

Resilience Through Reading: Children's Books that Model Persistence and Personal Growth

Young Children

1. *Blueberries for Sal, A Time of Wonder* and others by Robert McCloskey
2. *Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent* by Bill Peet
3. *Farmer Greenfield and the Big City Adventure* by Esther Van Handel
4. *The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto* by Natalie Standiford
5. *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
6. *Thundercake* by Patricia Polacco
7. *Wagon Wheels* by Barbara Brenner
8. *What Do You Do with a Problem* by Kobi Yamada

Elementary/Middle - (Often Depending on Whether They're Read Aloud or On Their Own)

1. *Ali and the Golden Eagle* by Wayne Grover
2. *A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Robert Bulla
3. *Amos Fortune Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates
4. *A Single Shard, A Long Walk to Water, The Kite Fighters*, and others by Linda Sue Park
5. *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
6. *Bound for Oregon* by Jean Van Leeuwen
7. *Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Yelchin
8. *Calico Captive* by Elizabeth George Speare
9. *Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry
10. *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham
11. *Dave at Night* by Gail Carson Levine
12. *Follow My Leader* by James B. Garfield
13. *Gentle Ben* by Walt Morey
14. *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
15. *Justin Morgan Had a Horse* by Marguerite Henry
16. *Little Britches* by Ralph Moody, (this is the first in a terrific series)
17. *Mandy* by Julie Edwards
18. *Miracles on Maple Hill* by Virginia Sorenson
19. *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry
20. *Navigating Early* by Claire Vanderpool
21. *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan
22. *Sensible Kate* by Doris Gates
23. *The Breadwinner* (and others) by Debra Ellis
24. *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh
25. *The Golden Goblet* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
26. *The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Karr
27. *The House of Sixty Fathers* by Meindert DeJong
28. *The House on Walenska Street* by Charlotte Herman

29. *The Journeyman* by Elizabeth Yates
30. *The Railway Children* by Edith Nesbit
31. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
32. *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
33. *The Wheel on the School* by Meindert DeJong
34. *Trumpet of the Swan* and *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
35. *Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Teenagers

1. *As Long As I Live: The Life Story of Aharon Margolit*
2. *Echo Mountain* by Lauren Wolk
3. *Fear No Evil* by Natan Sharansky
4. *Go My Son* by Chaim Shapiro
5. Historical books, such as those by Avner Gold and Marcus Lehman
6. *Listening for Lions* and *Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan
7. *Moon Over Manifest* by Claire Vanderpool
8. *Out Of the Depths* by Rabbi Lau
9. *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
10. *The Wednesday Wars* and *Okay, for Now* by Gary Schmidt
11. *To Vanquish the Dragon* by Pearl Benisch
12. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

Notes:

1. These books are roughly divided by age, but they are very general recommendations and may not be categorized correctly for your children. Also, many of these are great read-alouds and children enjoy listening to books much more advanced than those they are ready to read by themselves. Your younger children may really enjoy listening to you read books intended for older kids. (You can also find some as audiobooks to listen to together.)
2. Please pre-read these books and make sure they are appropriate for your children. These are ones that I have shared with my children at various times, but they may not be right for yours at this time!
3. If you enjoy a book, make note of the author! They often wrote other great books you can try.
4. Many of these books are older and may not be available in libraries. I buy many used books affordably on www.abebooks.com. (The older ones are real gems though and worth adding to your personal collection!)