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. 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 Katie
Fox, Mem. Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge
Fox, Mem. Tough Boris
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
Ransome, Arthur. The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship
Scherdtle, 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
Zolotow, Charlotte. William’s Doll.

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, Marc. Arthur’s Eyes
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
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
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
Fleischman, Paul. Welshlandia
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
Lobel, 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, Alexies. Recess Queen

Fairness

Brimmer, Larry. The Noodle Game
Brown, Marcia. Stone Soup
Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson’s Friend
Cohen, Barbara. Molly’s Pilgrim
Cronin, Doreen. Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type
Hoffman, Mary. Amazing Grace
Kimmel, Eric. Cactus Soup
Krull, Kathleen. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez
Lester, Helen. Me First
Lovell, Patty. Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon
Pfister, Marcus. Rainbow Fish
Scieszka, Jon. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
Seuss, Dr. The Sneetches
Viorst, Judith. Alexander Who Use to Be Rich Last Sunday
Various Authors. The Little Red Hen

Freeze Queen
Perrine, Mary. *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 Quarreling Book*
Shear, Maxine Rose. *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 Sigmaker’s Assistant*
Bartone, Elisa. *Pepe the Lamplighter*
Berenstain, Stan and Jan. *Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room*
Brimmer, 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*
Joose, 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. *Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp*
Nolen, Jerdine. *Raising Dragons*
Pilkey, Dav. *The Paperboy*
Peet, Bill. *The Wump World*
Perrine, Mary. *Salt Boy*

**Citizenship**

Adler, David A. *The Babe & I*
Baylor, Byrd. *Hawk, I’m Your Brother*
Blos, Joan. *Old Henry*
Bunting, Eve. *Fly Away Home*
Carlson, Joan. *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. Falker*
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. *Swimmy*
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 Tamales*
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

Forgiveness

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

Courage

Aardema, Verna. Borreguita and the Coyote
Such, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
Bunting, Eve. Summer Wheels
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. The Worrywarts
Hest, Amy. The Purple Coat

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 Ballet 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

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 Ballet Box Battle
Nolen, Jerdine. Raising Dragons
Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy
Robbins, Ruth. Baboushka and the Three Kings
Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener

Generosity—Giving

Auch, Mary Jane. Bantam of the Opera
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

Discernment

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

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

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

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
Schertle, Alice. Down the Road
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*
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. *Hooway for 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*
Popkins, Alice and Martin Provensen. *The Glorious Flight*
Tunnell, Michael. *Mailing May*

Prudence

Aardema, Verna. *Bolegua and the Coyote*
Cole, Babette. *Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzia Crum)*
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Honk!*
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *The Worrywarts*
Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*
Haley, Gail E. *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*

Resourcefulness

Aardema, Verna. *Bolegua and the Coyote*
Cole, Babette. *Bad Habits (or The Taming of Lucretzia Crum)*
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Honk!*
Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *The Worrywarts*
Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*
Haley, Gail E. *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.”

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