

Gentleness

Character... It starts with me!

Vs. Harshness

ROBIN'S READING LIST

AUGUST 2013

I WILL:

- show good manners
- reject violence as a solution to my problems
- look for ways to ease the pain of others
- not annoy or irritate others
- be a peacemaker

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Showing consideration and personal concern for others

Pre – 3

Be Gentle! by Virginia Miller

George gives Bartholomew a little black kitten, telling him to "be gentle because she's only little." However, Bartholomew isn't sure what gentle means. Being only little himself, the young bear plays with the animal as he sees fit; pushing her on a swing, bumping her along in a wagon, playing tricks on her with a garden hose, and banging a drum to cheer her up. George admonishes him repeatedly until the kitten finally runs away. After searching fruitlessly, a sad Bartholomew goes to hide in his special place where he finds his pet. Finally, through a series of experiences George reinforces the concept of gentleness and its rewards. Bartholomew is now very gentle and the kitten purrs; a satisfying ending.

The Gentle Lion and the Little Owlet by Alice Shirley

A plucky young owlet decides to try and find his own dinner one day, and so flies from the safety of his nest into the unknown world surrounding him. Little does he know that his nest is in a tree in the middle of a zoo—and he quickly finds himself face-to-face with a lion. Yet, instead of being eaten, the owlet and lion become friends. As the zookeeper tries in vain to rescue the owl, the owl comes. A plucky young owlet decides to try and find his own dinner one day, and so flies from the safety of his nest into the up with a plan to help the lion escape too.

Gentle Giant by Michael Morpurgo

On a small island way out in the middle of a silver lake there once lived a sad young man. He was sad because he had grown up into a giant of a man, very big, very strong, and very frightening. Because of this, no one liked to go near him. So his only friends were the wild creatures that lived all around him. Then one day, he saves a girl from drowning, and little does he know how she

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is going to change his life forever. Michael Morpurgo draws on traditional storytelling to weave a tale of extraordinary relevance to our own world today. This is a story of compassion, and love, and a simple belief in the healing powers of nature.

Grades 4 - 8

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea

This story features seven narrators, each with a unique story, and each with a different perspective on what makes their teacher so special. Their stories show the true meaning of gentleness as they look for ways to ease the pain of others, and become peacemakers after an unfortunate accident cause each narrator to search his/her soul for forgiveness/friendship. Truly a wonderful book!!

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

This timeless story embodies the "I Will" statements for gentleness. Each character looks for ways to reject violence, ease pain and become a peacemaker...none better than Fern and Charlotte.

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

Florida and her brother Dallas, raised in an orphanage run by the cold-hearted Trepids, rely on each other rather than grownups for support. They become suspicious when Mr. Trepid informs them that they are going to a place called Ruby Holler to accompany old Mr. and Mrs. Morey on separate vacations. Florida is to be Mr. Tiller Morey's companion on a canoe trip; Dallas is to help Mrs. Sairy Morey hunt down an elusive bird. Ready for the trips proves to be a journey in itself as the Moreys, Florida and Dallas make discoveries about one another as well as themselves in a soothing rural environment. The slow evolution of the siblings who are no angels shows the gentleness that embodies Tiller and Sairy. The novel celebrates the healing effects of love, compassion and gentleness. While ten-year-old Tua is wandering around her local market in Thailand, she stumbles into an area where she has never been. It is here that she comes across a beautiful creature who needs her help. Pohn-Pohn



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is an elephant living under deplorable conditions, and it is up to Tua to rescue him from his heartless captors. Soon Tua and Pohn-Pohn are on the run, trying their best to escape the bad guys, and finding help in some very unusual, and at times comical, places. In the middle of this amazing adventure, the two find in each other what they each really needed-- a friendship that lasts a lifetime.

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

Mrs. Olinski returns to teaching after a car accident that leaves her a paraplegic, she leads a middle school Academic Bowl team to win the state championship. The crazy part is that the team is made up of an unlikely quartet of sixth graders who beat out eighth graders to win the prize. This is the story of how these four kindred spirits came together, and how they found Mrs. Olinski. This remarkable novel embodies the "I Will" statements for gentleness

Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris

While ten-year-old Tua is wandering around her local market in Thailand, she stumbles into an area where she has never been. It is here that she comes across a beautiful creature who needs her help. Pohn-Pohn is an elephant living under deplorable conditions, and it is up to Tua to rescue him from his heartless captors. Soon Tua and Pohn-Pohn are on the run, trying their best to escape the bad guys, and finding help in some very unusual, and at times comical, places. In the middle of this amazing adventure, the two find in each other what they each really needed--a friendship that lasts a lifetime.

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Grades 9 - 12

Being Henry David by Cal Armistead

Seventeen-year-old "Hank" has found himself at Penn Station in New York City with no memory of anything --who he is, where he came from, why he's running away. His only possession is a worn copy of *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau. And so he becomes Henry David-or "Hank" and takes first to the streets, and then to the only destination he can think of--Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. Cal Armistead's remarkable debut novel is about a teen in search of himself. Hank begins to piece together recollections from his past. The only way Hank can discover his present is to face up to the realities of his grievous memories. He must come to terms with the tragedy of his past, to stop running, and to find his way home.

Blood on the Moon by Jennifer Knight

As Faith Reynolds enters her freshman year of college, she is a complete and utter nervous wreck. With her best friend Derek suddenly pulling out the romance card and her dark, mysterious classmate staring her down at every turn, Faith somehow feels stuck in the middle without dating either one. And fortune may or may not be with her when a devilishly sexy stranger offers her a welcome escape.

Boys, romance, classes, and annoying roommates are all within the realm of the expected for a college frosh. Trying to solve the mysterious murders of young college coeds near campus is not. Darkness seems to be creeping into every corner of Faith's life, no matter the hour. And when she seeks the truth, danger seems to be the only thing that finds her.

The Good Good Pig: The Extraordinary Life of Christopher Hogwood by Sy Montgomery



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A naturalist who spent months at a time living on her own among wild creatures in remote jungles, Sy Montgomery had always felt more comfortable with animals than with people. So she gladly opened her heart to a sick piglet who had been crowded away from nourishing meals by his stronger siblings. Yet Sy had no inkling that this piglet, later named Christopher Hogwood, would not only survive but flourish—and she soon found herself engaged with her small-town community in ways she had never dreamed possible. Unexpectedly, Christopher provided this peripatetic traveler with something she had sought all her life: an anchor (eventually weighing 750 pounds) to family and home.

The Good Good Pig celebrates Christopher Hogwood in all his glory, from his inauspicious infancy to hog heaven in rural New Hampshire, where his boundless zest for life and his large, loving heart made him absolute monarch over a (mostly) peaceable kingdom. At first, his domain included only Sy's cosseted hens and her beautiful border collie, Tess. Then the neighbors began fetching Christopher home from his unauthorized jaunts, the little girls next door started giving him warm, soapy baths, and the villagers brought him delicious leftovers. His intelligence and fame increased along with his girth. He was featured in USA Today and on several National Public Radio environmental programs. On Election Day, some voters even wrote in Christopher's name on their ballots.

But as this enchanting book describes, Christopher Hogwood's influence extended far beyond celebrity; for he was, as a friend said, a great big Buddha master. Sy reveals what she and others learned from this generous soul who just so happened to be a pig—lessons about self-acceptance, the meaning of family, the value of community, and the pleasures of the sweet green Earth. The Good Good Pig provides proof that with love, almost anything is possible.

