

Courage

Character... It starts with me!

ROBIN'S READING LIST

Vs. Fearfulness

I WILL:

- not be afraid to speak the truth
- keep a clear conscience
- support others when they are right
- be willing to stand alone
- speak with humility

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Overcoming fear by saying and doing what is right

Preschool - 3

Courage by Bernard Waber

This book introduces children to the many ways to define this character trait. It's a great read-aloud to generate conversation about what courage is and isn't, and the many forms it takes. The focus is on a variety of scenarios from the lighthearted ("Courage is tasting the vegetable before making a face") to the more serious ("Courage is being the first to make up after an argument"). There are one or two statements on each page, accompanied by a cute pen-and-ink/watercolor illustration that offers a humorous interpretation of the text.

Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are by Maria Dismondy

This sweet story empowers children to always do the right thing, and be proud of them. Lucy is one of a kind, and Ralph loves to point that out! Lucy's defining moment comes when Ralph truly needs help. Because she knows what she stands for, Lucy has the courage to make a good choice, even when faced with someone as challenging as Ralph.

Franklin's New Friend by Paulette Bourgeois

Franklin has grown up in the same house, in the same town, with the same friends. Now, the Moose family moves into the neighborhood. One day at school, Mr. Owl asks Franklin to befriend Moose. At first, Franklin is afraid of Moose because of his large size. However, it isn't long before Franklin realizes that despite their differences, he has made a new friend.

Doctor DeSoto by William Steig

Doctor DeSoto runs a successful dental practice with his wife, Mrs. DeSoto. He is a very well-respected mouse-dentist. The DeSotos are professional and friendly toward all of their patients, except "cats and other dangerous animals," as clearly stated on the sign outside the office. Being the tender-hearted rodents that they are, they agreed to have a look at a miserable fox that showed up begging for treatment. The fox, with "a rotten bicuspid and unusually bad breath," manages to behave himself while Doctor DeSoto is standing inside of his gaping jaws. However, when the wily fox returns the next day to get his replacement gold tooth, he has mouse-flavored snacks on his mind. Luckily, the dentist and his very able assistant anticipated such intentions, and find a way to outfox the ungrateful fox!



Robin's Reading List

The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgleish

When Sarah was 8 years old she had her great adventure...going with her father into the wilds of Connecticut to cook and take care of him, while he built a house for the family. She was worried about whether the Indians would be friendly. Many times Sarah had to say to herself something her mother told her when she left home..."keep up your courage, Sarah Noble, keep up your courage." This is a charmingly true story of faith, courage and friendship.

Grades 2 – 5:

Of Thee I Sing by Barack Obama

Written before he took office, this tender, beautiful letter directly addresses his daughters, Sasha and Malia, who appear throughout. This book is a moving tribute to 13 men and women...and corresponding qualities of character...that demonstrate the nation's best. Georgia O'Keefe (creativity), Cesar Chavez (inspiration), Billie Holiday (a gifted singer), Jackie Robinson (courage), Helen Keller (strength) are all American icons and heroes as exemplars of personal virtues. Obama cites why each figure merits admiration—Martin Luther King Jr., "taught us unyielding compassion," and Helen Keller, "never waiting for life to get easier," "gave others courage to face their challenges." President Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children, and within all America's children. Breathtaking illustrations by award-winning artist Loren Long capture the personalities and achievements of these great Americans, and the innocence and promise of childhood. This beautiful book is about the potential within each of us to pursue our dreams, and make our own paths. It celebrates the characteristics that unite all Americans. It is a treasure to cherish with your family forever.



Grades 3 – 6:

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

A Labrador Retriever, Bull Terrier and Siamese Cat are all left stranded, through a series of mishaps, in a cabin over two hundred miles from home. These three characters decide to assume the responsibility of saving themselves by heading home by instinct and on foot. A fantastic series of challenges and accomplishments follow them. Along the way they face wild predators, starvation, the elements, and unbelievable distance. On this journey they learn lessons of love, loyalty and perseverance.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Every kid thinks about running away at some point; few get very far. Sam Gibley, however, makes it all the way to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. With his wits as his survival tool, he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree with a weasel and a falcon for companions. Sam grows up a little, and learns to live off the land. He endures blizzards; hunters, loneliness and fear, which all make him want to return to city life. But his desire for freedom, adventure and independence is much stronger!

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

One of the great untold stories of World War II is the evacuation of Jews from Nazi-held Denmark. On September 19, 1943, word got out in Denmark that Jews were to be detained and then sent to the death camps. Quickly, the Danish police, resistance, and population arrange a small unit to herd 7,000 Jews to Sweden. This true-story account is brought to life through this fictional, courageous tale by Lois. She recounts this experience through the eyes of 10-year-old Annemarie Johanssen, whose family harbors her best friend, Ellen Rosen, on the eve of the round-up, and helps smuggle Ellen's family out of the country.

Robin's Reading List



Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry

When Mafatu was 3 years old, he clung to his mother's neck as she braved raging sea waters and carried him to shore. She died immediately afterwards. Ever since, Mafatu has feared the sea. His father is the Great Chief of Hikueru, an island whose people worship courage. His friends and family scorn him, even blaming him for storms on the sea. He feels like he doesn't belong here. At age 15, Mafatu, in a desperate attempt to overcome his fears, he and his dog companion, Uri, hop into a canoe and set sail for the southern island. What he learns on his lonely adventure changes him forever, his courage remembered for generations to come, and he's viewed as a hero in the eyes of his people.

Secret of the Peaceful Warrior: A Story of Courage and Love by Dan Millman

This is an inspirational story about love and courage. When Danny's family moves to a new neighborhood, he is confronted by a frightening bully. One night in a dream, Danny meets an old man with shining white hair--a man who will soon appear in real life and share a wonderful

secret.

Grades 6 – 8:

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Brian Robeson, 13, is the only passenger in a two-person plane flying to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness, when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. He crash lands the plane into a small lake, and is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on the tree-lined shore with only his clothing and a hatchet his mother had given him as a gift. It seems as though Brian faces a life-and-death decision nearly every moment. This novel chronicles Brian's mistakes, setbacks and small successes in detail. With the help of his hatchet, he manages to survive 54 days alone in the wilderness. This truly is a heart-stopping story of survival.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Charlotte Doyle, 13, lives in England and goes to the Barrington School for Better Girls. Her family lives in Rhode Island. Charlotte is boarding the Seahawk (a two masted ship) with two other families, known by her father, to go on a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to live with her family. Her father instructed her to keep a daily journal of her voyage. This journal ends up putting her life in jeopardy! Will Charlotte be charged with murder?

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

It is an inspirational story of the hardships of World War II and The Holocaust. Anne shares her thoughts, feelings, and insights about many issues. Her entries show her growing, maturing from a girl to a young woman, experiencing new emotions such as love and courage. Throughout the diary, Anne shows much courage by acting mature beyond her years never complaining about the situation she is in. Her values and morals change as she leaves her normal school life to go into seclusion from the outside world. She finds that she loves and trusts the son of the family living with them; a loss of innocence. Anne died 3 months before her 16th birthday in a concentration camp in 1945. In the end, Anne's diary comes to an end, but her hopes and dreams live on forever.

Robin's Reading List

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

The Newberry Medal-winning story is of Karana, a 12-year old Indian girl, who lives alone on a Pacific island after she leaps from a rescue ship. Isolated on the Island of the Blue Dolphins for eighteen years, Karana forages for food, builds weapons to fight predators, clothes herself in a feathered skirt, and finds strength and peace in her seclusion. This is a classic tale of personal discovery, courage, strength and solitude.

Grades 9 – 12:

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

This story centers on Henry Fleming, a protagonist, who matures from an inexperienced soldier, to a more quiet man. In the beginning Fleming believes war to be glorious and honorable...the perfect test for courage, so he enlists in the Union army. After he flees from his first battle, he realizes his cowardice, and that a soldier's actual purpose is defending his beliefs and his country. Killing is not where the courage is, but being willing to die for the protection of others is the true courage. Fleming arrives back at his camp with a gash in his head he accidentally received from another Union soldier. As the other soldiers care for him, his wound mistaken for a battle scar, he ironically earns a reputation. Fleming later leads his regiment in battles as he matures into an experienced veteran, understanding that war is not all glory.

The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender

Brief scenes from 1939 are reflected in the Holocaust memoir, when the author was 12 and Hitler invaded Poland. There are harrowing descriptions of life and death in the ghetto and concentration camps. Sender gives testimonials to the love, strength, and dignity that helped make Riva's survival possible. Early on in the book, Riva's widowed mother is arrested, and the concerns center on the then 16-year-old's courageous efforts to preserve a family with her younger brothers. Later, after an Auschwitz ordeal, Riva is taken to a slave labor camp where she becomes very ill. Through courage she does live – to write the unforgettable memoir that is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

The Color of Courage by Janet Teeple

This powerful novel, written by a sixteen-year-old young woman is set in Northwest Canada. The Color of Courage is about the life and daily travails of a blind girl, Lindsey, who learns to better understand the world around her. Only faith sustained Lindsey after the loss of her beloved twin brother. Now a freak accident would test the U.S.Army corporal's mettle again. The loss of vision is balanced by the growth of wisdom and inner strength in this touching and heartfelt story.

