

Responsibility
Character Education Theme
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Responsibility is:
Being accountable in word and deed.
Having a sense of duty to fulfill tasks
with reliability, dependability and commitment.

Elementary

Bender, Marie. ***Responsibility Counts***. Abdo Pub. Co., c2003. ISBN 1577658744. **Nonfiction**. (179) K-3.

Defines responsibility as a character trait and discusses how to show respect at home, with friends, at school, in the community, and toward oneself.

Braver, Vanita. ***Pinky Promise: A Book About Telling the Truth***. Child & Family Press, 2004. ISBN 0878688935. **E**. K-3.

Five-year-old Madison didn't mean to break the camera, but she didn't want to get in trouble either. So when her mom asked what happened, Madison lied. With the help of her parents, Madison learns the importance of telling the truth. Amazon.com

Hamilton, Elizabeth L. ***Cubby Bear's Big Responsibility***. Quiet Impact Inc., 2004. ISBN 0975462946 **E**. K-3.

The big black and yellow bee on the yellow dandelions took responsibility. The gray and yellow chat in the blueberry bush took responsibility. Even the green frog in the cool, blue river took responsibility. But Cubby did not want to take responsibility. Cubby wanted to play. What was Cubby's responsibility - and why was it so big? Children will join in eagerly as the bear chorus teaches Cubby with the "Responsibility Song." This eighth book in the "Character Critters Series" for children 3 to 8 uses "proactive teaching-fiction" to teach responsibility in a delightful story that children will ask to read repeatedly. A clear definition of responsibility, carefully crafted for young minds, is included. Amazon.com

Korman, Gordon. ***Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!*** Sagebrush, 1999. ISBN 0613117735. **Fiction**. Grades 2-4. The third-grade narrator lies to make herself seem special which only leads to more fibs.

Kroll, Virginia L. ***Jason Takes Responsibility***. Albert Whitman, 2005. ISBN 0807525375. **Fiction**. K-3. When Jason loses one of the invitations to his grandmother's birthday party, he is able to make it right at the last minute.

Kruger, Leanne Flett. ***Taking Care of Mother Earth***. Theytus Books, c2005. ISBN 1894778308. **Fiction**. K-3.

Charlie enjoys helping Grandma around the house and listening to her stories about taking care of Mother Earth.

Leaney, Cindy. ***Taking Care of Mango: A Story about Responsibility***. Rourke Pub., c2004. ISBN 1589527380. **Fiction**. K-3.

When their neighbor goes on a trip, Makayla and Emily care for her cat.

Lewis, Rose A. *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes*. Little, Brown and Company, c2000. ISBN 0316525383. E. K-3.

A woman describes how she went to China to adopt a special baby girl. Based on the author's own experiences.

Loewen, Nancy. *Do I Have To?: Kids Talk about Responsibility*. Picture Window Books, c2003. ISBN 1404800301 (lib. bdg.) **Nonfiction**. (177) K-3

Uses an advice-column format to define responsibility as a character value and demonstrate how it can be used in daily situations.

Marshall, James. *Taking Care of Carruthers*. Houghton Mifflin, c1981. ISBN 0395285933. **Fiction**. Grades 2-4.

When Carruthers is miserable with a cold, Eugene and Emily cheer him up with a story about a wonderful adventure shared by three friends one summer afternoon on the river.

Nelson, Robin. *Being Responsible*. Lerner, c2003. ISBN 0822512882. **Nonfiction**. (179) K-3.

An introduction to being responsible at school, at home, and in the community, with specific examples of how to be responsible at home and school.

Padoan, Gianni. *Follow My Leader: Facing Up to Responsibility*. Child's Play International Ltd., c1987. ISBN 0859533131. **Fiction**. Grades 3-6.

At first, being in Wayne's gang is an exciting game of "follow my leader," but Joe soon comes to question the older boy's judgment.

Raatma, Lucia. *Responsibility*. Bridgestone Books/Capstone Press, c2000. ISBN 0736803726 (lib.bdg.) **Nonfiction**. (179) K-3.

Explains the virtue of responsibility and how readers can practice it at home, in school, in the community, and with each other.

Ring, Susan. *Taking Care of Pets*. Yellow Umbrella Books, c2006. ISBN 073686024X. **Nonfiction**. (636.088) K-3.

Photographs and simple text describe the responsibility of caring for pets.

Roop, Peter. *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie*. Carolrhoda Books, c1985. ISBN 0876142757 (lib. bdg.) - **Nonfiction**. (387.1) K-3.

In the winter of 1856, a storm delays the lighthouse keeper's return to an island off the coast of Maine, and his daughter Abbie must keep the lights burning by herself.

Ross, Tony. *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. Puffin, 1992. ISBN 014054612X. E. K-3.

In this contemporary retelling of a traditional tale, Willy cries "Wolf!" to get out of ordeals like taking a bath or going to his violin lesson, until the wolf really appears.

Salzmann, Mary Elizabeth. *I Am Responsible*. Abdo Publishing Co., 2002. ISBN: 1577658302. **Nonfiction**. (179) K-3.

Defines responsibility as doing what you are supposed to do and provides some examples, such as taking care of yourself, taking care of other people, and following the rules.

Small, Mary. *Being Responsible: A Book about Responsibility*. Picture Window Books, c2006. ISBN 1404810528. **Nonfiction** (179) K-3.

Explains that being responsible is doing the things one is supposed to do, every day; and presents several examples of responsible behavior.

Thoennes Keller, Kristin. *Responsibility*. Capstone Press, c2005. ISBN 0736836837. **Nonfiction**. (170) Grades 2-4.

Teaches young readers what responsibility is and how it helps one earn people's trust.

Intermediate Grades and Middle School

Campbell, Barbara. ***Taking Care of Yoki***. HarperTrophy, 1986, c1982. ISBN 0064401731 (pbk.)
Fiction. Grades 4-6.

In St. Louis during the Second World War, Bob makes secret plans to save the life of an old horse that pulls the milk delivery wagon.

Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul: 101 Stories of Changes, Choices and Growing Up for Kids Ages 9-13. Health Communications, 2000. ISBN 1558748016. **Story Collection**. Grades 4-6.
More than one hundred stories, poems, and other writings presented to inspire and comfort children ages 9-13.

Ellis, Mary. ***Child Care: Yeow! I'm in Charge of a Human Being!*** Perfection Learning, c1997.
ISBN 0780761030 (cover craft). **Nonfiction**. (649) Grades 5-8.

Provides baby-sitters with tips and advice for dealing with a variety of challenges associated with children and child care.

Espeland, Pamela. ***Making Choices and Making Friends***. (Adding Assets). Free Spirit, c2006.
ISBN 1575422018. **Nonfiction**. (300) Grades 4-6.

Kids learn how to build the five Social Competencies Assets: planning and decision making, interpersonal competence, cultural competence, resistance skills, and peaceful conflict resolution. Stories, tips, and ideas help them get along better with others and stay true to themselves. Book Description. Amazon.com

Lewis, Barbara A. ***What Do You Stand For? For Kids: A Guide to Building Character***. Free Spirit Pub., c2005. ISBN 1575421747. **Nonfiction**. (170) Grades 3-6.

Presents a book for children on establishing positive character traits such as citizenship, cooperation, fairness, forgiveness, honesty, respect, and more.

Lowry, Lois. ***Taking Care of Terrific***. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. ISBN 0395340705. **Fiction**. Grades 5-8.
Taking her overprotected young charge to the public park to broaden his horizons, fourteen-year-old baby sitter Enid enjoys unexpected friendships with a black saxophonist and a bag lady until she is charged with kidnapping.

Mikaelsen, Ben. ***Rescue Josh McGuire***. Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 1993, c1991.
ISBN 1562821008 (lib. bdg.). **Fiction**. Grades 5-8.

When thirteen-year-old Josh runs away to the mountains of Montana with an orphaned bear cub destined for laboratory testing, they both must fight for their lives in a sudden snowstorm.

Rinaldo, Denise. ***Jane Goodall: With a Discussion of Responsibility***. Learning Challenge, c2004.
ISBN 1592030629. **Biography**. (590) Grades 3-6.

A biography examining the value of responsibility in the life of the zoologist who brought chimpanzee behavior to the attention of the world.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Silver Packages: An Appalachian Christmas Story***. Orchard Books, 1997, c1987.
ISBN 0531330516 (lib. bdg.). **Fiction**. Grades 3-5.

Every year at Christmas a rich man rides a train through Appalachia and throws gifts to the poor children who are waiting, in order to repay a debt he owes the people who live there.

San Souci, Robert D. ***Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend***. Dial Books for Young Readers, c1995.
ISBN 0803712901 (lib. bdg.). **Biography**. (363.12) Grades 5-8.

A biography of the fifteen-year-old Iowa teenager who helped avert a train disaster in 1881 and became a national heroine.

Schwartz, Stuart. ***Taking Responsibility***. Capstone Books, c1998. ISBN 1560657170. **Nonfiction**. (650.1) Grades 4-6.
Explains how to perform responsibly and assume responsibility in the workplace.

Seder, Isaac. ***Responsibility***. Raintree, c2002. ISBN 0739857819 (lib.bdg.). **Nonfiction**. (179) Grades 4-6.
Presents an introduction to the concept of responsibility, in simple text with illustrations, defining the meaning of responsibility and giving examples of how it may be practiced in a variety of situations at home, in school, in the community, and between friends.

Strazzabosco, Jeanne. ***Learning about Responsibility from the Life of Colin Powell***. PowerKids Press, 2004. ISBN 0823924149. **Biography**. (355) Grades 3-6.
Teaches the value of responsibility by taking examples from the life of the African-American general Colin Powell.

Vogel, Elizabeth. ***Dealing with Choices***. PowerKids Press, 2000. ISBN 0823954102 (lib. bdg.). **Nonfiction**. (153.8) Grades 3-5.
Discusses the importance of choices and how to go about making them.

Voigt, Cynthia. ***Homecoming***. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1981. ISBN 0689308337. **Fiction**. Grades 5-8.
Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

Wells, Rosemary. ***Mary on Horseback: Three Mountain Stories***. Viking, 1999, c1998. ISBN 0803721552 (lib. bdg.) **Biography**. (610.73) Grades 4-6.
Tells the stories of three families who were helped by the work of Mary Breckinridge, the first nurse to go into the Appalachian Mountains and give medical care to the isolated inhabitants. Includes an afterword with facts about Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service she founded.

Young, Ronder Thomas. ***Moving Mama to Town***. Orchard Books, c1997. 0531330257 (lib. bdg.) **Fiction**. Grades 5-8.
Thirteen-year-old Freddy moves Mama to town as man of the family when his father leaves them.

High School

Bloom, Sandra L. ***Bearing Witness: Violence and Collective Responsibility***. Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, c1998. ISBN 0789004771. **Nonfiction**. (616.85)
A discussion, largely based on trauma theory, of the causes and effects of violent behavior; also suggests ways of changing violent patterns in society.

Campbell, Stan. ***Mind Over Media: The Power of Making Sound Entertainment Choices***. Tyndale, c2001. ISBN 1561798703 (pbk.). **Nonfiction**. (241)
Explains how teens can make God-based decisions about their entertainment choices and control the media's influence on their lives and views.

Deuker, Carl. ***Night Hoops***. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. ISBN 0395979366. **Fiction**.
While trying to prove that he is good enough to play on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Draper, Sharon M. ***Forged by Fire***. Atheneum, c1997. ISBN 068980699X. **Fiction**.
A substance-abusing mother and a brutal step-father cause Gerald to be responsible for his life and Angel, his sister.

- Endersbe, Julie. ***Teen Pregnancy: Tough Choices***. Life Matters/Capstone Press, c2000. ISBN 0736802711 (lib. bdg.) **Nonfiction**. (306.874)
Describes what teenagers can expect during and after pregnancy, the options to abort, choose adoption, or become a parent, methods of preventing pregnancy, and other dilemmas and solutions.
- Greenberg, Judith E. ***A Girl's Guide to Growing Up: Making the Right Choices***. F. Watts, c2000. ISBN 0531115925. **Nonfiction**. (305.23)
Discusses the issues faced by middle-school girls as they grow up, including personal relationships, school responsibilities, personal style and self-image, temptations, and risky behavior.
- Herron, Ron. ***What's Right for Me? Making Good Choices in Relationships***. Boys Town Press, c1998. ISBN 1889322210. **Nonfiction**. (153.8)
Discusses interpersonal relationships among teenagers including information about dating, sex, conflicts, prejudice, and bullies.
- Hobbs, Will. ***Downriver***. Atheneum, 1991. ISBN 0689316909. **Fiction**.
Discovery Unlimited or "Hoods in the Woods" teens act irresponsibly and suffer the consequences on a white-water rafting trip.
- Johnson, Angela. ***The First Part Last***. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2003. ISBN 0689849222. **Coretta Scott King Award**. (Hi-Lo Fiction Book, RL 4.9)
Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.
- Jones, Jami Biles. ***Bouncing Back --Overcoming Tough Times***. (Scholastic choices) } -- Franklin Watts, c2006. **Nonfiction**. (155.2) Scheduled for release Sept. 2006.
- Lange, Donna. ***Taking Responsibility: A Teen's Guide to Contraception and Pregnancy***. Mason Crest Publishers, c2005. ISBN 1590848411. **Nonfiction**. (613.9)
Presents a comprehensive guide for teens on contraception and pregnancy and discusses the real-life situations and consequences teens face when making choices about sex.
- Mikaelsen, Ben. ***Touching Spirit Bear***. HarperCollins, c2001. ISBN 0060291494 (lib. bdg.) **Fiction**.
After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.
- Myers, Walter Dean. ***Monster***. HarperCollins, c1999. ISBN 0060280786 (lib. bdg.) **Fiction**. (Hi-Lo, RL 5.1) Printz Award.
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
- Nash, Carol Rust. ***AIDS: Choices for Life***. Enslow Publishers, c1997. ISBN 0894909037. **Nonfiction**. (616.97)
Examines the history of AIDS, means of transmission, AIDS-related illnesses, ways to prevent transmission, personal stories of young people who have been infected, and recent breakthroughs in treatment.
- No Easy Answers: Short Stories about Teenagers Making Tough Choices***. Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1999, c1997. ISBN 0385322909. **Story Collection**.
A collection of sixteen short stories, by Louise Plummer, M.E. Kerr, Jack Gantos, and others, about teenagers in situations that test their character.

- Pendharkar, Sumant S. ***Raising Yourself: Making the Right Choices.*** Hillview Books, c2001. ISBN 0970813139. **Nonfiction.** (158.1)
Provides teenagers with advice on how to choose the right path in life and make the right decisions in a variety of situations.
- Weintraub, Aileen. ***Everything You Need to Know about Being a Baby-Sitter: A Teen's Guide to Responsible Child Care.*** Rosen, 2003. ISBN 0823930858 (lib. bdg.) **Nonfiction.** (649).
Discusses the responsibilities and challenges of being a baby-sitter, including child care, staying safe, handling emergencies, negotiating, and networking.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer. ***Make Lemonade.*** Henry Holt, c1993. ISBN 0805022287. **Fiction.**
LaVaughn learns through a babysitting job how to manage her own life, while watching an unmarried mother struggle to care for two children.