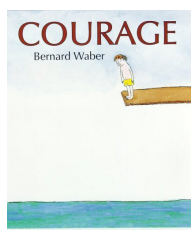


Children's Books: All Kinds of Courage

A common thread in these descriptions is that courage helps us meet challenges of all kinds. When children exhibit courage in school, they are more likely to bounce back from failure, they are willing to try and they are more hopeful. How can adults help children deepen their understanding of the concept of courage? Sharing and discussing some children's books with thematic ties to courage is certainly one way.



Many authors and illustrators have tried to capture the essence of this admirable character trait. For example, Bernard Waber points out that courage can be the “awesome kind,” like climbing a mountain or swinging on a trapeze, or the “everyday kind,” like going to bed without a nightlight, standing up for your little brother, or saying goodbye.

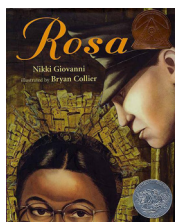
The following are picture books unless otherwise noted:

SPEAKING UP FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Mama's Nightingale, Edwidge Danticat and Leslie Staub

Rosa, Nikki Giovanni

Teammates, Peter Golenbock



CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES



The Bat Boy and the Violin, Gavin Curtis

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music, Margarita Engle

Max, Rachel Isadora

Rickshaw Girl, Mitali Perkins (chapter book)

FACING OBSTACLES AND PERSERVERING

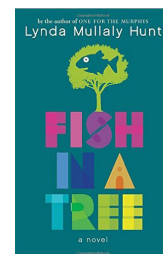
Fish in a Tree, Linda Mullaly Hunt (novel)

Wilma Unlimited, Kathleen Krull

Emmanuel's Dream: The Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, Laurie Ann Thompson

Pax, Sara Pennypacker (novel)

Wonder, R.J. Polacco (novel)



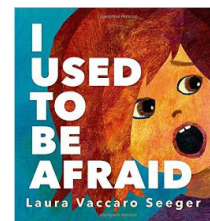
OVERCOMING YOUR FEARS

Wallace's Lists, by Barbara Bottner

The Man Who Walked between the Towers, Mordicai Gerstein

Mirrette on the High Wire, Emily Arnold McCully

I Used to Be Afraid, Laura Vaccaro Seeger



TELLING THE TRUTH

The Empty Pot, Demi

Jamaica's Find, Juanita Havill

Sam Bangs and Moonshine, Evaline Ness

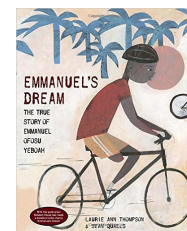
KNOWING AND LOVING WHO YOU ARE

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, by Christine Baldacchino

Red: A Crayon's Story, Michael Hall

Tacky the Penquin, Helen Lester

Exclamation Mark, Amy Kraus Rosenthal



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TAKING RISKS ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

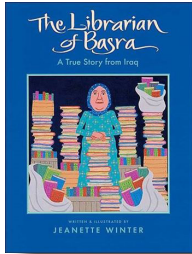
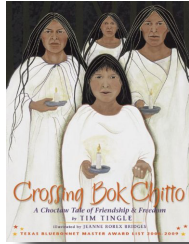
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, Gary D. Schmidt (novel)

Crossing Bok Chitto: a Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom,

Tim Tingle

Number the Stars, Lois Lowry (novel)

The Librarian of Basra, Jeanette Winter



What are your favorite children's books connected to the theme of courage? Share your ideas with us via email at info@opencircle.org.