

Persuasiveness

Character... It starts with me!

ROBIN'S READING LIST

Vs. Contentiousness

I WILL:

- point others in the right direction
- not stretch the truth to make it more attractive
- appeal to a person's conscience in terms of character
- wait for the best time
- not argue

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Guiding vital truths around another's mental roadblocks

Grades Pre K – Gr. 2

They Didn't Use Their Heads by Jo Ann Stover

This rhyming tale centers on the misadventures of certain whimsical characters and at the same time makes an unforgettable case for good behavior.

Luka's Quilt by Georgia Guback

Tutu ("That's Hawaiian for grandmother") decides to make her granddaughter, Luka, a special flower-garden quilt. Luka had imagined a quilt much different than the traditional two-color Island quilt Tutu crafted.

Luka complains and "Tutu's eyes got watery, and she quietly turned and went to her room and shut the door." They didn't speak for days. Tutu thinks of a compromise: a rainbow fabric lei to place on top of the green and white quilt. Together they sew it, mending their wounds, too. Luka never apologizes, and Tutu has to go the extra mile; however, like real-life relationships, theirs is a work-in-progress, and worth the extra effort.

The New Dog by Barbara Shook Hazen

Tootsie, Miss Pettibone's pampered pooch, joins Danny's Dogwalking Group. His timidity and inexperience make him a victim of the other rough-and-tumble dogs, as well as the object of Danny's exasperation. Teased and harassed, Tootsie becomes an unlikely hero when he stops a robber while the other dogs cower and shake! Acceptance comes only from achieving a great feat. The theme of bullies versus the underdogs is a familiar theme for discussion.

Grades K – 3

Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story about Bullying by Becky Ray McCain

This story tells how one child found the courage to tell a teacher about Ray, who was being picked on and bullied by other kids in school. The children were faced with the fact that "nobody knows what to do" while Ray is being bullied!!! They are sympathetic to him, and feel fear and confusion, hoping that Ray will "fit in some day." Finally, after Ray misses a day of school and the bullies plot mean acts for his return; our narrator goes to a teacher. The children then invite Ray to play with them, and with adult help, together they stand up to the bullies.

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson

What started out as a perfect summer for one young boy was ruined when Jeremy Ross moves in and becomes number one on the narrator's enemy list. His father has an idea for getting rid of enemies. Dad works on mixing the ingredients and baking the secret recipe pie, he explains his son's role in the plan: "you need to spend a day with your enemy. Even worse, you have to be nice to him." The boy decides to give it a try. Predictably, between throwing water balloons at the girls, playing basketball, and hiding out in the tree house, he decides that Jeremy is not so bad after all. There's still the problem of the pie!!! When his father serves the dessert, the young protagonist decides to warn Jeremy that it is "poisonous or something." Well, the pie was delicious, and all are just fine!



Robin's Reading List

My Brother Dan's Delicious by Steven L. Layne

When a bright eight-and-a-half-year-old boy finds that he is home alone for the first time, he informs any monsters that might be lurking in the house that his brother, Dan, is worth the wait!!! This book is a great launch to persuasive writing as the little boy tries to persuade waiting monsters that his brother would be a better meal!!

How Do I Stand in Your Shoes by Susan DeBell

Miranda Peabody had no patience for other students in class, and didn't understand why they couldn't be as talented and smart as she was. Mrs. Klemp, her teacher, suggest that she try to understand people by "standing in their shoes." After much searching, she learns that true meaning of "standing in some else's shoes", and having empathy for others.

Say Something by Peggy Moss

This book focuses more on the role of the bystander, a girl who sees the sadness of the victim, but does nothing ("I walk on the other side of the hall. I don't say those things"). She's referring to the children who are picked on and called names for being slow or different. One day, when her friends are absent, she must sit alone in the cafeteria, and several students make jokes at her expense and make her cry. She feels angry and frustrated with the other kids who look on sympathetically, but say nothing. She understands that being a silent bystander only makes this problem worse, and is then able to empathize with the other victims. This girl reaches out to a child who always sits alone on the bus, and the children have fun together.

Grades 1 - 4

Simon's Hook; a Story about Teases and Put-downs by Karen Burnett

Simon has a "bad hair day" after his sister cuts out portions of his hair to remove some chewing gum. His friends tease him, and he rushes home in tears. His Grandmother Rose consoles him with "a fish story" that tells the pitfalls of providing an easy target for teasing by "biting the hook." He rejoins his friends, his self-esteem in tact, and withstands their comments by following his grandmother's advice.

Grades 2 - 5

Sorry by Trudy Ludwig

Jack's friend, Charlie, behaves badly all the time and gets away with it by saying he's sorry, even though he clearly isn't. Jack doesn't like this about Charlie, but he does like how being the boy's friend makes him a somebody!

Charlie damages Leena's science-fair project, and she tells him that "Sorry" doesn't cut it!!! A teacher helps him understand that he has to make amends for the hurt and damage he has caused. With Jack's help, he fixes the project. In the end, Jack chooses Leena's company over Charlie's.

Grades 3 - 6

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

This plot involves the orphan, Jemmy, who is kept in the king's palace and must take the whippings for the royal heir, Prince Brat. It is forbidden to punish Brat, whose tricks multiply until Jemmy plans to escape the daily round of flogging. But the prince takes off and forces Jemmy to go with him. They get in and out of trouble on the outside; Jemmy hears that he's been charged with the Prince's abduction!!

Attack of the Killer Fishsticks by Paul Zindel

Five fifth grade friends, who call themselves the WACKY FACTS LUNCH BUNCH (because they eat lunch together and share jokes and trivia), invite the new kid, Max, to join their group. They nominate Max to run for Student Council Rep. against one of the Nasty Blobs (the class bullies). The group supports Max in this venture, also helping him to heal his grief at his mother's recent death. The understanding and support of his peers is essential.



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Robin's Reading List

The Night the Bells Rang by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Mason lives on a farm with his younger brother and parents in northern Vermont during the First World War. Mason is bullied by Aden Cutler, a school bully. However, in anger at his helplessness, he bullies his own brother!! He frequently wishes Aden dead! Mason is the sole witness to and recipient of an act of bravery and kindness on the part of Aden. When every bell in town rings out for the end of the war, Mason approaches Aden's mother who stands alone grieving for Aden, killed in battle, knowing that no one else thought kindly of her son. "He did something for me once, and I never thanked him. I wish he were coming back...I'm sorry." says Mason and leaves to take his turn to ring the peace bell.

Grades 6 - 9

Angel on the Square by Gloria Whelan

This novel begins in 1913, just before Katya goes to live with Tsar Nikolai II, when her widowed mother becomes lady-in-waiting to the Empress. The royal couple and their children are like a second family to Katya. However, the heroine cannot completely support the tsar's treatment of his people. Initially, life is lavish and amusing for this young aristocrat, although her friend Misha's revolutionary ideas often battle in her mind with her own loyalty to the tsar. Gradually the world outside begins to enter the palace walls, and Katya's life--along with that of all nobility--changes forever.

Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins

This story focuses on 14-year-old Debbie and her friends as they leave childhood behind. Hector, who feels he is unfinished, and Debbie, who wishes something would happen so she'll be a different person, narrate most of the novel. It involves those moments that occur in everyone's life...moments when a decision is made that sends a person along one path instead of another. There's a great deal of humor in this gentle story about a group of friends facing the crossroads of life, and how they wish to live it.

Stepping on the Cracks by Mary Downing Hahn

This story takes place in a small town in Maryland in 1944 during World War II. Margaret and Elizabeth are next door neighbors and best friends with very different personalities. Both have brothers who are fighting in the war and they, like the rest of their families, are worried about them. Margaret gets a new view on the school bully, Gordy, when she finds him hiding his own brother, Stuart, an army deserter, and decides to help him. When Margaret's own brother is killed in the war, her feelings toward Stuart become more complicated.

Grades 7 - 12



How to Say No and Keep Your Friends: Peer Pressure Reversal for Teens and Preteens by Sharon Scott

"Don't just fit in, stand out!" empowers these kids to be independent thinkers! In this book are 13 hard-hitting, true stories of teens who failed to manage negative peer pressure which resulted in loss of privileges, jail and even death. All kids face difficult decisions somewhere along the way like cheating, fighting, skipping school, stealing, drugs, lying to parents, etc. It's extremely difficult to just say "no" when their friends are saying "Everybody does it. We won't get caught." A special chapter offers ways to say "no" and save face to serious peer pressure problems like tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, sexuality, and violence.

In the Middle of the Night by Robert Cormier

Denny's father is being harassed by letters and late night phone calls which he seems to strangely accept passively. He was an usher at a theater at age 16 where twenty-two children were killed and, although he was absolved of all blame, some think he was at fault. Now Denny is sixteen and he is harassed by a mysterious telephone voice. He needs to understand his father who is a good man, but uncommunicative. Denny needs to face himself before he faces others. Denny resents his father's passivity and states, "The opposite of peace is war". He resolves to fight against the forces destroying/controlling his father.

Robin's Reading List

Binge by Charles Ferry

Weldon Yeager, 18, wakes up in a hospital room with a very understanding nurse, and we soon learn there's been a car accident and Weldon's foot has been amputated. He ran over four teenagers in the accident; two are dead and two are clinging to life. Weldon is addicted to alcohol, alienated from his parents, and failed to graduate from high school. The book is brutal and spares the reader nothing...vomiting, diarrhea, the false courage alcohol gives him to steal and lie along the way. At the time of the accident Weldon was trying to get back to the place and girl, Livvy, of his pre-alcoholic days. At the end of the book we learn that Livvy was one of the victims of his drunk driving and died. However, Weldon's mind cannot deal with the fact. Teenagers all think they are immortal and can handle it...so did Weldon!

