

**Homecoming** / Voigt, Cynthia

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

*Responsibility; Love*

*Grades 5-8*

**Caleb's Choice** / Wisler, G. Clifton

While living in Texas in 1858, fourteen-year-old Caleb faces a dilemma in deciding whether or not to assist fugitive slaves in their run for freedom.

*Courage*

*Grades 4+*

**Gracie's Girl** / Wittlinger, Ellen

Bess volunteers to work on the school musical in hopes of fitting in, but when she and a friend get to know an elderly homeless woman, Bess changes her mind about what is really important.

*Compassion*

*Grades 4-6*

**Don't Call Me Beanhead!** / Wojciechowski, Susan

Beany worries over just about everything, from needing glittery Glamour Nails to the upcoming school talent show. When will she stop worrying and just have fun?

*Integrity*

*Grades 3-5*

**Together in Pinecone Patch** / Yezerski, Thomas

A girl from Ireland and a boy from Poland overcome the prejudices held by the residents of the small Pennsylvania town to which they have immigrated.

*Prejudice*

*Grades 1-3*

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# Doing the Right Thing

## Values and Virtues in Stories

*Suggestions from the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for 3rd grade and up*

*For picture book suggestions, please see our separate booklists for preschool-2nd grade on specific topics like Sharing, Kindness, Honesty, etc.*

*The following titles may be found in juvenile fiction unless otherwise noted.*

**The One and Only Ivan** / Applegate, Katherine

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

*Empathy, Compassion*

*Grades 4+*

**Sounder** / Armstrong, William H.

Harsh customs and hard circumstances cripple the bodies of both the dog Sounder and his master. (Newbery Winner)

*Courage; Tolerance*

*Grades 5-8*

**Pearl's Promise** / Asch, Frank

A mouse named Pearl sets out to save her brother from a pet-store python.

*Responsibility; Love for family*

*Grades 3-6*

**Poppy** / Avi

A courageous mouse protects her family by defeating a sneaky owl.

*Courage; Justice; Loyalty*

*Grades 3-6*

**The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** / Avi

A young girl combats an evil captain and his crew on a transatlantic voyage in 1832. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Courage; Honesty*

*Grades 6-8*

**Tuck Everlasting** / Babbitt, Natalie

Violence erupts when the Tuck family members discover that their secret about a spring that brings immortality has been discovered.

*Courage; Loyalty*

*Grades 4-6*

**Hope Was Here** / Bauer, Joan

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

*Courage, Empathy*

*Grades 4-6*

**On My Honor** / Bauer, Marion Dane

When Joel and his best friend disobey their parents by swimming in a treacherous river, the consequences are devastating. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Honesty; Responsibility; Obedience*

*Grades 5-7*

**The Velveteen Rabbit** / Bianco, Margery Williams

Love brings a toy rabbit to life.

*Respect; Love*

*Grades 2-4*

**The Penderwicks** / Birdsall, Jeanne

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

*Cooperation, Empathy*

*Grades 4-6*

**Twenty and Ten** / Bishop, Claire

French children help to hide Jewish refugee children during World War II.

*Compassion; Responsibility; Courage; Kindness*

*Grades 3-5*

**Wringer** / Spinelli, Jerry

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Courage of convictions*

*Grades 5+*

**Abel's Island** / Steig, William

A tale of a pampered mouse who must fend for himself after being marooned on an isolated island. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Ingenuity; Courage*

*Grades 4-6*

**The Mysterious Benedict Society** / Stewart, Trenton

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

*Honesty, Integrity, Teamwork*

*Grades 4+*

**All-of-a-Kind Family** / Taylor, Sydney

The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century.

*Cooperation*

*Grades 3-5*

**Many Moons** / Thurber, James

Though many try, only the court jester is able to fulfill Princess Lenore's wish for the moon. (Caldecott Winner)

*Ingenuity*

*Grades 2-5*

**Dacey's Song** / Voigt, Cynthia

Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage. (Newbery Winner). Sequel to **Homecoming**.

*Responsibility; Love; Courage*

*Grades 5-8*

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** / Robinson, Barbara

When a family of unrestrained children takes over the church Christmas pageant, the results are hilarious.

*Cooperation*

*Grades 4-6*

**Bernard to the Rescue** / Sharp, Margery

Bernard attempts to rescue an orphan heiress who has been kidnapped.

*Courage*

*Grades 3-6*

**The Alfred Summer** / Slepian, Alfred

Four preteen outcasts, two of them disabled, learn lessons in courage and perseverance when they join forces to build a boat.

*Courage; Perseverance; Friendship; Respect; Compassion*

*Grades 5-7*

**Taking Sides** / Soto, Gary

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

*Loyalties; Individuality; Sportsmanship*

*Grades 3-6*

**The Meaning of Maggie** / Sovern, Megan Jean

11-year-old Maggie Mayfield is an A-plus student with big plans for herself, but at this moment she is also facing a lot of problems—like starting middle school and figuring out how to help her father who is out of work and in a wheelchair.

*Empathy, Cooperation*

*Grades 5+*

**The Sign of the Beaver** / Speare, Elizabeth George

In 1768 Maine, 12-year-old Matt must protect his family's home. During a crisis, he befriends Native Americans from the area. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Responsibility; Courage; Friendship*

*Grades 5-6*

**Call It Courage** / Sperry, Armstrong

The "Crusoe" theme is interwoven with this story of a Polynesian boy's courage in facing the sea he feared. (Newbery Winner)

*Courage; Self-reliance*

*Grades 4-6*

**Blubber** / Blume, Judy

Jill finds out what it's like to be an outsider when she defends Linda, a classmate who is teased because of her obesity.

*Teasing; Self-identity; Loyalty*

*Grades 4-6*

**The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo** / Blume, Judy

Freddy hates being the middle one in the family until he gets a part in the school play.

*Self-identity*

*Grades 2-4*

**The Big Wave** / Buck, Pearl

The loss of family and home in a tidal wave reveals the courage of a little Japanese boy.

*Courage; Love*

*Grades 3-6*

**The Shoeshine Girl** / Bulla, Clyde Robert

Determined to earn some money, ten-year-old Sarah Ida gets a job at a shoeshine stand and learns about a great many things besides shining shoes.

*Responsibility*

*Grades 2-5*

**Summer of the Swans** / Byars, Betsy Cromer

Sara, a moody 14-year-old, changes when her mentally disabled brother disappears. (Newbery Winner)

*Responsibility; Compassion*

*Grades 5-7*

**Understood Betsy** / Fisher, Dorothy Canfield

Timid and small for her age, nine-year-old Elizabeth Ann discovers her own abilities and gains a new perception of the world around her when she goes to live with relatives on a farm in Vermont.

*Discipline, Perseverance*

*Grades 3-5*

**The Family Under the Bridge** / Carlson, Natalie Savage

An old Parisian hobo gradually takes responsibility for three homeless children and their mother. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Responsibility; Love*

*Grades 3-5*

**Elaine, Mary Lewis, and the Frogs** / Chang, Heidi

A Chinese-American girl has a hard time adjusting to life in Iowa until she meets a girl who loves frogs.

*Friendship; Interracial relationships*

*Grades 3-5*

**The Hit-Away Kid** / Christopher, Matt

Barry McGee enjoys winning at baseball so much that he has a tendency to bend the rules. The dirty tactics of the pitcher on a rival team give him a new perspective on sports ethics.

*Honesty*

*Grades 3-5*

**Dear Mr. Henshaw** / Cleary, Beverly

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world. (Newbery Winner)

*Respect*

*Grades 3-5*

**Henry and the Paper Route** / Cleary, Beverly

Henry is a small boy with a knack for creating funny situations.

*Responsibility*

*Grades 3-5*

**Where the Lilies Bloom** / Cleaver, Vera

Gutsy, sharp Mary Call is determined to fulfill her dying share-cropper father's last request to keep the family together.

*Responsibility; Courage; Love*

*Grades 6-8*

**Molly's Pilgrim** / Cohen, Barbara

At Thanksgiving time, Molly begins to feel proud of her Jewish heritage.

*Respect; Tolerance*

*Grades 2-5*

**Thank You, Jackie Robinson** / Cohen, Barbara

Sam gains a friend in 60-year-old Davey and together they share a love of the Brooklyn Dodgers. When Davey becomes ill, Sam tries to get Jackie Robinson's autograph for him.

*Friendship; Sportsmanship; Interracial relationships; Intergenerational relationships*

*Grades 4-6*

**Good Night, Mr. Tom** / Magorian, Michelle

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during the Second World War.

*Love; Kindness; Intergenerational relationships; Courage*

*Grades 6-8*

**Just Like New** / Manson, Ainslie

A young girl shares a favorite doll with another child who has little.

*Sharing; Generosity*

*Grades 1-3*

**After the War** / Matas, Carol

After being released from a Nazi concentration camp, 15-year-old Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children to Palestine.

*Courage*

*Grade 5+*

**Shiloh Season** / Naylor, Phyllis

When mean and angry Judd, who has never known kindness, takes to drinking and mistreats his dogs, Marly discovers how deep a hurt can go and how long it takes to heal. Sequel to **Shiloh**.

*Compassion*

*Grades 3-5*

**Agnes Parker—Girl in Progress** / O'Dell, Kathleen

As she starts in the sixth grade, Agnes faces challenges with her old best friend, a longtime bully, a wonderful new classmate and neighbor, and herself.

*Integrity; Kindness*

*Grades 4+*

**Wonder** / Palacio, R.J.

Ten-year-old Auggie, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

*Integrity; Perseverance; Kindness*

*Grades 5+*

**Dinosaur Trouble** / King-Smith, Dick

Young dinosaurs Nosy, a pterodactyl, and Banty, an apatosaurus, become friends, despite their parents' prejudices.

*Overcoming prejudice; Friendship*

Grades 3-5

**The Year of Miss Agnes** / Hill, Kirkpatrick

Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

*Acceptance of differences; Kindness*

Grade 2-5

**Danger Zone** / Klass, David

When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the U.S. in an international basketball tournament in Rome, Jimmy Doyle makes some discoveries about racism and prejudice.

*Tolerance; Justice*

Grades 6-8

**The View from Saturday** / Konigsburg, E.L.

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. (Newbery Winner)

*Teamwork; Intercultural relationships; Disabilities*

Grades 4-6

**In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson** / Lord, Bette Bao

Bandit leaves China to live in New York in 1947 and finds that her experience parallels that of Jackie Robinson's in his first year in the major leagues. \*

*Self-respect; Interracial relationships*

Grades 4-6

**Number the Stars** / Lowry, Lois

Annemarie must help Ellen and her family escape a Nazi roundup during WWII in Copenhagen. (Newbery Winner)

*Friendship; Courage; Humanitarianism; Loyalty; Hope*

Grades 4-6

**My Brother Sam is Dead** / Collier, James

Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral.

*Loyalty, Integrity*

Grades 5-7

**Annabel the Actress Starring in "Gorilla of My Dreams"** / Conford, Ellen

Though a little disappointed that her first acting part is to be a gorilla at a birthday party, Annabel determines to really get into the role.

*Determination, Initiative, Perseverance*

Grades 3-5

**The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963** / Curtis, Christopher Paul

The everyday activities of an African-American family from Flint, Michigan, are dramatically changed after their trip to Alabama in 1963. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Love; Courage; Interracial relationships*

Grades 4-6

**The Courage of Sarah Noble** / Dalglish, Alice

The true story of a brave little girl who went with her father into the wilds of Connecticut. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Courage*

Grades 2-5

**Zucchini** / Dana, Barbara

A painfully shy young boy befriends a homeless baby ferret and gets as much comfort as he gives.

*Love; Kindness; Courage*

Grades 3-5

**Bright April** / De Angeli, Marguerite

April, an African-American girl, struggles to understand why she and her family are perceived as different and unacceptable.

*Tolerance; Respect; Interracial relationships*

Grades 3-4

**Hurry Home, Candy** / De Jong, Meindert

After a dog becomes lost, he searches for a year for a new home.

*Kindness; Compassion; Trust*

Grades 3-6

**The Wheel on the School** / De Jong, Meindert

The storks are brought back to their island by the school children in a Dutch village. (Newbery Winner)

*Cooperation; Intergenerational relationships*

*Grades 3-6*

**Painting the Wind** / Dionetti, Michelle

Entranced by the paintings of the unconventional Vincent Van Gogh, Claudine is saddened when the townspeople turn against the artist.

*Courage; Empathy*

*Grade 3+*

**Sees Behind Trees** / Dorris, Michael

A Native American boy with a special gift to "see" beyond his poor eyesight journeys with an old warrior to a land of mystery and beauty.

*Overcoming hardship; Ingenuity*

*Grades 3-7*

**Wonder Kid Meets the Evil Lunch Snatcher** / Duncan, Lois

Terrorized by an evil lunch snatcher at his new school, Brian devises a plan involving a new super hero called Wonder Kid.

*Courage; Self-reliance*

*Grades 2-4*

**The Hundred Dresses** / Estes, Eleanor

A Polish girl in an American school wins acceptance from her classmates only after she has been forced to move away. (Newbery Honor)

*Tolerance; Compassion*

*Grades 3-5*

**One-Eyed Cat** / Fox, Paula

After Ned is given an air rifle by his uncle, he disobeys his father by shooting it and, he believes, wounding a cat. (Newbery Honor Book)

*Guilt; Responsibility; Honesty*

*Grades 6-8*

**Stone Fox** / Gardiner, John Reynolds

Little Willy competes against the Indian Stone-Face in the National Dogsled Races.

*Responsibility; Compassion; Love*

*Grades 3-6*

**The Girl Who Knew It All** / Giff, Patricia Reilly

When her pen pal pays a surprise visit, know-it-all Tracy Marston tries to hide her reading difficulties from her friend, who loves to read, but finally admits that she doesn't know everything after all.

*Friendship; Honesty; Self-respect*

*Grades 4-6*

**Absolutely Almost** / Graff, Lisa

Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

*Confidence; Empathy; Perseverance*

*Grades 4-6*

**Summer of My German Soldier** / Greene, Bette

A lonely Jewish girl befriends a German prisoner in Arkansas during World War II.

*Loyalty; Tolerance; Justice; Interracial relationships*

*Grades 6-8*

**Stepping on the Cracks** / Hahn, Mary Downing

In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully Gordy when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

*Loyalty; Courage; Responsibility*

*Grades 6-8*

**The Goose Girl** / Hale, Shannon

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

*Integrity; Courage; Confidence*

*Grades 4-6*

**The Gift of the Magi** / Henry, O

A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents.

*Generosity*

*Grade 4+*