Character Education
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

This selected list of curriculum resources can be used for character education in the Pre-K-12 classroom. Sample juvenile titles are suggested for use in teaching specific qualities: caring, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

Teaching Aids:

(Grades K-12).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB3013.3 .B745 2009


Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1099.3 .D46 2010

Call Number: Curr.Mats. HQ774.5 .H34 2010


Call Number: Curr.Mats. LC268 .L465 2012
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LC268 .M199 2002**

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LC1099 .P43 2012**

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. HM146 .S26 2014**

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LC268 .S74 2004**

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. BJ1533 .K5 S7 2004**

**Juvenile Books:**

*Caring:* Show kindness to all people, think before you speak, and help the less fortunate by being caring and grateful.

*Pinduli* is hurt by the unkind words of dog, lion, and zebra, but her clever trick in return promotes her clan’s survival and spreads harmony throughout the savannah.
**Call Number: PJ Can**

As he tries to come to terms with his mother’s death, Vernon finds solace in his growing relationship with the neighborhood outcast.
**Call Number: J Con**

Maasai tribal members, after hearing the story of the September 11th attacks on New York, decide to present the American people with fourteen sacred cows as a healing gift.
**Call Number: j327.676 Dee**
Everything goes topsy-turvy for Joey as he becomes man of the house, looking after his baby brother, taking care of his troubled mother, and seeking his missing father.
**Call Number: J Gan**

Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives everything changes.
**Call Number: PJ Lud**

(Grades PreK-2).
In this wordless book based on an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that small creatures are capable of great deeds when she rescues the lion.
**Call Number: j398.2 Pin**

(Grades K-5).
A young boy grows to manhood and old age experiencing the love and generosity of a tree which gives to him without thought of return.
**Call Number: PJ Sil**

(Grades K-2).
Zookeeper Amos Mcgee always makes time to visit his friends who live at the zoo until the day he stays home because he is sick and the animals visit him.
**Call Number: PJ Ste**

**Citizenship:** Get involved in your community through volunteer opportunities, protect the environment and be a good neighbor.

The different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.
**Call Number: PJ Che**

Follow the steps of a mayoral campaign from the speeches and rallies, to the voting booth where every vote counts.
**Call Number: j324.97 Chr**
Explains the process of recycling from start to finish including what happens to the recyclables and how they become new products.
**Call Number: j628.445 Gib**

This book introduces children to the important people who make our communities cleaner, safer, and better.
**Call Number: j307 Kal**

Libby and her great-aunt, Lobo, both learn the Pledge of Allegiance. Libby learns it for school and Lobo learns it to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.
**Call Number: PJ Mor**

The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle’s safety tips, until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.
**Call Number: PJ Rat**

Provides a look at cyber bullying and the potential legal issues related to electronic harassment. It also discusses responsible digital citizenship, and online security.
**Call Number: j302.34 Stu**

**Fairness:** Be open-minded and listen to others, accept the consequences for your actions, learn to share, and play by the rules.

Cesar grew up in California during the Great Depression and saw how unfairly farmworkers were treated so he organized them into unions and fought for better pay and working conditions.
**Call Number: jB Chavez**

When Farmer Brown’s cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.
**Call Number: PJ Cro**
A fifth grade class, repelled by the overweight new student who has serious home problems, finally learns to accept her.
**Call Number:** J DeC

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl.
**Call Number:** j398.209 Dem

A classmate tells Grace that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.
**Call Number:** PJ Hof

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.
**Call Number:** PJ Pol

Learn about the importance of fairness and find out how you can be a fairer person.
**Call Number:** j179 Raa

Esperanza and her mother must leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California. They are not treated fairly and need to adapt to the circumstances facing workers.
**Call Number:** J Rya

The little red hen’s friends are lazy and unwilling to help her plant, harvest, or grind the wheat into flour, but when the bread is done they want to help eat it.
**Call Number:** j398.2 Zem
Respect: Be tolerant and accepting of others and yourself. Show consideration and treat others with dignity and honor.

Peppe’s father is upset when he learns that Peppe has taken a job lighting the gas street lamps in his New York City neighborhood, until he sees the respect his neighbors have for Peppe.
**Call Number: PJ Bar**

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws and learn to respect each other.
**Call Number: J Fle**

Despite the differences between people around the world, there are similarities that join us together, such as pain, joy, and love.
**Call Number: j305.8 Fox**

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.
**Call Number: PJ Hen**

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.
**Call Number: J Tay**

A tender story of a neglected outsider and the power he gains from being accepted.
**Call Number: PJ Yas**
**Responsibility:** Do what you are expected to do, take responsibility for your actions, plan ahead, use self-control, follow through on tasks, and set a good example for others.

Joel’s best friend drowns while swimming in the river they promised not to go near. Joel is terrified at having to tell their parents the terrible news.

**Call Number: J Bau**

When Julie brings home two small wolf pups, Amaroq takes care of the one called Nutik and grows to love it, even though Julie tells him it cannot stay.

**Call Number: PJ Geo**

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her to wait a while before showing her new purse, she does something for which she is very sorry later.

**Call Number: PJ Hen**

As Lupita’s mother battles cancer she takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings.

**Call Number: J McC**

Seuss, Dr. (1990). *Oh, the places you’ll go!* New York, NY: Random House. (Grades K-3).
Advice in rhyme for proceeding in life; weather fear, loneliness, and confusion; and being in charge of your actions.

**Call Number: PJ Seu**

When the bus driver takes a break from driving, a wild and wacky pigeon pleads and begs to take his place.

**Call Number: PJ Wil**

**Trustworthiness:** Be able to keep promises, be honest, don’t deceive, cheat, or steal, with others or yourself.

A ninth-grader’s suspension for singing “The Star Spangled Banner” during homeroom becomes a national news story.

**Call Number: J Avi**
Francisco tries to find work for his Mexican grandfather as a gardener. They make a mistake and pull the plants not the weeds. They return the next day and correct their mistake for free.
**Call Number: PJ Bun**

Marty finds a lost beagle, who he keeps hidden from his parents. He has to make a decision on whether to return the dog to his abusive owner.
**Call Number: J Nay**

Learn about the importance of trustworthiness and find out how you can be a more trustworthy person.
**Call Number: j179 Raa**

When David gets in trouble, he has excuses right up until bedtime, when he realizes he really is sorry.
**Call Number: PJ Sha**

Maria loses her mother’s wedding ring while making tamales and with her cousin’s help eats all of them. When she doesn’t find the ring she confesses to her mother.
**Call Number: PJ Sot**

**Websites:**

**The Center for Character and Social Responsibility**
A nonprofit organization that works with schools to provide resources for developing a caring school community. The organization recognizes National Schools of Character and provides training for teachers and administrators. Their database of lesson plans is searchable by topic and broad grade level. (Grades PreK-12).
[http://www.bu.edu/ccsr](http://www.bu.edu/ccsr)

**Character.org**
This nonprofit organization created a database of organizations and resources devoted to character education. The website features lesson plans, news, standards, assessment tools, and publications. (Grades PreK-12).
[http://character.org](http://character.org)

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