakes they make.

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*. Millbrook Press, 2003. **3–5 PB ★**
A French street performer walks on a tightrope stretched between the two towers of the World Trade Center.

Graves, Keith. *Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout*. Scholastic Press, 2002. **2–5 PB**
Loretta learns to accept the fact that despite all her accomplishments, she is not perfect.

Green, Michelle Y. A., *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*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. **2–4 PB ★**
A girl with extraordinary baseball skills works toward and achieves her goal of playing on 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.

Khan, Rukhsana. *Ruler of the Courtyard*. Viking Children’s Books, 2003. **2–3 PB ★**
Saba convinces herself to confront what she thinks is a poisonous snake. Her triumph over one fearful situation empowers her to “walk wherever I wish to go.”

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.

London, Jonathan. *Hip Cat*. Chronicle Books, 1993. **3–5 PB ★**
A musically gifted cat encourages himself to practice and perform in order to become a great jazz/scat artist.

- McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1992. **2–5 PB ★**
Mirette helps a tightrope walker overcome his fear of falling.
- McPhail, David. *Mole Music*. Henry Holt, 1999. **2–5 PB**
Mole is determined to learn to play the violin. As he becomes more proficient, many people benefit from his self-discipline and artistry.
- McPhail, David. *Something Special*. Joy Street Books, 1988. **K–3 PB**
After feeling conspicuously ordinary in his talented family, Sam learns that he has a special ability to be proud of.
- Nicholls, Judith. *Billywise*. Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2002. **K–3 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.
- 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.
- Young, Amy. *Belinda the Ballerina*. Viking Children's Books, 2002. **2–5 PB**
Belinda's enormous feet are an obstacle to her taking the normal route to stage and stardom as a ballerina. Instead, her love of dancing and her strong spirit prevail and she is recognized for her talent in a most unusual setting.
- Ziefert, Harriet. *Pete's Chicken*. Mulberry Books, 1994. **K–1 PB**
Classmates laugh at Pete's drawing of a chicken, but he uses self-talk to maintain his self-confidence.

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.

Mullin-Rindler, Nancy. *Selected Bibliography About Teasing and Bullying for Grades K-8: Revised and Expanded Edition*. Wellesley Centers for Women, 2003.

Silvey, Anita. *The Essential Guide to Children’s Books and their Creators*. Mariner Books, 2002.

Websites

www.soemadison.wisc.edu/edu/ccbc

Cooperative Children’s Book Center: A Library of the School of Education.
University of Wisconsin-Madison.

www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

