

Discretion

Character... It starts with me!

Vs. Simplemindedness

ROBIN'S READING LIST

MAY 2014

I WILL

- Consider Reactions
- Choose Words Carefully
- Check My Attitude
- Mind My Manners
- Learn From My Critics

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Recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences

K -3 Grades:

Do Unto Otters by: Laurie Keller

A children's book about etiquette couldn't be more fun or accessible to kids than this book. It is a story of the "Golden Rule," which encourages us to treat each other the way we'd like to be treated. It focuses on Mr. Rabbit and his new neighbors, the Otters. The lessons include such simple concepts as "Please," and "Thank you," as well as more complex manners as well.

Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons by: Amy Krouse Rosenthal

In this story, the author distills lessons about behavior and respect into simple definitions of hard to define words, all of which focus around one of kids' favorite treats. For example, the story explains that "trustworthy means, If you ask me to hold your cookie until you come back, when you come back, I will still be holding your cookie." Adding to the fun of learning through baked goods, Jane Dyer includes a series of fantastic watercolors. These whimsical images picture a multicultural cast of children interacting with animals in silly, yet meaningful ways. For anyone looking to build the discussion of behavior in a way that few kids could object to, this is a great story to choose.

Elbert's Bad Word by: Audrey and Don Wood

A bad word, spoken by a small boy at a fashionable garden party, creates havoc, and the child, Elbert, gets his mouth scrubbed out with soap. The bad word, in the shape of a long-tailed furry monster, will not go away until a wizard-gardener cooks up some really delicious, super-long words that everyone at the party applauds. This single-idea cautionary tale has lively, absurdist pictures of



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tiara-crowned, formally dressed adults recoiling in horror or cavorting with glee when Elbert, the only child at the party, speaks a word.

Grades 4 to 8

Frindle by: Andrew Clements

He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.

Wonder by: R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *WONDER*, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, discretion and acceptance.

Blubber by: Judy Blume

After pudgy Linda presents a classroom assignment on the whale, she is nicknamed "Blubber" by Wendy, the most popular girl at school, and so begins a daily ritual of abuse. While Jill isn't the leader of the pack, she joins right in, seemingly without any hesitation. Is it peer pressure? When Wendy first writes a note using the name Blubber, Jill smiles, not because she thinks it's funny but because Wendy is watching her. After that, she participates wholeheartedly.

These kids seem to feel no remorse. In fact, there is a general lack of respect for their neighbors, teachers and other students. They justify inappropriate behavior by claiming that the person gets what they deserve.

In the end, Jill does show readers that they should never let "other people decide what's going to happen to you" and that there are ways to stand up for yourself.



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Grades 9 to 12

The Diary of Anne Frank by: Anne Frank

In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.

The Hobbit by: J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Divergent by: Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

