

Respect

Vs. Rudeness

I WILL:

- Have consideration for those around me.
- Treat others as I would want to be treated.
- Be careful not to use offensive language.
- Honor my elders and authorities.
- Not keep others waiting.

*Robin Castetter
is a Retired
Elementary
Teacher from
Loveland City
Schools*

Treating others with honor and dignity

Grades Pre - 3:

Lady Lollipop by Dick King-Smith

Lollipop is no ordinary pig. According to her young trainer, Johnny Skinner, she's the smartest pig in the entire kingdom. When people stare into Lollipop's bright, intelligent eyes, it somehow changes them for the better. But can the pig win over the spoiled Princess Penelope, and her not so pig friendly parents, the King and Queen?

Say What? By Margaret Peterson Haddix

"No running in the house. This isn't a playground." That's what her parents would say if they saw six-year-old Sukie running through the living room with big plastic tubs of glitter in each hand. However, this time her dad asks, "If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you jump off a bridge too?" Her parents are acting very strange. They've been reading child psychology books again. Sukie and her older brothers decided to investigate, and what they discover leads to a kids-against-parents WAR!

My Best Friend by Mary Ann Rodman

Lily yearns to be noticed by Tamika at the neighborhood pool on Wednesday playgroup day. Lily is ever hopeful, claiming, "Tamika is my best friend. She just doesn't know it yet." Tamika ignores her in favor of her mean friend, Shanice. Lily continues to share her popsicles and floats, but Tamika just takes her kindness for granted. Meanwhile, Keesha is yearning to be noticed by Lily. She always complimenting Lily on her diving skills, and her bathing suit, and sticking by her in spite of snubbing Tamika.

Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid by Megan McDonald

Stink is Judy Moody's younger "bother". Every morning Judy Moody measures Stink, and it's always the same: three feet, eight inches tall. He feels that everyone is growing faster than he is. One day the ruler reads, "three feet seven and three quarters inches tall. Could it be that Stink is shrinking? Judy gives him advice from wearing up and down stripes to spiking his hair, all to no avail. He's a kid picturing himself with super powers to deal with the travails of everyday life, even those of an occasional teasing big sister.

Grades 4 - 8:

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Throughout his earliest years at school, exuberant Donald Zinkoff smiles and laughs like crazy, even when a big kid steals his giant giraffe hat on the first day of first grade, and when his second grade teacher tells him his handwriting is atrocious and kicks him out of class just because he throws up on her best blackboard eraser. Poor Zinkoff. He's sloppy and he's clumsy and, because of an upside down valve in his stomach, he throws up a lot. Zinkoff may view life as a hilarious adventure, but over the years, his classmates have dubbed him a loser.

Davis is the kid with no best friend, the one who makes his team come in dead last for fifth grade field day, the student even teachers find annoying. On the day of the big snowstorm, when a little girl goes missing, David braves a snowstorm to search for her. Could he end up a hero? Will people look at him differently?

Readers will look at the ways they view others who are different from them, re-evaluating the casual cruelties they inflict on each other to single out the ones who don't fit into "the norm".

Robin's Reading List

Firegirl by Tony Abbott

The story is told by Tom, an introverted, pudgy seventh grader at St. Catherine's. Usually, Tom hangs out with his friend, Jeff, who, after his parents' nasty divorce, isn't such a nice person right now. Tom revels in his ongoing, vivid daydreams driving a fat red Cobra and rescuing popular, pretty classmate, Courtney with his imagined superpowers. In real life, she's never noticed him, of course.

Then Mrs. Tracey, his seventh grade teacher, announces that a new girl is joining the class. Jessica Feeney, she tells them, was badly burned in a fire, and she'll be going for treatments at the hospital in New Haven. Jessica's face is scary and disfigured. It looks like a mask. It's horrible. The kids in the class aren't actually mean to her face—they just don't speak with her, really. Except for Tom.

The rumors begin to fly. Maybe the fire is all Jessica's fault. Maybe she even set the fire that killed her sister, which would make her a murderer. Their vicious talk makes Tom feel sick. (You will deduce, before Tom finds out, that there is no sister. The photograph is of Jessica before the fire.) Tom talks with Jessica and treats her like a person when no one else will, even when Jeff and others in class are spreading hateful lies about her. When Tom has the chance to do the right thing, he tries, even if he's not perfect. Still, the three weeks that he gets to know Jessica change his life a little bit. Here's a book that shows how one person can make a difference.

Sahara Special by Esme Raji Codell

Sahara Jones has a True Ambition: she is going to be a writer. In the meantime, she's repeating fifth grade, having kept her abilities a secret from all her teachers since her father moved out two years ago. Her new teacher calls herself Madame Poitier. Her students call her Miss Pointy, and she is not like any teacher Sahara has ever met. She smiles on the first day of school, asks her students to keep personal journals, and tells them that "boring" is a swear word. For the first time, Sahara confides in a teacher. "I am a writer," she writes in her journal. And Miss Pointy writes back, "I believe you." But a writer writes, and Sahara is doing nothing in class. Madame Poitier gradually helps Sahara get over her fear of participating. Through the Madame's unusual teaching, storytelling, and quiet support, Sahara finds the courage to overcome her fears and prove which file shows her true self.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

In Shel Silverstein's popular tale, a tree starts out as a leafy playground, shade provider, and apple bearer for a rambunctious little boy. Making the boy happy makes the tree happy, but with time it becomes more challenging for the generous tree to meet his needs. Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk . . . and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave. This parable suggests the gift of giving and the quiet acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt

As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him. As Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer—a fiery young lady who "smelled like daisies would smell if they were growing in a big field under a clearing sky after a rain." In Lil...who notices and respects who he is... Doug finds the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a whole town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a funny adventure on a Broadway stage.

Nerd Camp by: Elissa Brent Weissman

Ten-year-old Gabe has just been accepted to the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment. That means he'll be spending six weeks at sleep-away camp, writing poetry and perfecting logic proofs. SCGE has been a summer home of some legendary middle-school smarty-pants (and future Jeopardy! contestants), but it also has a reputation for being, well, a nerd camp. Gabe isn't a nerd. Is he? He's never thought about it much, but compared to Zack, his hip, soon-to-be-stepbrother from LA, Gabe's not so sure where he falls on the cool scale. A wild summer at camp—complete with a midnight canoe ride to Dead Man's Island—helps Gabe realize that he and Zack may be different, but that doesn't mean they can't be brothers...and friends.



Robin's Reading List

Grades 9 - 12:

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

"I begin with the young. We older ones are used up...But my magnificent youngsters! Look at these men and boys! What material! With them, I can create a new world."—Adolf Hitler, Nuremberg 1933. By the time Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, 3.5 million children belonged to the Hitler Youth. It would become the largest youth group in history. Bartoletti explores how Hitler gained the loyalty, trust, and passion of so many of Germany's young people. Her research includes telling interviews with surviving Hitler Youth members.

Ashfall by Mike Mullin

Many visitors to Yellowstone National Park don't realize that the boiling hot springs and spraying geysers are caused by an underlying super volcano, so large that the caldera can only be seen by plane or satellite. By some scientific measurements, it could be overdue for an eruption. For Alex, being left alone for the weekend means having the freedom to play computer games and hang out with his friends without hassle from his mother. Then the super volcano erupts, plunging his hometown into a nightmare of darkness, ash, and violence. Alex begins a harrowing trek to search for his family and finds help in Darla, a travel partner he meets along the way. Together they must find the strength and skills to survive and outlast an epic disaster.

The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater

"It is the first day of November, and so, today, someone will die." This is how it has always been on the island of Thisby. The Annual Scorpio Races bring tourists to the island, and blood to the shore. What makes the island so deadly is also what makes the island so unique—the capaill uisde, the flesh-eating water horses who are captured, trained, and raced by locals every year. For four-time winner, and sixth time survivor, Sean Kendrick, this year's race is especially important because ownership of his beloved capaill uisce, Corr, is on the line. And for Kate "Puck" Connolly, the first woman to ever enter The Scorpio Races, and the only participant riding a regular land horse, a win would help keep her family together on the island she loves. Sean and Puck's story is a love story. There is little romance, but it's also about the love and respect between rider and horse, familial love, and the love for one's home. The romance is subtle, slow-growing, and based in respect and understanding.

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

"Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel—a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unswerving honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice—but the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

