



# Teaching Character Traits

**Character traits are all the aspects of a person's behavior and attitudes that make up that person's personality. Character traits are often shown with descriptive adjectives, like patient, unfaithful, or jealous.**

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
<b>EASY</b>		
PreK-3	Andrae, Giles. <i>Giraffes Can't Dance</i> . New York: Orchard Books, 1991.  Gerald the giraffe is too clumsy to dance with all the other animals at the Jungle Dance, until he finds the right music.	E AN253G
PreK-3	Beaty, Andrea. <i>Ada Twist, Scientist</i> . New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2016.  Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.	E B3809A
PreK-3	Chodos-Irvine, Margaret. <i>Ella Sarah Gets Dressed</i> . San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2003.  Despite the advice of others in her family, Ella Sarah persists in wearing the striking and unusual outfit of her own choosing.	E C4517E
PreK-3	Cooney, Barbara. <i>Miss Rumphius</i> . New York: Viking Press, 1982.	E C7832M

As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.

- PreK-3 Cronin, Doreen. *Bloom*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016. E  
C8816BL
- When the glass kingdom begins cracking, the king and queen fail in their quest to get help from the fairy Bloom, who can work great magic but was banished because of her muddy boots and messiness, so they send Genevieve, an ordinary girl who will do what it takes to save the day.
- PreK-3 Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. E  
EN35D
- Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba.
- PreK-3 Fox, Mem. *Koala Lou*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1988. E  
F8328K
- A young koala, longing to hear her mother speak lovingly to her as she did before other children came along, plans to win her distracted parent's attention.
- PreK-3 Hartman, Bob. *The Wolf Who Cried Boy*. New York: Putnam's Sons, 2002. E  
H254W
- Little Wolf is tired of eating hamburgers and sloppy does, but when he tricks his parents into thinking there is a boy in the woods, they could all miss a chance for a real feast.
- PreK-3 Henkes, Kevin. *Julius, The Baby of the World*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1990. E  
H3893JU
- Lilly is convinced that the arrival of her new baby brother is the worst thing that has happened in their house, until Cousin Garland comes to visit.
- PreK-3 Hobbie, Holly. *Toot & Puddle*. New York: Little, Brown, 2007. E  
H6521T.A
- Toot and Puddle are best friends with very different interests, so when Toot spends the year travelling around the world, Puddle enjoys receiving his postcards.
- PreK-3 Mora, Pat. *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman With a Great Big Heart*. New York: Knopf, 2005. E  
M79D
- Doña Flor, a giant lady with a big heart, sets off to protect her neighbors from what they think is a dangerous animal, but soon discovers the tiny secret behind the huge noise.

PreK-3	Munson, Derek. <i>Enemy Pie</i> . San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2000.	E M928E
	Hoping that the enemy pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend.	
PreK-3	Olshan, Matthew. <i>The Mighty Lalouche</i> . New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2013.	E OL83M
	In Paris, France, more than a hundred years ago, a small man named Lalouche is let go from his job as a mail carrier and discovers that he has great skill as a fighter.	
PreK-3	O'Neill, Alexis. <i>The Recess Queen</i> . New York: Scholastic, 2002.	E ON26R
	Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean's status as the Recess Queen.	
PreK-3	Polacco, Patricia. <i>The Butterfly</i> . New York: Philomel Books, 2000.	E P7569BUT
	During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique's mother hides a Jewish family in her basement and tries to help them escape to freedom.	
PreK-3	Rathmann, Peggy. <i>Officer Buckle and Gloria</i> . New York: Putnam's, 2005.	E R188O
	The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle's safety tips, until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.	
PreK-3	Reynolds, Peter. <i>The Dot</i> . Norwalk, CT: Weston Woods Studio, 2004.	MM E R3365D
	Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.	
PreK-3	Rohmann, Eric. <i>My Friend Rabbit</i> . Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2002.	E R6364M
	Something always seems to go wrong when Rabbit is around, but Mouse lets him play with his toy plane anyway because he is his good friend.	
PreK-3	Shannon, David. <i>A Bad Case of Stripes</i> . New York: Blue Sky Press, 1998.	E SH191B
	In order to ensure her popularity, Camilla Cream always does what is expected, until the day arrives when she no longer recognizes herself.	
PreK-3	Spires, Ashley. <i>The Most Magnificent Thing</i> . Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 2014.	E SP4819M
	A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look.	

She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks.

PreK-3 Steig, William. *Brave Irene*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1986. E  
(Traits: Brave, Daring, Helpful) ST33B

Mrs. Bobbin, isn't feeling so well and can't possibly deliver the beautiful ball gown she's made for the duchess to wear that very evening. So, her daughter, plucky Irene, volunteers to get the gown to the palace on time, in spite of the fierce snowstorm that's brewing - quite an errand for a little girl.

## NONFICTION

K-3 Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2007. 398.2  
D3605M

In this humorous retelling of a Cuban folktale, a cockroach interviews her suitors in order to decide whom to marry.

2-6 *The Dictionary of Characters in Children's Literature*. New York: F. Watts, 2002. 809  
D5614

Features characters alphabetically listed from popular books, including words, thoughts, and actions of the character, and a discussion of theme, plot, setting, and prizes won by the book.

K-3 Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2003. 791.3  
G325M

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

K-12 Pringle, David. *Imaginary People: A Who's Who of Modern Fictional Characters*. New York: World Almanac, 1987. 809.927  
P936I

A delightfully entertaining and informative Who's Who of over 1,300 fictional characters (including some animals) who never were--the great products of the creative imagination whose names have become famous during the last two and a half centuries, not just from novels and short stories but also from plays, opera, ballet, films, comic strips, songs, radio and television.

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