Picture books expand children’s experiences and provide opportunities for classroom discussion. The following picture books reflect positive character traits including the traits outlined in the popular Six Pillars of Character program. Students can see themselves or friends in storybook characters and wonder how the characters will solve their challenges. Classroom teachers have the opportunity to emphasize positive character traits by reading and discussing quality children’s picture books with their students.

The picture books are organized by character traits that are placed in alphabetical order starting with the Six Pillars of Character traits and followed by additional positive character traits. There is also a listing of videos available from the San Diego County Office of Education’s Media Services and a list of helpful websites that provide lesson plans, units, and other support material.

### Six Pillars of Character

- **Trustworthiness**—Be honest • Don’t deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable—do what you say you’ll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal—stand by your family, friends and country

- **Respect**—Treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

- **Responsibility**—Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act—consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

- **Fairness**—Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded and listen to others • Don’t take advantage of others • Don’t blame others carelessly

- **Caring**—Be kind • Be compassionate and show that you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

- **Citizenship**—Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed and vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment

—From http://www.charactercounts.org
### Picture Books That Support the Six Pillars of Character Traits

#### Caring
- Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Little Match Girl*
- Brimmer, Larry Dane. *The Sidewalk Patrol*
- Bunting, Eve. *Night Tree*
- Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story*
- Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels*
- Cohen, Barbara. *Molly’s Pilgrim*
- Bang, Molly. *The Paper Crane*
- Delton, Judy. *Two Good Friends*
- dePaola, Tomie. *Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs*
- dePaola, Tomie. *Now One Foot, Now the Other*
- Fine, Edith Hope. *Under the Lemon Moon*
- Fleming, Candace. *Boxes for Katje*
- Fox, Mem. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*
- Freeman, Don. *Corduroy*
- Lionni, Leo. *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*
- Lionni, Leo. *Tico and the Golden Wings*
- Martin, Bill Martin, Jr. *Knots on a Counting Rope*
- McPhail, David. *The Teddy Bear*
- Meddaugh, Susan. *Martha Walks the Dog*
- Miller, William. *The Piano*
- Ness, Evaline. *Sam, Bangs & Moonshine*
- Nolen, Jerdine. *Raising Dragons*
- Perrault. *Cinderella*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Chicken Sunday*
- Polacco, Patricia. *I Can Hear the Sun*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Rechenka’s Eggs*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You Mr. Falker*
- Schertle, Alice. *Down the Road*
- Saltzberg, Barney. *Crazy Hair Day*
- Saltzberg, Barney. *Mrs. Morgan’s Lawn*
- San Souci, Robert D. *The Talking Eggs*
- Sharmat, Marjorie. *Gladys Told Me to Meet Her Here*
- Sharmat, Marjorie. *Mooch the Messy*
- Simont, Marc. *The Stray Dog*
- Soto, Gary. *Chato and the Party Animals*
- Stanley, Diane. *Raising Sweetness*
- Steptoe, John. *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters*
- Turner, Ann. *Katie’s Trunk*
- Turner, Ann. *Nettie’s Trip South*
- Viorst, Judith. *Tenth Good Thing About Barney*

#### Kindness
- Cohen, Miriam. *Best Friends*
- Cole, Joanna. *Bully Trouble*
- Bang, Molly. *The Paper Crane*
- Friedman, Ina R. *How My Parents Learned to Eat*
- Hutchins, Pat. *My Best Friend*
- Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*
- dePaola, Tomie. *William’s Doll*
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*
- Keats, Ezra Jack. *Goggles!*
- Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*
- Seuss, Dr. *Horton Hears a Who!*
- Steptoe, John. *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters*
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*

#### Respect
- Adler, Carole S. *Get Lost, Little Brother*
- Aliki. *Two of Them*
- Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Ugly Duckling*
- Bartone, Elisa. *Peppe the Lamplighter*
- Beaumont, Karen. *I Like Myself!*
- Borden, Louise. *A. Lincoln and Me*
- Brimmer, Larry Dane. *The Sidewalk Patrol*
- Brimmer, Larry Dane. *School Rules*
- Brown, Marcia. *Once a Mouse: A Fable Cut in Wood*
- Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story*
- Bunting, Eve. *The Wednesday Surprise*
- Bunting, Eve. *On Call Back Mountain*
- Bunting, Eve. *So Far From the Sea*
- Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*
- Burton, Virginia Lee. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*
- Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*
- Carle, Eric. *Grouchy Ladybug*
- Child, Lauren. *I Will Never, Not Ever, Eat a Tomato*
- Cohen, Miriam. *Best Friends*
- Coles, Babette. *Prince Cinders*
- Curtis, Jamie Lee. *Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born*
- dePaola, Tomie. *Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs*
- dePaola, Tomie. *Now One Foot, Now the Other*
- Ets, Marie. *Play with Me*
- Fine, Edith Hope. *Under the Lemon Moon*
- Fleischmann, Paul. *Weslandia*
- Fox, Mem. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*
- Friedman, Ina R. *How My Parents Learned to Eat*
- Freeman, Don. *Come Again, Pelican*
- Garland, Sherry. *The Lotus Seed*
- Greenfield, Eloise. *Daydreamers*
- Grimm. *The Frog Prince*
- Kellogg, Steven. *Johnny Appleseed*
- Lester, Helen. *Tacky the Penguin*
- Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*
- Lionni, Leo. *Inch by Inch*
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad All Year*
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Together*
- Lovell, Patty. *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*
- Marshall, James. *George and Martha*
- Marshall, James. *George and Martha Encore*
- Marshall, James. *George and Martha One Fine Day*
- McPhail, David. *Sisters*
- Miles, Miska. *Annie and the Old One*
- Miller, William. *The Piano*
- O’Neill, Alexis. *Recess Queen*
Peet, Bill. Big Bad Bruce
Perrault, Cinderella
Perrault. The Sleeping Beauty
Polacco, Patricia. The Keeping Quilt
Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say
Rylant, Cynthia. Scarecrow
Say, Allen. The Bicycle Man
Sendak, Maurice. Where the Wild Things Are
Seuss, Dr. The Lorax
Shannon, David. A Bad Case of Stripes
Sharmat, Marjorie. Bartholomew, the Bossy
Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler’s Gift
Shea, Pegi Deitz. The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee’s Story
Silverstein, Shel. The Giving Tree
Spier, Peter. People
Steig, William. Amos & Boris
Galdone, Paul. The Three Billy Goats Gruff
Stevenson, James. Wilfred the Rat
Thurber, James. Many Moons
Turkle, Brinton. Thy Friend, Obadiah
Van Allsburg, Chris. The Polar Express
Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over
Wells, Rosemary. Yoko
Williams, Margery. Velveteen Rabbit
Williams, Vera B. A Chair for My Mother
Winter, Jeanette. Follow the Drinking Gourd
Wiesniewski, David. Golem
Winthrop, Elizabeth. Dumpy La Rue
Woodson, Jacqueline. The Other Side
Yangsook, Choi. The Name Jar
Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy
Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon
Zolotow, Charlotte. The Quarreling Book
Zolotow, Charlotte. William’s Doll

Responsibility

Arnold, Todd. The Signmaker’s Assistant
Bartone, Elisa. Peppe the Lamplighter
Berenstain, Stan and Jan. Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room
Brinner, Larry. The Promise
Brown, Marc Tolon. Arthur’s Computer Disaster
Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Burton, Virginia Lee. Katy and the Big Snow
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
dePaola, Tomie. Strega Nona
Fox, Mem. Harriet, You’ll Drive Me Wild
Gramatky, Hardie. Little Toot
Grimm, Little Red Riding Hood
Havill, Juanita. Jamaica’s Find
Henkes, Kevin. Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse
Heyward, Du Bose. The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes
Joeose, Barbara. Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail
Kay, Verla. Gold Fever
Kellogg, Steven. Can I Keep Him?
Krauss, Ruth. The Carrot Seed
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley
Mayer, Mercer. Lisa Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp
Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons
Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy
Peet, Bill. The Wump World
Perrine, Mary. Salt Boy

Polacco, Patricia. Chicken Sunday
Polacco, Patricia. Mrs. Katz and Tush
Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say
Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Schertle, Alice. Down the Road
Schur, Maxine Rose. The Peddler’s Gift
Seuss, Dr. Horton Hatches the Egg
Shannon, David. No, David!
Steig, William. Brave Irene
Van Allsburg, Chris. Two Bad Ants
Van Allsburg, Chris. Jumanji
Viorst, Judith. Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday
Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over
Ward, Lynd. The Biggest Bear

Citizenship

Adler, David A. The Babe & I
Baylor, Byrd. Hawk, I’m Your Brother
Blos, Joan. Old Henry
Bunting, Eve. Fly Away Home
Carlson, Nancy. How to Lose All Your Friends
Cooney, Barbara. Miss Rumphius
Creech, Sharon. A Fine, Fine School
Cronin, Doreen. Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type
Cronin, Doreen. Duck for President
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of Bluebonnet
Deedy, Carmen Agra. The Yellow Star
Guthrie, Donna. A Rose for Abby
Henkes, Kevin. Chrysanthemum
Johnson, D.B. Henry Hikes to Fitchburg
Keates, Ezra Jack. Goggles!
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
McPhail, David. The Teddy Bear
O’Neill, Alexis. Recess Queen
Polacco, Patricia. Thank You, Mr. Walker
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. The Flag We Love
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. One Hundred Is a Family
Saltzberg, Barney. Crazy Hair Day
Seuss, Dr. The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins
Wahl, Jan. Candy Shop
Yangsook, Choi. The Name Jar

Trustworthiness

Aesop. The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Andersen, Hans Christian. The Emperor’s New Clothes
Beskow, Elsa. Pelle’s New Suit
Burton, Virginia Lee. Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel
Chorao, Kay. Molly’s Lies
Demi. The Empty Pot
Hayes, Joe. Juan Verdades: The Man Who Couldn’t Tell a Lie
Hoban, Russell. Bargain for Frances
Lionni, Leo. Swimmie
Marshall, James. George and Martha
Monjo, F. N. The Drinking Gourd
Ness, Evaline. Sam, Bangs & Moonshine
Peet, Bill. Cowardly Clyde
Piper, Watty. The Little Engine That Could
Silverstein, Shel. The Giving Tree
Soto, Gary. Too Many Tamale-
Turkle, Brinton. Adventures of Obadiah
Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy
Picture Books That Support Positive Character Traits

Although the following character traits aren’t adjectives used in Six Pillars of Character, they are traits that are important for students to read and learn about. Some of the traits could easily be folded into the Six Pillars of Character study, but it might also be helpful to use additional adjectives to describe positive characteristics. The following character traits were identified by Susan Hall in *Using Picture Storybooks to Teach Character Education* (Oryx Press). The listed books are available in schools that contract for School Library Service or are available for circulation from School Library Service. Hall’s outstanding, comprehensive resource is also available for loan from the San Diego County Office of Education’s Library Media Service.

**Cooperation**

Cooper, Helen. *Pumpkin Soup*
Ernst, Lisa Campbell. *Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt*
Nolen, Jerdine. *Raising Dragons*
Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*

**Courage**

Aardema, Verna. *Borregoita and the Coyote*
Such, Mary Jane. *Bantam of the Opera*
Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels*
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *The Worrywarts*
Hest, Amy. *The Purple Coat*
Joose, Barbara. *Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire*
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*
Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler’s Gift*
Ward, Lynd. *The Biggest Bear*
Yorinks, Arthur. *Hey, Al*

**Diligence**

dePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*
Ernst, Lisa Campbell. *Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt*
Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*
London, Jonathan. *Hip Cat*
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Snowflake Bentley*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*
Nolen, Jerdine. *Raising Dragons*
Pilkey, Dav. *The Paperboy*
Robbins, Ruth. *Baboushka and the Three Kings*
Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener*

**Discernment**

Bunting, Eve. *On Call Back Mountain*
Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*
Conrad, Pam. *The Rooster’s Gift*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*
Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*
Say, Allen. *Allison*
Say, Allen. *Emma’s Rug*
Say, Allen. *Grandfather’s Journey*
Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener*
Yorinks, Arthur. *Hey, Al*

**Empathy**

Ackerman, Karen. *Song and Dance Man*
Borden, Louise. *A. Lincoln and Me*
Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story*
Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels*
Fleming, Candace. *The Hatmaker’s Sign*
Hest, Amy. *The Purple Coat*
Say, Allen. *Grandfather’s Journey*

**Forgiveness**

Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry*
Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*
Bunting, Eve. *So Far from the Sea*
Cooper, Helen. *Pumpkin Soup*
Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler’s Gift*
Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*

**Fortitude**

Auch, Mary Jane. *Bantam of the Opera*
Fleming, Candace. *The Hatmaker’s Sign*
Joose, Barbara. *Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail*
Lee, Milly. *Nim and the War Effort*
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Snowflake Bentley*
McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*
Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. *The Glorious Flight*
Shea, Pegi Deitz. *The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee’s Story*
Steig, William. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*

**Generosity—Giving**

Bunting, Eve. *December*
Cooper, Helen. *Pumpkin Soup*
Leodhas, Sorche Nic. *Always Room for One More*
Miller, William. *The Piano*
Robbins, Ruth. *Baboushka and the Three Kings*
Say, Allen. *Allison*
Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener*

**Helpfulness**

Auch, Mary Jane. *Bantam of the Opera*
Bruchac, Joseph. *The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story*
Fleming, Candace. *The Hatmaker’s Sign*
Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*
Levitin, Sonia. *Nine for California*
McCully, Emily. *Mirette on the High Wire*
Miller, William. *The Piano*
Wiesniewski, David. *Golem*

**Honesty**

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. *When Bluebell Sang*
Joose, Barbara. *Lewis & Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail*
Meddaugh, Susan. *Martha Blah Blah*
Ness, Evaline. *Sam, Bangs & Moonshine*
Schur, Maxine Rose. *The Peddler’s Gift*
Soto, Gary. *Too Many Tamales*
Hope
Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk!
Garland, Sherry. The Lotus Seed
Kay, Verla. Gold Fever
McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle
Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. The Glorious Flight
Shea, Pegi Deitz. The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee’s Story
Shulevitz, Uri. Snow
Steig, William. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
Van Allsburg, Chris. The Polar Express
Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon

Justice
Bunting, Eve. So Far From the Sea
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Lester, Helen. How Bad is Wodney Wat
Lester, Helen. Princess Penelope’s Parrot
Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Blah Blah
Mosel, Arlene. The Funny Little Woman
Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Turner, Ann. Katie’s Trunk
Van Allsburg, Chris. The Sweetest Fig
Wiesniewski, David. Golem

Loyalty
Bang, Molly. Goose
Bemelmans, Ludwig. Madeline’s Rescue
Conrad, Pam. The Rooster’s Gift
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Garland, Sherry. The Lotus Seed
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Nolen, Jerline. Raising Dragons
Stanley, Diane. Raising Sweetness
Wiesniewski, David. Golem

Patience
Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Henkes, Kevin. Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse
Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener
Uchida, Yoshiko. The Bracelet

Perseverance
Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
Cole, Babette. Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzia Crum)
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk!

Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
London, Jonathan. Hip Cat
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mirette on the High Wire
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mouse Practice
Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. Snowflake Bentley
Provensen, Alice and Martin Provensen. The Glorious Flight
Tunnell, Michael. Mailing May

Prudence
Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts
Ernst, Lisa Campbell. When Bluebell Sang
Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat
Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Walks the Dog
Thurber, James. Many Moons
Zemach, Harve. Duffy and the Devil

Resourcefulness
Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote
Cole, Babette. Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzial Crum)
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk!
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts
Fleischman, Paul. Westlandia
Haley, Gail. A Story, A Story
Hall, Donald. Ox-Cart Man
Hopkinson, Deborah. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Levitin, Sonia. Nine for California
McCully, Emily Arnold. Mouse Practice
Taback, Simms. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat
Tunnell, Michael. Mailing May
Zemach, Harve. Duffy and the Devil

Self-Discipline
Bang, Molly. When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry
dePaola, Tomie. The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush
Henkes, Kevin. Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse
Lee, Milly. Nim and the War Effort
Potter, Beatrix. The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Soto, Gary. Too Many Tamales
Yolen, Jane. Owl Moon

Tolerance
Bruchac, Joseph. The Great Ball Game: A Muskogee Story
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. Honk!
Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat
Lyon, George. A Traveling Cat
Say, Allen. Allison
Uchida, Yoshiko. The Bracelet

Videos Available from Audiovisual Services

Audiovisual Services has recently purchased two video series that focus on character traits. They are available for circulation from schools that contract for Audiovisual Services by contacting us via e-mail at AVInfo@avsrv2.sdcoe.k12.ca.us, by phone (619) 718-4986, or fax (619) 291-5995.

Popcorn Park Puppets in Six Pillars of Character—Help your students explore six essential character virtues (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) with the Popcorn Park Puppets. Each video in this series features the puppets entangled in problems that require them to sort out right from wrong. Complete with inspiring songs and humor, these videos provide a fun way to engage students in thinking, talking, and writing about the kinds of people they want to be. (Grades K–5)
**Integrity Matters**—A collection of entertaining, attention-capturing character education videos created for elementary school children, Integrity Matters™ teaches students how to become people of integrity through learning and practicing basic values. (Grades 1-6)

**Websites**

Looking for additional resources on character education? Here are a few helpful websites.

www.charactercounts.org
Information about the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship is available on this website.

www.CharacterEd.Net
This website is a place for students, teachers, schools, and communities to facilitate character education. It provides ready-to-use curriculum, activities, and resources.

www.bu.edu/education/caec
This resource is from the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character—Boston University. It provides helpful information for teachers including sample lesson plans on a variety of character traits.

www.goodcharacter.com
An excellent source for free resources, materials, lessons plans, and a host of other information to support character education for teachers is found on this website.

www.giraffe.org
The Giraffe Project moves people to “stick their necks out for the common good.” They are the creators of the K–12 “Giraffe Heroes Program.”