

# **6-12 Character Education Lesson Plan: Communication**

Teach students how to use Two-Way Communication to understand the perspective of other individuals, and use Win-Win Negotiation to reach an equitable solution.

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# **6-12 Character Education Lesson Plan: Connecting with Others**

Help students understand the importance of connecting to other individuals. Develop connection strategies and provide an opportunity for students to practice connecting with others.

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# **6-12 Character Education Lesson Plan: Gratitude**

This lesson exposes students to the research illustrating the benefits of gratitude, and suggests activities to help students develop a habit of expressing gratitude.

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# Books to help teach friendship

Here's a list of a few book suggestions to start conversations about creating friendships and the value of them.

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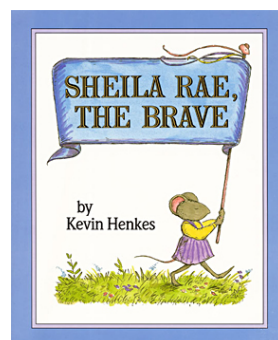
## Books to help teach courage

With thousands of books to choose from, it can be an overwhelming task to find books to help teach courage. Here's a few book suggestions to start those conversations.

**Sheila Rae, The Brave by Kevin Henkes**

**Best for:** Grades PreK-2

**ISBN-10:** 0688147380

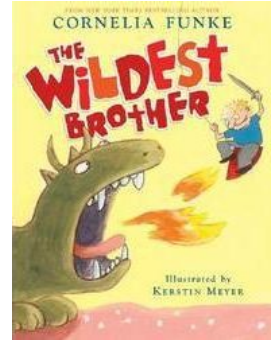


**ISBN-13:** 978-0688147389

"I am very brave," Sheila Rae said, patting herself on the back. She wasn't afraid of anything—not thunder, not lightning, not the big black dog at the end of the block. And when she wanted to walk home a new way and Louise wouldn't, she called her sister a scaredy-cat and set out alone. But all the bravado in the world failed to help when Sheila Rae found herself lost. Luckily, her sister was not far behind.

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## ***The Wildest Brother* by Cornelia Funke**



**Best for:** Grades PreK-3

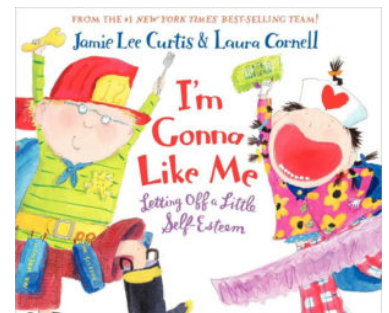
**ISBN-10:** 0439828627

**ISBN-13:** 978-0439828628

Brave as a lion, strong as an elephant, Ben is a fearless young boy. When it comes to protecting his big sister, Anna, nothing can stand in his way! Gallantly he spends his day battling moldy green ghosts, slime-belching monsters, and all sorts of ferocious beasts. But when the day is over and darkness falls, Ben suddenly doesn't feel quite so brave. Sometimes, he realizes, it's the big sister who does the protecting.

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## ***I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem* by Jamie Lee Curtis**

**Best for:** Grades PreK-3

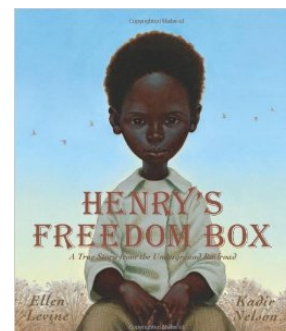
**ISBN-10:** 0060287616

**ISBN-13:** 978-0060287610

Celebrate liking yourself! Through alternating points of view, a girl's and a boy's, Jamie Lee Curtis's triumphant text and Laura Cornell's lively artwork show kids that the key to feeling good is liking yourself because you are you.

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***Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine**

**Best for:** Grades PreK-5

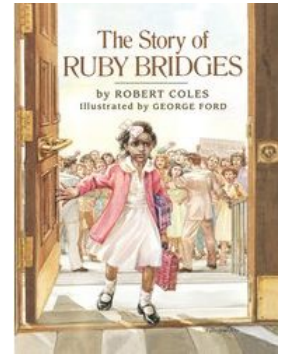
**ISBN-10:** 043977733X

**ISBN-13:** 978-0439777339

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday – his first day of freedom.

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### ***The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles**

**Best for:** Grades 2-5

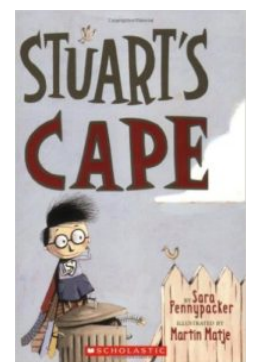
**ISBN-10:** 0439472261

**ISBN-13:** 978-0439472265

The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her.

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### ***Stuart's Cape* by Sara Pennypacker**

**Best for:** Grades 3-5

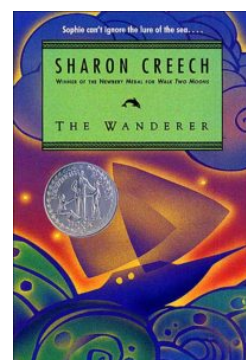
**ISBN-10:** 0439301815

**ISBN-13:** 978-0439301817

Stuart's got problems. It's raining. He's bored. And worst of all, he's new in town, so he's got a lot to worry about. But what does a kid like Stuart need in order to have an adventure...and to stop worrying? A cape, of course! Sara Pennypacker's story captures the daily dilemmas that every child must face. Her words are perfectly complimented by illustrator Martin Matje's combination of weirdness and wit.

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### ***The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech**

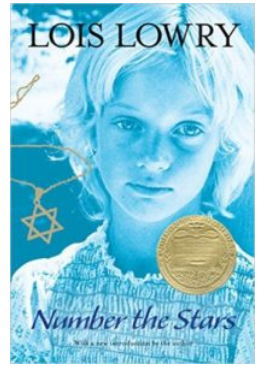
**Best for:** Grades 3-7

**ISBN-10:** 0064410323

**ISBN-13:** 978-0064410328

Thirteen-year-old Sophie hears the sea calling, promising adventure and a chance for discovery as she sets sail for England with her three uncles and two cousins. Sophie's cousin Cody isn't sure he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, we hear stories of the past and the daily challenges of surviving at sea as *The Wanderer* sails toward its destination—and its passengers search for their places in the world.

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***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

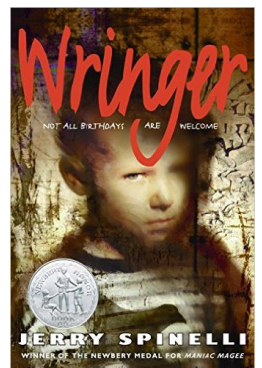
**Best for:** Grades 5-7

**ISBN-10:** 0547577095

**ISBN-13:** 978-0547577098

As the German troops begin their campaign to “relocate” all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen’s family takes in Annemarie’s best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

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***Winger* by Jerry Spinelli**

**Best for:** Grades 6-8

**ISBN-10:** 0064405788

**ISBN-13:** 978-0064405782

Palmer LaRue is running out of birthdays. For as long as he can remember, he's dreaded the day he turns ten – the day he'll take his place beside all the other ten-year-old boys in town, the day he'll be a wringer. But Palmer doesn't want to be a wringer. It's one of the first things he learned about himself and it's one of the biggest things he has to hide. In Palmer's town being a wringer is an honor, a tradition passed down from father to son. Palmer can't stop himself from being a wringer just like he can't stop himself from growing one year older, just like he can't stand up to a whole town – right? Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli's most powerful novel yet is a gripping tale of how one boy learns how not to be afraid.

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[Click here for more information on character education.](#)

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## **10 Ways to Nurture Tolerance to Reduce Bullying**

Strategies to boost tolerance and curb bullying.

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# Helping Students Focus

When we are focused on other tasks, it is hard to be present.

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## Teaching citizenship

You can show good citizenship by being a leader in your school or community. Leadership isn't a job – it is an action. Everyone in your family can be a leader.

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## Books that talk about bullying

Here are a few book suggestions to help start conversations about bullies and bullying.

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## Teaching fairness

Kids can often complain that things “aren't fair” when things don't work out as they want. One way to help teach fairness is to promote compromise.