

Courage Character Education Theme

This bibliography was compiled by Shirley Lukenbill, Librarian, Wooldridge Elementary School, slukenbi@austinisd.org. In order to continue to add to this bibliography, Shirley would appreciate if you would email her if you find additional resources that we could add to this list of resources.

Angelou, Maya. *Life Doesn't Frighten Me*. Stewart, Tabori & Chang, Inc., distributed in the U.S. by Workman Pub., 1993. ISBN: 1556702884. \$17.95. (Ages 6-10) Poetry
Presents Maya Angelou's brave, defiant poem on the theme of courage in everyday life.

_____. *Renee Marie of France (Maya's World)* Random House, 2004. ISBN: 0375928340. \$9.99. (Ages 5-8)
In Paris, France, Renee Marie, who is teased for being tall, goes on a school field trip to the Eiffel Tower, where she faces her fear of heights.

Arnold, Marsha Diane. *The Bravest of Us All*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000. ISBN: 0803724098. \$15.99. (Ages 4-8)
Ruby Jane thinks that her sister Velma Jean is the bravest person in her family, but when a tornado comes, Ruby Jane shows that she is very brave herself.

Bennett, William. *The Children's Book of Virtues*. Simon & Schuster, 1995. ISBN: 068481353X. \$22.00. (All ages)
Publisher's Note: The perfect companion to William J. Bennett's number-one bestseller; *The Book of Virtues*, *The Children's Book of Virtues* is the ideal storybook for parents and children to enjoy together: With selections from *The Book of Virtues*, from Aesop and Robert Frost to George Washington's life as well as Native American and African folklore, *The Children's Book of Virtues* brings together timeless stories and poems from around the world. The stories have been chosen especially for a young audience to help parents introduce to their children the essentials of good character: Courage, Perseverance, Responsibility, Work, Self-discipline, Compassion, Faith, Honesty, Loyalty, and Friendship. *The Children's Book of Virtues* is an enduring treasury of literature and art that will help lead young minds toward what is noble and gentle and fine.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Brave Mary (Rookie Reader Series)* Children's Press, 1996. ISBN: 0516020560 (library binding) \$19.50 (Ages 5-8)
Everyone says Mary is brave, as she performs a number of tasks that require courage.

Bunting, Eve. *Your Move*. Harcourt Brace, 1998. ISBN: 0152001816. \$16.00 (Ages 7-12)
When ten-year-old James' gang initiation endangers his six-year-old brother Isaac, they find the courage to say "Thanks, but no thanks."

Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul: 101 Stories of Courage, Hope and Laughter, ed. by Jack Canfield and others. Health Communications, 1998. ISBN: 1558746080. \$24.00 (Hardcover) (Ages 7-12) (Nonfiction-158.1)
Presents stories--including several by celebrities such as Shaquille O'Neal, Shannon Miller, and Kathy Ireland--of inspiration for children on such topics as love, friendship, family, attitude and perspective, and overcoming obstacles.

Christopher, Matt. *Catch That Pass!* Sagebrush Educational Resources, 1989. ISBN: 0833545566 (library binding) \$12.40. (Ages 9-12)
Everyone knows Jim will be the star linebacker on the team if he can only conquer his fear of being tackled, but it takes a boy in a wheelchair to teach him that kind of courage.

Clements, Andrew, *Dolores and the Big Fire : A True Story. (Pets to the Rescue series)* Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN: 0689829167. \$15.00. (Ages 5-7) (Nonfiction)

Dolores, a very timid cat, finds the courage to save her owner Kyle when fire sweeps through their house.

Dalgliesh, Alice. ***The Courage of Sarah Noble***. Simon & Schuster reissue, 1987. ISBN: 0684188309. \$16.99. (Ages 6-10)

Remembering her mother's words, an eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.

DePaola, Tomie. ***Oliver Button Is a Sissy***. Harcourt, 1979. ISBN: 0152578528. \$14.00. (Ages 5-8)

Publisher's Note: A little boy must come to terms with being teased and ostracized because he'd rather read books, paint pictures, and tap-dance than participate in sports.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Tale of Despereaux***. Candlewick Press, 2003. ISBN: 0763617229. \$17.99 (Ages 9-12)

Winner of Newbery Award, 2004.

Publisher's Note: Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out.

Felder, Deborah G. ***Ride of Courage: The Story of a Spirited Arabian Horse and the Daring Girl Who Rides Him***. Sagebrush Educational Resources, 1997. ISBN: 0613086481. \$12.40 (Ages 9-12)

In 1781, twelve-year-old Molly Randall, living with her family in Yorktown, Virginia, finds her courage tested when she must ride a powerful Arabian horse to get help for a neighbor about to be executed for treason by the British.

Ford, Carin T. ***Helen Keller: Meet a Woman of Courage***. Enslow Publishers, 2002.

ISBN: 0766018563. \$22.60 (Ages 6-9) (Nonfiction, Biography)

A biography of the deaf and blind woman who overcame her limitations to become a speaker, writer, and advocate for people with disabilities.

Hirschmann, Kris. ***Courage***. Raintree, 2004. ISBN: 0739870033. \$25.64. (Nonfiction) (Ages 4-8)

Defines courage, explaining that courageous people persevere despite their fears, and describes different kinds of courage, from overcoming the challenges of a disability to sticking up for one's beliefs to facing one's mistakes, showing how children can be courageous in their own everyday lives.

Kadahota, Cynthia. ***Kira-Kira***. Simon & Schuster, 2004. ISBN: 0689856393. \$16.95 (Ages 11 and up) Newbery Award winner, 2005.

Publishers Weekly Review: Set in the 1950s and '60s, Kadahota's moving first novel is narrated by a first-generation Japanese-American girl who moves with her family from Iowa to Georgia when their "Oriental foods grocery store" goes out of business. There, Katie and her family face hardships, including discrimination (she is ignored by the girls at school, for example), and the harsh conditions at the poultry plant where her mother works ("thugs" make sure workers do not gather so that they cannot organize). Katie's father often sleeps at the hatchery between shifts, and when their babysitter goes away, Katie and her brother must stay in the hot car outside the plant while their mother works. But it's her doting older sister Lynn's struggle with lymphoma that really tests her family. Katie's narrative begins almost as stream-of-consciousness, reflecting a younger child's way of seeing the world. But as she matures through the challenges her family faces, so does the prose. Kadahota movingly captures the family's sustaining love-Lynn and Katie secretly save their treat money for years so they can help their parents buy a house, and when ailing Lynn gets to pick the house, she chooses a sky blue one, because Katie as a "little

girl,... had told her [she] wanted our first to be sky blue." The family's devotion to one another, and Lynn's ability to teach Katie to appreciate the "kira-kira," or glittering, in everyday life makes this novel shine. Ages 11-up. (Feb.) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

Kosek, Jane Kelly. ***Learning about Courage from the Life of Christopher Reeve***. PowerKids Press, 2001. ISBN: 0823953467. \$15.93 (Nonfiction, Biography) (Ages 8-11)

A brief biography of the actor famous for playing Superman, discussing his life before and after the accident that paralyzed him and focusing on the courage he has shown.

Kramer, Barbara. ***Michael J. Fox: Courage for Life***. Enslow Elementary, 2005. ISBN: 0766023761. \$23.93. (Nonfiction, Biography) (Ages 8-11)

Looks at the life and career of actor Michael J. Fox, discussing his successful television shows and movies, his marriage and children, his struggles to deal with the challenges of Parkinson's disease, and his work to find a cure.

Lester, Helen. ***Hooway for Wodney Wat***. Walter Lorraine Books, 1999. ISBN: 0395923921. \$16.00 (Ages 4-8)

Publisher's Note: Poor Rodney Rat can't pronounce his R's and the other rodents tease him mercilessly. But when Camilla Capybara joins Rodney's class and announces that she is bigger, meaner, and smarter than any of the other rodents, everyone is afraid. It seems she really is bigger, meaner, and smarter than all of the rest of them. Until our unwitting hero, Wodney Wat, catches Camilla out in a game of Simon Says. Read along with Wodney as he surprises himself and his classmates by single-handedly saving the whole class from the big bad bully. Children will delight as shy Rodney Rat triumphs over all and his tiny voice decides the day, R's or no R's.

Lewis, Barbara A. ***Kids with Courage: True Stories about Young People Making a Difference***. Free Spirit Publishing, 1992. ISBN: 0915793393. (paperback) \$11.95. (Ages 12 and up)

Relates the stories of kids who made a difference in their neighborhood, community, or the world by helping in such areas as crime, life-saving, and the environment.

Loewen, Nancy. ***I Can Do It!: Kids Talk about Courage***. Picture Window Books, 2003. ISBN: 1404800328. \$23.93. (Nonfiction) (Ages 5-10)

Uses an advice-column format to define courage as a character value and demonstrate how it can be used in daily situations.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Giver***. Sagebrush Educational, 2002. ISBN: 0613722663. \$14.75. (Ages 10-14) Newbery Award

Publisher's Note: Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.

_____. ***Number the Stars***. Walter Lorraine Books, 1990. ISBN: 0395510600. \$16.00. (Ages 9-12) Newbery Award.

Publisher's Note: This Newbery Medal Book describes how a ten-year-old Danish girl's bravery is tested when her best friend is threatened by Nazis in 1943.

Raatma, Lucia. ***Courage***. Capstone Press, 2000. ISBN: 0736805079. (Nonfiction) \$18.60. (Ages 6-9)

Explains the virtue of courage, or the strength to take risks and complete hard jobs, and describes ways to show courage within the family, at school, with friends, and in the community.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Esperanza Rising***. Sagebrush Educational Resources, 2001. ISBN: 0613538072 (Library binding) \$13.00. (Ages 9-14)

Publisher's Note: Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Scheunemann, Pam. **Courage**. Abdo Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 1577658779. \$19.93. (Nonfiction, 170) (Ages 4-8)

Describes some of the many ways of showing courage, including facing danger in sports, asking for help, and standing up for yourself.

Shaw, Janet Beeler. **Changes for Kaya: A Story of Courage**. Sagebrush Educational Resources, 2002. ISBN: 0613462149 (Ages 8-12)

While looking for Steps High, the horse that had been stolen from her, Kaya faces danger from a sudden grassland fire. Includes historical notes on the Nez Perce Indians.

Sperry, Armstrong. **Call It Courage**. Sagebrush Educational Resources, 2002. ISBN: 0613462149. \$14.10. (Nonfiction, 398.2) (Ages 8-11)

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee**. Sagebrush Educational, 1999. ISBN: 0833585568 \$14.45. (Ages 9-12)

Publisher's Note: After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

_____. **Wringer**. Harper Collins, 1997. ISBN: 0060249137 \$16.99. (Ages 9-12)

Publisher's Note: As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Waber, Bernard. **Courage** Houghton Mifflin/Walter Lorraine Books, 2002. ISBN: 0618238557 (library binding) \$12.00 (Ages 5-8)

Provides examples of the many kinds of courage found in everyday life and in unusual circumstances, from tasting the vegetable before making a face to being a firefighter or police officer.

Winter, Jeanette. **Librarian of Basra**. Harcourt, 2005. ISBN: 0152054456. \$16.00. (Ages 4-8)

Publisher's Note: Alia Muhammad Baker is the librarian of Basra. For fourteen years, her office has been a meeting place for those who love books--until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears the library will be destroyed. She asks government officials for help, but they refuse. So Alia takes matters into her own hands, working secretly with friends to move the thirty-thousand new and ancient books from the library and hide them in their homes. There, the books are stacked in windows and cupboards and even in an old refrigerator. But they are safe until the war moves on--safe with the librarian of Basra.

This moving true story about a real librarian's brave struggle to save her war-stricken community's priceless collection of books is a powerful reminder that the love of literature and the passion for knowledge know no boundaries.

Teens

Allport, Alan. **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**. Chelsea House, 2004. ISBN: 0791075982. \$21.85. (Ages 10-13)

A biography of the thirty-second president whose three terms in office spanned the years of the Depression and the Second World War.

Ambrose, Stephen E. - **Undaunted Courage : Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West**. Simon & Schuster, 1996. ISBN: 0684811073. (Nonfiction, American exploration) \$30.00.

Chronicles the experiences of Meriwether Lewis, the man chosen by President Jefferson to lead a voyage from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, discusses the experiences of those who took part in the expedition, and tells of the leading political, scientific, and military figures involved in the mapping of the American West.

Barron, T. A. ***The Hero's Trail : A Hiking Guide for a Heroic Life.*** Philomel Books, 2002.

ISBN: 0399238603. \$14.99. (Nonfiction, philosophy of life)

Explores how to lead a heroic life, facing challenges with courage, strength of character, and wisdom, much as a hiker uses those qualities on a challenging trail.

Bedell, J. M. (Jane M.) ***Finding Courage: History's Young Heroes and Their Amazing Deeds.***

Beyond Words, Distributed by Publishers Group West, 2004. ISBN: 1582701105 (paperback) \$9.95. (Preteens and teens)

Presents a collection of short biographies of children and young adults from around the world who displayed bravery and heroism.

Cohn, Scoti. ***Liberty's Children : Stories of Eleven Revolutionary War Children.*** Two Dot, Globe Pequot Press, 2004. ISBN: 0762727349. (paperback) \$10.95 (Nonfiction, history)

Presents biographies of eleven children and youths who showed courage during the Revolutionary War, including a nine-year-old boy whose friend was killed in the Boston Massacre, a teenage Quaker girl who fled Philadelphia with her family, and a young woman who disguised herself as a man to join the Continental Army.

Crane, Stephen. ***The Red Badge of Courage.*** ABDO Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN: 1577656997. \$21.35.

A young Union soldier, Henry Fleming, tells of his feelings when he faces his first battle during the Civil War.

Creighton, Margaret S. ***The Colors of Courage : Gettysburg's Forgotten History : Immigrants, Women, and African Americans in the Civil War's Defining Battle.*** Perseus Publishing, 2005. ISBN: 0465014569. \$26.00 (Nonfiction, History)

Examines the Battle of Gettysburg from the viewpoint of the women, German immigrants, and African-Americans who were part of the fight and draws upon memoirs, letters, diaries, and newspaper accounts to tell the story of the pivotal turning point of the Civil War.

Holm, Ann. ***I Am David.*** Harcourt, 2004. ISBN: 0152051619. \$17.00 (Ages 9-12)

Publisher's Note: A reissue of the classic ***North to Freedom***, by Ann Holm. David's entire twelve-year life has been spent in a grisly prison camp in Eastern Europe. He knows nothing of the outside world. But when he is given the chance to escape, he seizes it. With his vengeful enemies hot on his heels, David struggles to cope in this strange new world, where his only resources are a compass, a few crusts of bread, his two aching feet, and some vague advice to seek refuge in Denmark. Is that enough to survive?

Hosseini, Khaled. ***The Kite Runner.*** Riverhead, 2003. ISBN: 1573222453.

Publisher's Note: An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us from the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy to the atrocities of the present. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption. And it is also about the power of fathers over sons -- their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald). ***Profiles in Courage.*** HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN: 0060530626 (Nonfiction, Biography)

Presents John F. Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning study of men who, at a risk to themselves, stood fast for a principle, covering John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Sam Houston, Robert Taft, and others

Lyman, Darryl. ***Holocaust Rescuers: Ten Stories of Courage***. Enslow, 1999. ISBN: 0766011143. \$26.60. (Nonfiction, 940.53)

Discusses the efforts of ten individuals who did what they could to save Jews from the Nazis, including Anna Borkowska, Varian Fry, Irene Gut Opdyke, Mustafa Hardaga, Jorgen Kieler, Oskar Schindler, Andrew Sheptitsky, Sempo Sugihara, Marion van Binsbergen Pritchard, and Raoul Wallenberg

Opdyke, Irene Gut, and Armstrong, Jennifer. ***In My Hands: Memoirs of a Holocaust Rescuer***. Knopf, 1999. ISBN: 0679891811. \$18.00. (Nonfiction, Biography)

Publishers Weekly Review: Even among WWII memoirs--a genre studded with extraordinary stories--this autobiography looms large, a work of exceptional substance and style. Opdyke, born in 1922 to a Polish Catholic family, was a 17-year-old nursing student when Germany invaded her country in 1939. She spent a year tending to the ragtag remnants of a Polish military unit, hiding out in the forest with them; was captured and raped by Russians; was forced to work in a Russian military hospital; escaped and lived under a false identity in a village near Kiev; and was recaptured by the Russians. But her most remarkable adventures were still to come. Back in her homeland, she, like so many Poles, was made to serve the German army, and she eventually became a waitress in an officers' dining hall. She made good use of her position--risking her life, she helped Jews in the ghetto by passing along vital information, smuggling in food and helping them escape to the forest. When she was made the housekeeper of a German major, she used his villa to hide 12 Jews--and, at enormous personal cost, kept them safe throughout the war.

Pelzer, David J. ***A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive***. Health Communications, 1999. ISBN: 0613171373. \$17.95 (Hardcover) (Nonfiction, Autobiography)

David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother's brutality and triumphed over his past.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Stargirl***. Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. ISBN: 0679986375. \$17.99.

Publisher's Note: Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.

Torrey, Michele. ***Voyage of Ice: Chronicles of Courage***. Knopf, Distributed by Random House, 2004. ISBN: 0375923810. (library binding) \$17.99 (Ages 10 and up)

In 1849, fifteen-year-old Nick and his older brother, longing to be whalers, sign on as hands on the whaling ship Sea Hawk, and find that the journey is full of hardship and unexpected dangers.

Vansant, Wayne. ***Stephen Crane's The Red Badge of Courage: The Graphic Novel***. Puffin Books, 2005. ISBN: 0142404101 (paperback) \$9.99

Presents a graphic novel adaptation of "The Red Badge of Courage," in which a young Union soldier struggles to come to grips with his conflicting emotions about the war.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Homeless Bird***. HarperCollins, 2001. ISBN: 0060284528. (library binding) \$16.89. National Book Award winner.

Publisher's Note: When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

Wren, Laura Lee. ***Christopher Reeve: Hollywood's Man of Courage***. Enslow, 1999.

ISBN: 0766011496. \$26.60 (Nonfiction, Biography)

A biography of the actor famous for playing Superman, discussing his activities before and after the accident that paralyzed him and focusing on his determination to go on with his life despite his problems.