



Sitting Down For Character

Want to stand up for good character choices? Then, sit down with a good book. Character choices are around us everyday in books, magazines, newspapers; even billboards. Here are some suggestions of readily available books for your preschool to high school student and you to share.

Preschool through 3rd Grade

The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson
Grandpa's Face by Eloise Greenfield
Beauty and the Beast –Many versions
The Mixed-Up Chameleon by Eric Carle
A Boy Called Slow by Joseph Bruchac
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss
Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams
A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman by David Adler
A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth by David Adler
Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard

4th through 6th Grade

The Always Prayer Shawl by Sheldon Oberman
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Encyclopedia Brown Series by Donald Sobol
The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Sunder by William H. Armstrong
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

High School

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
1984 by George Orwell
Black Boy by Richard Wright
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Native Son by Richard Wright
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Take time to read the story through with younger children. Ask what were some good choices that characters made. What were some bad choices? Talk to your child about what he or she would have done instead. Ask them to retell the story and how it would have changed when better choices were made. With older children read the book separately setting aside a time to discuss the choices that were made. Talk about the decisions in their lives as well as your own. Discuss the times you've made choices you've been particularly proud of or those when you learned from your mistakes.

Need more suggestions? Visit your local library for more titles with CHARACTER COUNTS themes.