

Children's Books That Build Character

Respect

Black Like Kyra/White Like Me by Judith Vigna (K-3)
Tillo by Beatrix Scharen (K-3) respect for animals
Dragonfly's Tale by Kristina Rodanas (1-6),
respect for nature's gifts
Who Owns the Sun by Stacy Chbosky (1-6)
Sour Land by William Armstrong (4-6)
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Chief Seattle (3-6)
Through Grandpa's Eyes by Patricia MacLachlan (3-4)
Respect for the handicap
The Cay by Theodore Taylor (5-6), respect for all races

Responsibility

Growing Up is Hard Sometimes by Barbara Hazen (K-3)
Best Mom in the World by Judy Delton (K-3)
Pony Champions by Elizabeth Sutton (3-4)
Bently and Egg by William Joyce (K-3)
Trumpet of the Swan E.B. White (3-6)
On My Honor by Dane Bauer (5-6)
A Dog on Barkham Street by Mary Stolz (4-6)
Children's Book of Virtues by William Bennett,
pp.31-53

Thankfulness

I Never Say I'm Thankful, But I Am by Jane Belk Moncure (K-2)
My Mama Had A Dancing Heart by Libba Gray (K-2)
Petunia, I Love You by Roger Duvoisin (K-3)
Little Pig, Big Trouble by Eve Tharlet (1-2)
Grandpa, Me & Our House in the Tree by Barbara Kirk (1-3)
Going West by Jean Van Leevwen (2-4)
Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen (2-4)
The Plymouth Thanksgiving by Leonard Weisgard (3-4)

Kindness

The Lion and the Mouse by Aesop (K-3)
Please, Thanks, I'm Sorry by Jane Moncure (K-1)
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter by John Steptoe (1-6)
Catwings by Ursula Le Guin (1-6)
The Gold Coin by Alma Ada (2-6)
Sweetgrass by Jan Hudson (3-6)
Terrible Wave by Marden Dahlstedt (3-6)
Sour Land William Armstrong (5-6)
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (6)

Self-Control

The Best of Prize of All by Mark Taylor (K-2)
Self-Control by Henrietta Gambell (K-2)
How I Feel by June Behrens (K-2)
<http://www.charactercounts.org/booklist1.htm> Don't Pop
Your Cork on Mondays by Adolph Moser (1-3)
Sugar Gum Tree by Patricia Wrightson (1-3)
The Rag Coat by Lauren Nills (2-3)
Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson (4-6)
Sometimes It's Up by Ruth Carlsen (4-6)

Tolerance

But Names Will Never Hurt Me by Bernard Waber (K-2)
All the Colors of the Earth by Sheila Hamanaka (K-2)
Old Henry by Joan W. Blos (K-3)
The Araboolies of Liberty Street by Sam Swope (2-3)
Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki (3-6)
Come Home With Me by Aylette Jenness (3-6)
Autumn Street by Lois Lowry (4-6)
Stay Away from Simon by Carol Carrick (2-5)

Perseverance

Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie dePaola (K-2)
Tillie and the Wall by Leo Lionni (K-2)
Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle (K-2)
Boy Who Held Back the Sea Lenny Hort (1-4)
Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone (2-4)
Journey to Freedom by Courtnei Wright (2-6)
Pass the Quill by Robert Quackenbush (3-6)
Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of Nimh by Robert O'Brien (5-6)

Friendship

The Friend by John Burningham (K-1)
A Friend Can Help by Terry Berger (K-1)
Friends by Helme Heine (K-2)
Crabby Gabby by Stephen Cosgrove (2-3)
Doodle Flute by Daniel Pinkwater (2-3)
A Friend Like That by Alfred Slote (4-6)
Blue Heron by Avi (5-6)
Being Danny's Dog by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4-6)

Honesty

Honesty by Jane Moncure (K-2)
Dragon's Robe by D. Lattimore (K-3)
Emperor's New Clothes by Hans C. Anderson (K-3)
A Day's Work by Eve Bunting (1-3)
Hamburg by Nina Bawder (3-6)
On My Honor by Marion Bauer (4-6)
The Cybil War by Betsy Byars (4-6)
One Eyed Cat by Paula Fox (5-6)

Cooperation

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams (K-2)
Seven Chinese Brothers by Margaret Mahy (K-2)
A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein (K-6)
How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina Freidman (1-3)
The Quitting Deal by Tobi Tobias (1-3)
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt (4-6)
Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford (4-6)
Addie Saves the Day by Connie Porter (4-6)



Adapted from list developed by Brookside Elementary School, Binghamton, NY
Link to the following website for more titles of children's books.

<http://www.charactercounts.org/booklist1.htm>