

Endurance

Character... It starts with me!

Vs. Discouragement

ROBIN'S READING LIST

JUNE 2014

I WILL

- not be a "quitter"
- accept both instruction and correction
- not waste my time, energy and talent on meaningless pursuits
- bend instead of break
- put my whole heart into everything I do

*Robin Castetter
is a Retired
Elementary
Teacher from,
Loveland City
Schools*

*P.O. Box 33144
Cincinnati, Ohio
45233*

*Mary Andres Russell,
Executive Director*

Phone: 513.467.0170

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The inward strength to withstand stress
and do my best.

Pre - Grade 3:

Pushing the Limits (True Tales: A Chapter Book) by Melissa McDaniel

Ideal for today's young investigative reader, each A True Book includes lively sidebars, a glossary and index, plus a comprehensive "To Find Out More" section listing books, organizations, and Internet sites. A staple of library collections since the 1950s, the new A True Book series is the definitive nonfiction series for elementary school readers.

Starman by Christine Anton

An endurance riding story for kids based on real life adventures of a horse and his girl. This is the story of a horse who wanted a home, the girl who found him, and the team they became.

Noshi's Special Gift by L. B. Manz

Noshi wants to learn to play a musical instrument for his family during Yokohama's annual Port Festival, but it takes the help of a beautiful white crane and a lot of practice for him to realize his dream.

Soccer Crazy by Colin McNaughton

Bruno is a slightly overweight new bear in the neighborhood, who finally gets a chance to play on the local soccer team. He's only a substitute player, but on the day of the biggest game, he is suddenly called in to a tie game with only one minute to go! This book is a tale of overcoming adversity by having the courage to persevere.

Grades 4 – 8:

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate Di Camillo

Edward Tulane is a china rabbit, dearly loved by a young girl named Abilene. One day he is lost



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over the side of a boat. His journey leads him to a older couple who dress him like a girl rabbit, a hobo and his dog, a young girl and her brother and, finally, to a doll shop. Along the way, Edward learns to love the people he encounters. He also learns that family members can be cruel to one another; that hobos have family that they love dearly and don't want to forget; that no matter how much you love someone, she may still die; and that no matter what happens in life, never give up on love.

The Conspiracy of the Secret Nine by Celia Bland

The story is set in 1898, where an Irish American boy and an African American boy in Wilmington, NC were best buddies until politics and racial tensions tore their friendship and city apart. The story blends history and fiction into a suspense-filled mystery that teaches about the complexities of race relations during the Reconstruction.

Almost Home by Joan Bauer

When twelve-year-old Sugar Mae Cole's grandfather dies and her no-good gambling father leaves again, Sugar and her mom Reba lose their house in Missouri. Homeless, they head for Chicago, where Reba thinks she can find work and make a fresh start. Unfortunately, Reba suffers a breakdown, and Sugar and her beloved little rescue dog Shush suddenly find themselves thrust into the foster care system. Reba has always taught Sugar to be gracious though, and Sugar is doing her best to find the good in her situation, even when she is frightened and confused. With the help of her dog, a giving foster family, a former teacher who urges her to continue to write the poetry she so loves, and Sugar's own grace and fortitude, she eventually learns that while she can't control what happens to her, she can control how she responds to her circumstances.

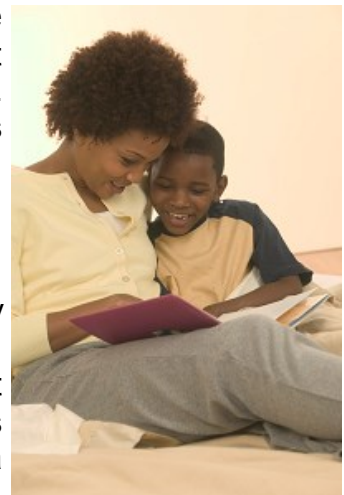
Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake: the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Grades 9 – 12:

A Strand of Light: A Dad's Story of Endurance and Hope by Randy Dahl

"Mr. Dahl, your son has a massive tumor in his brain and you must get him to Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City as quickly as possible, his body is shutting down." At that moment our lives changed. "It takes a



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real Man to have the courage to write down this story. As we struggle we some medical issues in our family, I look at the file I've just downloaded with a strange mix of reverence and fear." – Leonardo. This is the story of my son Tom and me, and of a remarkable journey down a path that no parent ever wants to walk, and that no kid should have to endure. It's also the beginning of the story of Tom, an amazing individual. Tom endured a total of 14 surgeries over 13 years. Three times, he has had a major resection, inflicting severe trauma to his brain. Three times he has had to teach himself to walk again. With each trauma of surgery came waves of pain, heavy and addictive pain medications, and resistance to those medications. This is the story of a young boy looking for the strength to battle through extreme circumstances to become a man. This is my story, too--the story of a father of two, a beautiful young girl, and an energetic boy with a magnetic personality and smile. It's a story about missing clues and changing my mind about what I thought I knew, what I thought was right. It's a story about the friends and the people I love. Some I have known since I was young, some are new, and many have come and gone, but all have left a dramatic impression as they supported me in my fight to support my son.

Reunited in the Desert: How I Risked Everything to See My Children Again by Helle Amin

After setting up home on the tropical island of Bali with her husband and four children, Helle Amin seemed to have the perfect life. But one day in 2001 Helle's idyllic existence was shattered. She returned home from a shopping trip one evening to find that her children, who should have been safely tucked in their beds, had disappeared. It didn't take Helle long to discover that her Saudi Arabian husband had taken them away to live in his home country. With her children thousands of miles away in totally unfamiliar surroundings, Helle drew upon her remarkable courage and set off for the desert in a desperate attempt to find her beloved boys. Her journey was filled with drama, danger, excitement, and sorrow. In the astonishing struggle that followed Helle was reduced to catching occasional, snatched glimpses of her children as they were taken to and from school in Jeddah. She took a job at an international school in the city and began her campaign for access. After a series of dramatic twists and turns, Helle was reunited forever with her boys. This fascinating and gripping story cannot fail to touch any reader's heart and is packed with adventure, heartache, and joy.



No One's Child by Judith N. McNeil

In *No One's Child*, Judith takes you on a haunting pilgrimage to her life 'along the railway tracks,' with an intense and vivid portrait of Australian life in the 1950s. Maggot infested outside toilets. No electricity. Wandering Gypsies with horses, painted wagons and fearful reputations. Barely tolerated by her mother and disliked by her father, she still remained unrelenting as the provider and care giver to her siblings. Through it all, there were hands that reached out, and the battered and bruised spirit of one little girl determined to forge her own destiny overcame the stigma and slur of "White trash" and "Railway brat" – overcame

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to walk her own walk. Judith was soon to become The Girl With the Cardboard Port, married to a Singaporean and migrating to the turbulent world of Singapore and Malaya in the 1960s, where she becomes embroiled in catastrophic events, and is driven to the point of considering the ultimate crime.

Defiant Courage: A WWII Epic of Escape and Endurance by Astrid Karlsen Scott

I remember reading *We Die Alone* in 1970 and I could never forget it. Then when we went to Norway to do a docudrama, people told us again and again that certain parts were pure fiction. Since I was a Norwegian that was not good enough; I had to find the truth. I sincerely believe we did," writes author Astrid Karlsen Scott. *Defiant Courage* is the true story of what Jan Baalsrud endured as he tried to escape from the Gestapo in Norway's Troms District.

In late March 1943, in the midst of WWII, four Norwegian saboteurs arrived in northern Norway on a fishing cutter and set anchor in Toftefjord to establish a base for their operations. However, they were betrayed, and a German boat attacked the cutter, creating a battlefield and spiraling Jan Baalsrud into the adventure of his life. The only survivor, a wounded Baalsrud begins a perilous journey to freedom, swimming icy fjords, climbing snow-covered peaks, enduring snowstorms, and getting caught in a monstrous avalanche. More than sixty people of the Troms District risk their lives to help Baalsrud, suffering from snow blindness and frostbite, to freedom. Meticulously researched for more than five years, Karlsen Scott and Haug bring forth the truth behind this captivating, edge-of-your-seat, real-life survival story.

