

# Self-Control

Character... It starts with me!

## Vs. Self-Indulgent

### ROBIN'S READING LIST

DECEMBER 2013

#### I WILL

- not act impulsively
- not equate desires with rights
- set my own limits
- see my anger as a sign that something is wrong in me
- walk away from things that are not right

*Robin Casterter  
is a Retired  
Elementary  
Teacher from,  
Loveland City  
Schools*

*P.O. Box 33144  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45233*

*Mary Andres Russell,  
Executive Director*

*Phone: 513.467.0170*

Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right.

#### Teacher Resource:

Character Building Day By Day by Anne D. Mather and Louise B. Weldon  
Pages 219 - 225

This book includes 180 character vignettes—five for each of the 36 weeks in the school year—grouped by trait. Each features kids in real-life situations making decisions that reflect their character. Each is short enough to be read aloud; all can be used as starting points for discussion, to support an existing character education program, or as the basis for an independent program.

#### Pre – Grade 3:

The Way I Feel by Janan Cain

The zany characters who snuffle, soar and shriek through this book will help kids understand the concept of such emotions as joy, disappointment, boredom and anger. "The Way I Feel" will also show kids how to express their feelings with words.

Elbert's Bad Word by Audrey Wood

With humor and insight, Audrey Wood tells a tale certain to tickle anyone shocked to hear a child utter a bad word; and Elbert's cure provides an ingenious solution.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her cool teacher, Mr. Slinger. But when Lilly brings her purple plastic purse and its treasures to school and can't wait until sharing time, Mr. Slinger confiscates her prized possessions. Lilly's fury leads to revenge and then to remorse and she sets out to make amends.



# Robin's Reading List

## Grades 4 – 8:

### Babushka's Doll by Patricia Polacco

Natasha isn't really a bad girl. It's just that she wants to play on the swing now, not after the wash has been hung up to dry. And she wants her soup now, not after the goats have been fed. Looking after Natasha keeps Babushka, Natasha's grandmother, very busy. Then, after lunch, Natasha notices a doll sitting on Babushka's shelf...a doll Babushka tells Natasha she played with just once when she was a little girl. When Natasha plays with the doll while Babushka goes to the store for groceries, she discovers why once is enough with Babushka's doll, and finds out just how tiring it can be to take care of a child who wants everything now.

### A Barrel of Laughs, A Vale of Tears by Jules Feiffer

'Prince Roger sets out eagerly on a quest and finds a few adventures, a lot of friends, a damsel or two in distress (not!) and himself, in the end. A 'carrier of joy' whose mere presence causes everyone to laugh uncontrollably, Roger finds cruelty and kindness equally amusing, and expects his quest to be a lark. It's anything but: As Roger passes through the Forever Forest, nearly starves at the Dastardly Divide, sees people at their worst in the Valley of Vengeance, and temporarily despairs in the Mountains of Malice, he sobers up, learns to care for others, becomes an expert peacemaker, does Good Deeds, and falls in love with Lady Sadie, who says what she thinks as she repeatedly saves his bacon.

### The Sword and in the Stone by Terence Hanbury White

Wart, a measly servant knave, dreams of becoming a knight but is barely certain he may act as castle lord Sir Ector's even ruder son Kay's squire. Then the sorcerer Merlin and his grumpy speaking owl Archimedes invite themselves and move into a dilapidated tower. Merlin, who can magically access the future, accepts the challenge to prepare Wart for a grand future. So he gives the squirt dangerous lessons by transforming themselves into animals to learn the mental skills fitting a knight and a ruler. For the magic sword in the stone, which can confer the kingdom of all England, then still divided, couldn't be withdrawn for years, and now a tournament in London is to designate a contender instead. Kay is going to compete, but the fat klutz stands no chance.

### Wonder by RJ Palacio

This book is told from the perspective of eight different narrators, including August himself. The narrators have a certain tie to August, each with their own unique perspective. This gives the reader a chance to see how being different, and



# Robin's Reading List

being mainstreamed into society, affects an entire family, and community. Some rise to the challenge while some do not. The author paints a very realistic picture of middle school and how cruel--but also how compassionate--kids of that age can be. The parents, educators, and adults in this book are very kind and supportive (with the exception of the bully's parents). In fact, the author makes a point to demonstrate that when it comes to human behavior, the apple does not fall far from the tree. The compassionate kids have like-minded parents, while the bully's parents lead a witch hunt to kick August out of school.

## Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea

It is the beginning of fifth grade, and Mr. Terupt is a brand new teacher. He has his hands full with seven distinctive voices in his class: Jessica is the smart, new girl who isn't quite fitting in. Luke is the brain. Anna has a home life she's embarrassed about, and just wants to disappear. Peter is the class clown, who can't seem to sit down and focus. Lexie is a bully who feels that the best defense is a good offense. Jeffery just hates school, and nobody really knows why. Overweight Danielle can't ever seem to stand up for herself. Only Mr. Terupt seems able to reach his students, and things are beginning to look up for each of them until a fateful winter day where an accident occurs that will change everything and everyone.

## **Grades 9 – 12:**

## Mockingjay (The final book of The Hunger Games) by Suzanne Collins

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either. Not Katniss's family, not her friends, not the people of District 12.

## The Freedom Writers Diary by The Freedom Writers (Erin Gruwell)

Shocked by the teenage violence she witnessed during the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, Erin Gruwell became a teacher at a high school rampant with hostility and racial intolerance. For many of these students--whose ranks included substance abusers, gang members, the homeless, and victims of abuse--Gruwell was the first person to treat them with dignity, to believe in their potential and help them see it themselves. Soon, their loyalty towards their teacher



# Robin's Reading List

and burning enthusiasm to help end violence and intolerance became a force of its own. Inspired by reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* and meeting Zlata Filipovic (the eleven-year old girl who wrote of her life in Sarajevo during the civil war), the students began a joint diary of their inner-city upbringings. Told through anonymous entries to protect their identities and allow for complete candor, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is filled with astounding vignettes from 150 students who, like civil rights activist Rosa Parks and the Freedom Riders, heard society tell them where to go—and refused to listen.

## The Warrior's Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage by Eric Greitens

In this adaptation of his best-selling book, *The Heart and the Fist*, Eric speaks directly to teen readers, interweaving memoir and intimate second-person narratives that ask the reader to put themselves in the shoes of himself and others. Readers will share in Eric's evolution from average kid to globe-traveling humanitarian to warrior, training and serving with the most elite military outfit in the world: the Navy SEALs. Along the way, they'll be asked to consider the power of choices, of making the decision each and every day to act with courage and compassion so that they grow to be tomorrow's heroes. Sure to inspire and motivate.

