

Diligence

Character... It starts with me!

Vs. Slothfulness

ROBIN'S READING LIST

I WILL

- finish my projects
- do a job right
- follow instructions
- concentrate on my work
- not be lazy

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Focusing my energy on the work at hand

Grades Pre K – 3

My Shoelaces Are Hard to Tie! By Karla Roberson

Ms. Roberson wrote this book to use her own sense of determination from when she was a little girl, and use it to encourage children who are going through the same developmental stages. Learning to tie shoelaces is something we all must do at a relatively early age. It is one of those rites of passage that gives us our first taste of independence. The main character mirrors her own fierce will as a young girl.

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

Vashti seems beaten by the blank page before her. "I just can't draw", she says.

"Just make a mark and see where it takes you", says Vashti's teacher. Once she gives it a try, there's no stopping her! Honoring effort and overcoming convention are the themes here. With her accomplishment comes the willingness to encourage and embolden others.

You Can do It, Sam by Amy Hest

In this cozy picture book about a mother and son's quiet adventures on a winter morning, Mrs. Bear (a very gentle-looking bear) builds up Sam's confidence in a sweet and memorable way. Mom and Sam bake cakes together, and Sam is encouraged to deliver them to friends' doorsteps. All by himself, through the newly fallen snow, he goes up to each door and leaves a "tasty surprise." Then he runs back to Mom for a tender hug, his sense of accomplishment shining forth from the illustrations.



Robin's Reading List

GRADES 3 to 6

Adam of the Road by Elizabeth Gray

Eleven-year-old Adam loved to travel throughout thirteenth century England with his father, a wandering minstrel, and his dog, Nick. But when Nick is stolen and his father disappears, Adam suddenly finds himself alone. He searches the same roads he traveled with his father, meeting various people along the way. But will Adam ever find his father and dog and end his desperate search?

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

"The View From Saturday" follows the lives of four sixth grade quiz bowl champs and their paraplegic coach/teacher. Alternating their final quiz bowl championship match with short stories about the different journeys each kid has had to make, the book is adept at distinguishing between each individual in the group. We begin by listening to a story told by Noah. A bit of a nerd, but pleased with his own inventive thoughts and ideas, Noah becomes the best man at a geriatric wedding. Then we hear Nadia's story about staying with her divorced father and newly remarried grandfather (hence the Noah connection) in Florida. This flows nicely into Ethan's story. His grandmother married Nadia's grandfather, and he overcomes his reluctance to interact easily with others with the help of his new friend Julian. Julian is the least troubled of the bunch, a boy of Indian heritage who is coming to America after living on a cruise ship. Together, the four band together into a group called The Souls. They are selected by Mrs. Olinski (though for a long time she doesn't know why) as her newest Quiz Bowl team and work together in a group as friends and teammates.

GRADES 6-9

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Sixteen-year-old Hope has grown used to the life she has built with her aunt Addie, a talented diner cook. She doesn't mind the hard work it takes to make a diner hum; she seems to have inherited a knack for waiting tables from the free-spirit mom (Addie's younger sister) who abandoned her years ago. When Addie accepts a new job that takes the pair from Brooklyn to the Welcome Stairways diner in Mulhoney, Wis., Hope never could have imagined the big changes ahead of her. She and Addie shine in the small-town, and gladly offer to help diner owner G.T. Stoop, who is battling



Robin's Reading List

leukemia, run for mayor. Along the way, Addie and Hope both find love, and Hope discovers the father figure she has so desperately wanted.

Nightjohn by Gary Paulson

"Nightjohn" is the tale of a young, female black slave who learned how to read, and the man who dared break the rules to teach it. Sarny is a curious, little girl, a slave from birth, who resides in the plantation of Mr. Waller during the Civil War. For her, life is the same, until a mysterious black man named John teaches her something new, the ability to read and write. Though the rules forbid that a slave should learn that, Sarny and John risk everything to learn and teach one of man's most powerful tactics.

Grades 9 and up

Burning Up by Caroline Cooley

In Shell Beach, where teenaged Macey Clare divides her life between her busy parents and her sweet-natured grandparents, neighbors gather around driftwood bonfires. Arson in the inner-city church where Macey volunteers leaves her asking why life should be so hard for some people--a question that becomes more urgent when her new friend Venita is killed in the crossfire of a gang shootout. And primary to the story is the mysterious fire of 1959 that burned down a barn across the street from Macey's grandparents' house. When Macey and her new love Austin begin to explore the barn's history for a school project, their families and neighbors become strangely evasive. But the pieces begin to fit together when Macey and Austin discover that long ago the barn had been turned into an apartment, the inhabitant of which was the first--and

last--black high school teacher in Shell Beach. Why was the building burned down? And, more importantly, whose hand lit the match? Macey and Austin become more frightened of the truth--of answers that will rekindle fires of bigotry much too close to their own lives.

