

Character-Based Literacy Book List

Title	Author	Grades	Lexile
 CHANGE REQUIRES EFFORT			
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul	3–5	950L
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	3–5, 6–8	560L
Holes	Louis Sachar	3–5, 6–8	660L
Riding Freedom	Pam Muñoz Ryan	3–5, 6–8	720L
Frindle	Andrew Clements	3–5, 6–8	830L
Miracle's Boys	Jacqueline Woodson	6–8	660L
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	6–8	700L
The Maze	Will Hobbs	6–8	720L
The Afterlife	Gary Soto	6–8	810L
Popcorn Days and Buttermilk Nights	Gary Paulsen	6–8	950L
Taste of Salt: A Story of Modern Haiti	Frances Temple	6–8, 9–12	650L
Jesse	Gary Soto	6–8, 9–12	760L
I am the Cheese	Robert Cormier	6–8, 9–12	810L
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	9–12	630L
A Lesson Before Dying	Ernest J. Gaines	9–12	750L
All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Maria Remarque	9–12	830L
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	9–12	870L
Their Eyes were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston	9–12	890L
Nectar in a Sieve	Markandaya Kamals	9–12	900L
Cannery Row	John Steinbeck	9–12	930L
East Side Dreams	Art Rodriguez	9–12	NA
 COURAGE REQUIRES FORTITUDE			
The Phantom Tollbooth	Norton Juster	3–5, 6–8	1000L
Joey Pigza Loses Control	Jack Gantos	3–5, 6–8	800L
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson	3–5, 6–8	810L
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	J.K. Rowling	3–5, 6–8	880L
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis	3–5, 6–8	940L
Parvana's Journey	Deborah Ellis	6–8	640L
Under the Blood Red Sun	Graham Salisbury	6–8	640L
Wringer	Jerry Spinelli	6–8	690L
Whirligig	Paul Fleischman	6–8	760L
Sarny	Gary Paulsen	6–8	840L
Beardance	Will Hobbs	6–8	890L



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The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien	6–8, 9–12	1000L
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	6–8, 9–12	1020L
Nightjohn	Gary Paulsen	6–8, 9–12	630L
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	6–8, 9–12	952L
The Pearl	John Steinbeck	9–12	1000L
Parrot in the Oven	Victor Martinez	9–12	1000L
Children of the River	Linda Crew	9–12	700L
The House on Mango Street	Sandra Cisneros	9–12	870L
Othello	William Shakespeare	9–12	NA
Catfish and Mandala	Andrew Pham	9–12	NA
 INTEGRITY REQUIRES WHOLENESS			
I Heard the Owl Call My Name	Margaret Craven	6–8	1080L
Lisa, Bright and Dark	John Neufeld	6–8	690L
Seedfolks	Paul Fleischman	6–8	710L
Goodbye, Vietnam	Gloria Whelan	6–8	810L
Surviving the Applewhites	Stephanie S. Tolan	6–8	820L
Stuck in Neutral	Terry Trueman	6–8	820L
Dragonwings	Laurence Yep	6–8	870L
Child of the Owl	Laurence Yep	6–8	920L
Bronx Masquerade	Nikki Grimes	6–8, 9–12	670L
The Contender	Robert Lipsyte	6–8, 9–12	690L
The Giver	Lois Lowry	6–8, 9–12	760L
The First Part Last	Angela Johnson	6–8, 9–12	790L
If You Come Softly	Jacqueline Woodson	6–8, 9–12	HL570L
The Skin I'm In	Sharon Flake	6–8, 9–12	HL670L
An Island Like You	Judith Ortiz Cofer	7–12	910L
Somewhere in the Darkness	Walter Dean Myers	8–12	640L
Animal Farm	George Orwell	9–12	1170L
A Child Called "It"	Dave Pelzer	9–12	850L
The Joy Luck Club	Amy Tan	9–12	930L
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	Julia Alvarez	9–12	950L
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	9–12	NA
 JUSTICE REQUIRES RESTRAINT			
Framed in Fire	David Patneude	6–8	530L
Friedrich	Hans Pater Richter	3-5	
Hush	Jacqueline Woodson	6–8	640L
Number the Stars	Lois Lowry	6–8	670L




Title	Author	Grades	Lexile
Shadow Spinner	Susan Fletcher	6–8	710L
Red Scarf Girl	Ji-Li Jiang	6–8	780L
Tunes for Bears to Dance To	Robert Cormier	6–8	840L
The Cay	Theodore Taylor	6–8	860L
Watson’s Go to Birmingham-1963	Christopher Paul Curtis	6–8	920L
Nelson Mandela	Barry Denenberg	6–8	990L
Nothing But the Truth	Avi	6–8	NA
My Brother Sam is Dead	Christopher Collier	6–8, 9–12	770L
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli	6–8, 9–12	820L
Farewell to Manzanar	Jeanne Wakatusuki Houston	9–12	1040L
Left for Dead	Pete Nelson	9–12	1260L
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare-Folger Shakespeare Library	9–12	1260L
The Good Earth	Pearl S. Buck	9–12	1530L
Night	Elie Wiesel	9–12	590L
Fallen Angels	Walter Dean Myers	9–12	650L
Cry, the Beloved Country	Alan Paton	9–12	860L
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	9–12	NA
			
KINDNESS REQUIRES EMPATHY			
Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio	Tony Johnston	3–5, 6–8	600L
Out of the Dust	Karen Hesse	6–8	1040L
Crossing the Wire	Will Hobbs	6–8	670L
Journey of the Sparrows	Fran Leeper Buss	6–8	760L
Wonder	R. J. Palacio	6–8	790L
A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park	6–8	920L
I lived on Butterfly Hill	Marjorie Agosín	6–8, 9–12	770L
Before We Were Free	Julia Alvarez	6–8, 9–12	890L
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon	9–12	1090L
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson	9–12	690L
The Help	Kathryn Stockett	9–12	730L
Paper Towns	John Green	9–12	850L
Song of Solomon	Toni Morrison	9–12	870L
Blue Gold	Elizabeth Stewart	9–12	NA
			
LEADERSHIP REQUIRES ENGAGEMENT			
Boy on the Wooden Box	Leon Layson	3–5, 6–8	1000L
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	B.M. Mooyart-Doubleday	3–5, 6–8	1080L
Mud City	Deborah Ellis	3-5	740L



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The Mighty Miss Malone	Christopher Paul Curtis	3–5, 6–8	750L
The View from Saturday	E.L. Konigsburg	3–5, 6–8	870L
Macbeth	William Shakespeare-Folger Shakespeare Library	3–5, 6–8, 9–12	420
The Girl Who Owned a City	O.T. Nelson	6–8	660L
The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	6–8	680L
The Westing Game	Ellen Raskin	6–8	750L
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice	Phillip M. Hoose	6–8, 9–12	1000L
Call of the Wild/White Fang	Jack London	6–8, 9–12	1010L
The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	6–8, 9–12	1170L
The Art of Keeping Cool	Janet Taylor Lisle	6–8, 9–12	730L
Code Talker	Chester Nez	6–8, 9–12	910L
The Golden Compass	Philip Pullman	6–8, 9–12	930L
Death Be Not Proud	John Gunther	9–12	1060L
Dead Man Walking	Helen Prejean	9–12	1140L
The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	9–12	810L
Falling Leaves	Adeline Yen Mah	9–12	960L
Bread Givers	Anzia Yezierska	9–12	NA
13 Days	Robert Kennedy	9–12	NA
 RESOURCEFULNESS REQUIRES INITIATIVE			
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle	3–5, 6–8	740L
Counting by 7's	Holly Goldberg Sloan	3–5, 6–8, 9–12	770L
Mindmaster's	Gordon Korman	3-5, 6-8	730L
The Truth About Truman School	Dori Hillestad Butler	6–8	640L
Anything But Typical	Nora Raleigh Baskin	6–8	HL640L
Becoming Naomi León	Pam Muñoz Ryan	3–5, 6–8	830L
Pygmalion	George Bernard Shaw	9–12	1340L
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	9–12	730L
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba	9–12	850L
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	9–12	NA
The Red Badge of Courage	Stephen Crane	9–12	900L
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes	9–12	910L
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	9–12	GN510L
Not Impossible	Mick Ebeling	9–12	NA



Title	Author	Grades	Lexile
 RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRES ACTION			
Iqbal	Francesco D'Adamo	3–5, 6–8	730L
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell	3-5, 6-8	1000L
Lupita Mañana	Patricia Beatty	3–5, 6–8	760L
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	3–5, 6–8	770L
The Circuit	Francisco Jimenez	3–5, 6–8	880L
Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key	Jack Gantos	3–5, 6–8	890L
The Breadwinner	Deborah Ellis	6–8	630L
The Outside Shot	Walter Dean Myers	6–8	660L
Esperanza Rising	Pam Muñoz Ryan	6–8	750L
Buried Onions	Gary Soto	6–8	850L
Breaking Through	Francisco Jimenez	6–8, 9–12	750L
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	6–8, 9–12	750L
Heaven	Angela Johnson	6–8, 9–12	790L
Adventure of Ulysses	Bernard Evslin	6–8, 9–12	860L
The Pigman	Paul Zindel	6–8, 9–12	880L
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Phillbrick	6–8, 9–12	930L
Julius Caesar	William Shakespeare	9–12	1330L
Kindred	Octavia E. Butler	9–12	580L
Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	9–12	680L
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	9–12	770L
The Long Valley	John Steinbeck	9–12	NA

Note. NA: Lexile not available.