



Children's Books By Theme

This is a working list of books for Character Education..

** signifies books that we have in the Pace Lower School Library.*

Is there is a book your child enjoys that you don't see on this list? Please send the title and author to kacy.brubaker@paceacademy.org so we can continue to broaden our resources.

Respect and Manners

Pre-First

- *Clifford's Manners* by Bridwell *
- *Dora's Book of Manners* by Christine Ricci and Susan Hall
- *The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *The Berenstain Bears and the Truth* by Stan and Jan Berenstain

First Grade

- *Do Unto Otters* by Laurie Keller *
- *Humble Pie* by Jennifer Donnelly
- *Manners Can Be Fun* by Munro Leaf *
- *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems *

Second Grade

- *Emily's Everyday Manners* by Peggy Post and Cindy Post Senning
- *Manners* by Alikei *
- *Please Is A Good Word To Say* by Barbara Joose
- *What Do You Say Dear* by Sesyle Joslin *

Third Grade

- *Lady Lupin's Book of Etiquette* by Babette Cole
- *Mind Your Manners Online* by Phyllis Cornwall *
- *My Mouth is a Volcano* by Julia Cook
- *The Empty Pot* by Demi *

Fourth Grade

- *Dude, That's Rude! Get Some Manners* by Pamela Espeland
- *Cactus Soup* by Eric A Kimmel and Phil Huling
- *Stoo Hample's Book of Bad Manners* by Stoo Hample

Fifth Grade

- *Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal *
- *Don't Behave Like You Live in a Cave* by Elizabeth Verdick
- *The Golden Rule* by Ilene Cooper



Collaboration and Cooperation

Pre-First

- *Best Friends Club* by Winthrop, Elizabeth *
- *Big Pumpkin* by Erica Silverman *
- *Mushrooms in the Rain* by Mirra Ginsburg *
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni *

First Grade

- *Chloe and the Lion* by Mac Barnett *
- *Dance Away* by Shannon, George *
- *Sopa de Pierdras/ Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
- *The Knight and the Dragon* by Tomie DePaola *
- *Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole* by Wong Herbert Lee *

Second Grade

- *A New Coat For Anna* by Ziefert, Harriet *
- *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel *
- *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire* by Diane De Groat *
- *The Wheel on the School Una Rueda En la Escuela* by Meindert DeJong *

Third Grade

- *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from Ashanti* by Gerald McDermott *
- *The Bremen Town Musicians* by Jacob Grimm *
- *The Church Mice Adrift* by Graham Oakley
- *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie Flournoy *
- *The Wednesday Surprise* by Eve Bunting

Fourth Grade

- *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder *
- *Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa that Brought Them Together* by Herb Shoveller *
- *The Flunking of Joshua T. Botes* by Susan Shreve *

Fifth Grade

- *Dunc and Amos (Culpepper Adventures)* by Gary Paulsen
- *The Not-Just-Anybody Family* by Betsy Byars *
- *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman *



Empathy and Kindness

Pre-First

- *Heartprints* by P.K. Hallinan
- *Peter's Chair* by Ezra Keats
- *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins *
- *We Share Everything!* by Robert Munsch *

First Grade

- *Don't Eat Too Much Turkey* by Miriam Cohen
- *It's Mine!* by Leo Lionni *
- *One Smile* by Cindy McKinley
- *The Last Chocolate Chip Cookie* by Jamie Rix

Second Grade

- *Big Pumpkin* by Erica Silverman *
- *Christmas Trolls* by Jan Brett *
- *Just Enough is Plenty: A Hanukkah Tale* by Barbara Goldin
- *If You Plant a Tree* by Kadir Nelson *
- *Kindness and Generosity: It Starts with Me* by Jodie Shepherd *

Third Grade

- *Fly Free* by Roseanne Thong
- *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud *
- *Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace* by James Proimos
- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister *

Fourth Grade

- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Hot Issues, Cool Choices: Facing Bullies, Peer Pressure, Popularity and Put-Downs* by Sandra McLeod Humphrey
- *The Hired Hand* by Robert D. San Souci *
- *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes

Fifth Grade

- *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Can Man* by Laura E. Williams
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio



Sharing, Empathy, and Collaboration

Pre-First

- *Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney *
- *Pete's Big Lunch* by James Dean *
- *The Very Greedy Bee* by Steve Smallman
- *We Share Everything* by Robert M. Munsch *

First Grade

- *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems *
- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *Under the Lemon Moon* by Edith Hope Fine
- *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox

Second Grade

- *Harriet's Halloween Candy* by Nancy Carlson *
- *It's Mine!* By Leo Lionni
- *Pirican Pie and Pirican Mor* by Hugh Lupton *
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni *

Third Grade

- *A Chair for My Mothers* by Vera Williams *
- *Isabella's Above Ground Pool* by Alice Mead *
- *Sopa de Piedras/ Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
- *When Stories Fell Like Shooting Stars* by Valiska Gregory

Fourth Grade

- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein *
- *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau *
- *The Taking Eggs* by Robert San Souci

Fifth Grade

- *14th Cows for America* by Carmen Agra Deedy
- *The Giving Book* by Ellen Sabin



Perseverance and Patience

Pre-First

- *If You Want to See a Whale* by Julie Fogliano
- *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus *
- *Shhh!* by Jeanne Willis
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper, George Hauman, and David Hauman
- *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle *

First Grade

- *Chip and the Karate Kick* by Anne Rockwell *
- *Leo the Lightning Bug* by Eric Drachman
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon *
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss *

Second Grade

- *Dancing in the Wings* by Debbie Allen
- *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes *
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen *
- *Waiting is Not Easy* by Mo Willems *

Third Grade

- *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera Williams *
- *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles *
- *Unstoppable Me: 10 Ways to Soar Through Life* by Dr. Wayne Dyer *

Fourth Grade

- *Apples to Oregon* by Deborah Hopkins *
- *Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine *
- *Winners Never Quit* by Mia Hamm

Fifth Grade

- *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss
- *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges *
- *Wilma Unlimited* by Nadjmeh Salimi



Friendship

Pre-First

- *Amigo means Friend* by Louise Everett and Sandy Rabinowitz
- *Do You Want to Be My Friend* by Eric Carle *
- *Hands Are Not for Hitting* by Martin Agassi and Marieka Heilen
- *Little Blue, Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni
- *Words Are Not for Hurting* by Elizabeth Verdick and Marieka Heilen

First Grade

- *Charlie the Caterpillar* by Dom Deluise
- *Chester's Way* by Kevin Henkes
- *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson
- *The Little Engine that Could* by Piper, Watty

Second Grade

- *Getting To Know Ruben Plotnick* by Roz Rosenbluth
- *How to be a Friend: A Guide to Making Friends and Keeping Them* by Laurie Krasney Brown
- *What's the Recipe for Friends?* By Greg Williamson
- *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox

Third Grade

- *How to Lose All Your Friends* by Nancy Carlson
- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Wolf! Wolf!* by John Rocco

Fourth Grade

- *Bridge to Terebitha* by Katherine Paterson *
- *Sorry!* by Trudy Ludwig
- *The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco

Fifth Grade

- *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar *
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien



Respect, Acceptance and Inclusivity

Pre-First

- *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamanaka
- *All The Colors We Are/ Todos Los Colores De Nuestra Piel* by Katie Kissinger
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes *
- *Crow Boy* by Taro Yashima *
- *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting
- *One* by Kathryn Otoshi *
- *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill *
- *We're Different, We're the Same* by Bobbi Kates and Joe Mathieu
- *Yes, We Can* by Sam McBratney

First Grade

- *And Tango Makes Three* by Henry Cole (Identity, LGBTQ) *
- *Bully* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger *
- *Chester's Way* by Kevin Henkes
- *Goin Someplace Special* by Patricia C McKissak *
- *It Could Always Be Worse: A Yiddish Folktale* by Margot Zemach
- *Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story* by Reem Faruqi (Ramadan)
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes *
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *The Rat and the Tiger* by Keiko Kasza *
- *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox

Second Grade

- *10,000 Dresses* by Marcus Ewert (Gender, LGBTQ) *
- *Abash and the Cyber- Bully* by Matt Casper *
- *Carla's Sandwich* by Debbie Herman
- *Change the World Before Bedtime* by Mark Kimball Moulton
- *Different Just Like Me* by Loir Mitchell
- *Friends From the Other Side/ Amigos del Otro Lado* by Gloria Anzaldúa
- *From North to South/Del Norte de Sure* by Rene Colato Lainez
- *King of the Playground* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor *
- *Night of the Moon* by Hena Khan (Ramadan) *
- *The Skin You Live In* by Michael Tyler



Respect, Acceptance and Inclusivity (cont.)

Third Grade

- *A Full Moon Rising* by Marilyn Singer (beliefs, customs)
- *A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass* by David A. Adler *
- *A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth* by Samuel Byrd *
- *A Picture Book of Jesse Owens* by David A. Adler *
- *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by David A. Adler
- *A Picture Book of Rosa Parks* by David A. Adler
- *A Picture Book of Sitting Bull* by David A. Adler *
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman *
- *Antonio's Card/La Tarjeta De Antonio* by Rigoberto Gonzalez (LGBTQ)
- *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson *
- *Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story About Bullying* by Becky Ray McCain

Fourth Grade

- *As Fast As Words Could Fly* by Pamela M. Tuck (Civil Rights)
- *Come to the Great World: Poems from Around the Globe* by Wendy Cooling
- *Flowers from Mariko* by Rick Noguchi and Deneen Jenks
- *My Secret Bully* by Trudy Ludwig *
- *Odd Velvet* by Mary E. Whitcomb
- *The Golden Rule* by Ilene Cooper
- *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes *
- *The Juice Box Bully* by Bob Sornson and Maria Desmond

Fifth Grade

- *Africa Is Not A Country* by Margy Burns Knight (Racism)
- *Asha's Mums* by Dawn Lee (LGBTQ)
- *Bully* by Patricia Polacco
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai *
- *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* by Mildred B. Taylor (Racism)
- *Making It Home: Real-Life Stories from Children Forced To Flee* by Beverly Naidoo
- *Road to Memphis* by Mildred B. Taylor (Racism)
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred B. Taylor (Racism)



Curiosity and Creativity

Pre-First

- *Curious George* by Margaret Rey and H. A. Rey (full series)
- *Joshua by the Sea* by Angela Johnson
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

First Grade

- *If* by Sarah Perry
- *Stella: Star of the Sea* by Maria Louise Gray

Second Grade

- *I Wonder* by Annaka Harris
- *What do You do With An Idea?* By Kobi Yamada

Third Grade

- *Going Places* by Peter and Paul Reynolds
- *Lost and Found* by Shaun Tan
- *The Heart and the Bottle* by Oliver Jeffers

Fourth Grade

- *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* by Chris Can Allsburg
- *Re-Zoom* by Istvan Banyai
- *Zoom* by Istvan Banyai

Fifth Grade

- *Imagine a Place* by Sara L. Thomson



Leadership

Pre-First

- *Amelia's Road* by Linda Jacobs Altman
- *Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story* by Uluadluak
- *Thunder Boy Jr.* by Sherman Alexie

First Grade

- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad, No Good Day* by Judith Viorts
- *Child of the Civil Rights Movement* by Paula Young Shelton
- *Side by Side: Lado a Lado* by Monica Brown
- *Tatanka and the Lakota People* by Donald F. Montileaux

Second Grade

- *Crazy Horse's Vision* by Joseph Bruchac
- *John Henry* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

Third Grade

- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman
- *Brave Irene* by William Steig
- *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport
- *Oh, The Things You Can Think* by Dr. Seuss

Fourth Grade

- *Oh, The Place's You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss
- *The True Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer* by Carole Boston Weatherford

Fifth Grade

- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
- *Who is Barack Obama?* by Roberta Edwards



Additional books to help kids through tough times and situations:

Feelings (a range of emotions)

Pre-First

- *Feelings to Share from A to Z* by Todd and Peggy Snow
- *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss *

First Grade

- *Good People Everywhere* by Lynea Gillen
- *Sometimes I Feel Like A Mouse* by Jeanne Modessitt *

Second Grade

- *Glad Monster, Sad Monster* by Anne Miranda and Ed Emberley
- *Today I Feel Silly: And Other Moods That Make My Day* by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Connell *

Third Grade

- *On My Way to a Happy Life* by Deepak Chopra
- *The Way I Feel* by Janan Cain *

Fourth Grade

- *The Way I Feel Sometimes* by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers
- *Yesterday I Had the Blues* by Jeron Ashford Frame

Fifth Grade

- *The Great Big Book of Feelings* by Mary Hoffman

Anger/ Self Control

Pre-First

- *Franklin's Bad Day* by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
- *The Berenstain Bears Get In A Fight* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *The Grouchy Ladybug* by Eric Carle

First Grade

- *Hands Are Not for Hitting* by Martine Agassi and Marieka Heinlen
- *My Mouth Is A Volcano* by Julia Cook *

Second Grade

- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst *
- *When Sophie Gets Angry* by Molly Bang

Third Grade

- *Arnold Gets Angry* by Lawrence W. Shapiro and Steve Harpster
- *Just Kidding* by Trudy Ludwig

Fourth Grade



- *Every Time I Blow My Top I Lose My Head* by Laura Slap-Shelton and Lawrence E. Shapiro
- *What to do When Your Temper Flares* by Dawn Huebner

Fifth Grade

- *Chillax* by Macella Marino Craver
- *I'm Not Bad, I'm Just Mad* by Lawrence W. Shapiro

Anxiety/Worries/Relaxation

Pre-First

- *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney *
- *Pinky and Rex Go To Camp* by James How *

First Grade

- *The Goodnight Caterpillar: A Children's Relaxation Story* by Lori Lite
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *The Worrywarts* by Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole

Second Grade

- *Let's Talk About Feeling Nervous* by Susan Kent *
- *Something Might Happen* by Helen Lester
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes *

Third Grade

- *David and the Worry Beast* by Anne Marie Guanci
- *Is a Worry Worrying You* by Ferida Wolff *
- *What do You do With A Problem?* By Kobi Yamada
- *Wilma Jean the Worry Machine* by Julia Cook

Fourth Grade

- *A Boy and a Bear- A Children's Relaxation Story* by Lori Lite
- *When My Worries Get Too Big! A Relaxation Book for Kids Who Live with Anxiety* by Kari Dunn Buron

Fifth Grade

- *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* by Emily Gravett
- *What to do When You're Scared and Worried: A Guide for Kids* by James J Crist

Self-Esteem/Confidence

Pre-First

- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes *
- *Franklin Goes to Day Camp* by Paulette Bourgeois
- *Incredible Me!* by Kathi Appelt and G. Brian Karas *
- *Spoon* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

First Grade



- *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon *
- *Courage* by Bernard Waber
- *I Like Me!* by Nancy Carlson
- *It's Okay To Be Different* by Todd Pharr *

Second Grade

- *I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem* by Jamie Lee Curtis
- *Ruby the Copycat* by Margaret Rathmann
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
- *Woolbur* by Leslie Helakoski

Third Grade

- *Sometime's I Don't Like To Talk* by Jessica Lamb Shapiro (shyness)
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper and Loren Long

Fourth Grade

- *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud
- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds

Fifth Grade

- *Affirmation Weaver* by Lorit Lott
- *Wonder* by R.D. Palacio

Problem Solving/Conflict Resolution/Bullying

Pre-First

- *Franklin is Bossy* by Paulette Bourgeois
- *Josh's Smiley Faces* by Gina Ditta-Donahue

First Grade

- *Clancy's Coat* by Eve Bunting *
- *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo* by Rachel Vail

Second Grade

- *Eddie the Bully* by Henry Cole *
- *I Did It, I'm Sorry* by Caralyn Buehner and Mark Buehner

Third Grade

- *The Very Angry Day That Amy Didn't Have* by Lawrence E. Shapiro

Fourth Grade

- *The Zax* (Included in *The Sneetches*) by Dr. Seuss *

Fifth Grade

- *The Butter Battle* by Dr. Sues *

Ableism

Pre-First

- *A Very Special Critter* by Mercer Mayer



First Grade

- *Arnie and the New Kid* by Nancy Carlson

Second Grade

- *All About My Brother* by Sarah Peralta
- *Different Just Like Me* by Lori Mitchell

Third Grade

- *Armond Goes To A Party* by Nancy Carlson

Fourth Grade

- *Anna and Natalie* by Barbara H. Cole

Fifth Grade

- *El Deafo* by CeCe Bell
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Divorce

- *Dinosaurs Divorce* by Marc Brown and Laurie Krasny Brown
- *Two Homes* by Claire Masurel and Kady McDonald Denton
- *Was It The Chocolate Pudding? A Story For Little Kids About Divorce* by Sandra Levins and Bryan Langdo

Perfectionism

- *Being Bella* by Cheryl Zugo
- *Nobody's Perfect* by Ellen Flanagan Burns
- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett

Family

- *Baby On The Way* by M. Sears, W. Sears, C. Watts Kelly
- *Julius, The Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Berenstain Bears: New Baby* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *When I am Old With You* by Angela Johnson

Grief and Loss

Pre-First

- *Always and Forever* by Alan Durant
- *Bear's Last Journey* by Udo Weingalt
- *Good-bye Mousie* by R.H. Harris
- *The Berenstain Bears Lose a Friend* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *When Dinosaurs Die* by Laura Krasny and Mark Brown

First Grade



- *Cat Heaven* by Cythnia Rylant *
- *Dog Heaven* by Cythnia Rylant *
- *Remembering Crystal* by Sebastian Loth
- *When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death* by Laurie Krasny Brown

Second Grade

- *Always and Forever* by Alan Durant and Debi Gliori
- *I'll Always Love You* by Hans Wilhelm
- *Someone Special Died* by Joan Prestine
- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst

Third Grade

- *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf* by L. Buscaglia

Fourth Grade

- *Help me Say Good-bye: Activities for Helping Kids Cope When a Special Person Dies* by Janis Silverman

Fifth Grade

- *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerrm *

Books & Informational Websites Regarding Cancer

Young and Old Elementary

- *Daniel and His Starry Night Blanket: A Story of Illness and Sibling Love* by Sally Loughridge
- *Jenny and Her Dog Both Fight Cancer: A Take of Chemotherapy and Caring* by Jewel Kats
- *Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope* by Trudy Krisher
- *Rudi's Pond* by Eve Bunting
- *The Can in Cancer* by Julia Cook
- *The Goodbye Cancer Garden* by Janna Matthies
- *You Are the Best Medicine* by Julie Aigner Clark

Older Elementary

- *The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Upside Down and Backwards: A Sibling's Journey Through Childhood Cancer* by Julie Greves, Katy Tenhulzen, and Fred Wilkinson
- *When Someone Has a Very Serious Illness: Children Can Learn to Cope with Loss and Change* by Marge Heegard

Someone I Love is Sick- <http://www.someoneiloveissick.com/>

Arthur The Great MacGrady Story and Teaching Guide- https://assets-livestrong-org.s3.amazonaws.com/media/site_proxy/data/5c300d79915fa5bb590fd913d4252047d564b3a9.pdf



Safety and Trauma

- *A Terrible Thing Happened- A Story For Children Who Have Witnessed Violence Or Trauma* by Margaret M. Holmes, Sasha J Mudlaff, Cary Pillo
- *Some Things Are Scary* by Florence Parry Heid
- *The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- *Uncle Willy's Tickles: A Child's Right to Say No* by Marcie Aboff and Kathleen Gartner

Coping with Stressful World-wide Events

- *The Way I Feel* by Janan Cain -Explores Feelings
- *Something Bad Happened: A Kid's Guide to Coping with events in the News* by Dawn Huebner
- *What To Do When You're Scared & Worried: A Guide for Kids* by James J Crist
- *The Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul
- *Love* by Matt De La Pena
- *I'm Worried* by Michael Ian Black