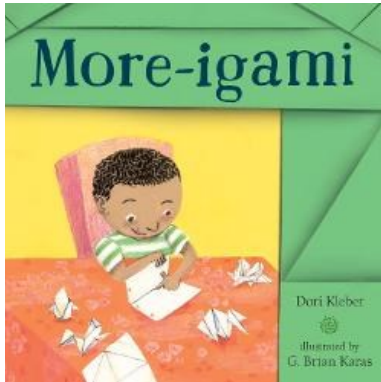


# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## **More-igami**

by Dori Kleber, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)

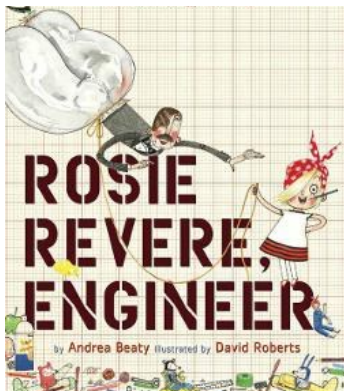
"Joey loves things that fold: maps, beds, accordions, you name it. When a visiting mother of a classmate turns a plain piece of paper into a beautiful origami crane, his eyes pop. Maybe he can learn origami, too...But how can Joey become an origami master if he's not allowed to practice? Is there anywhere that he can hone the skill that makes him happy — and maybe even make a new friend while he's at it?" - Pub.



## **The Most Magnificent Thing**

by Ashley Spires, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)  
(Overcoming frustration)

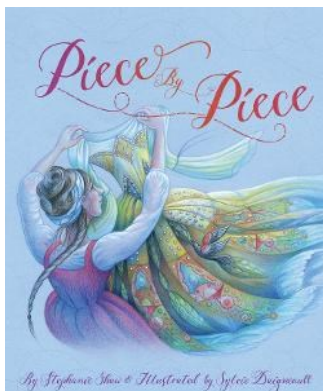
"A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks." - Follett



## **Rosie Revere, Engineer**

by Andrea Beaty, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.7)  
(Overcoming embarrassment, frustration)

"Rosie may seem quiet during the day, but at night she's a brilliant inventor of gizmos and gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal—to fly—Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. But when..." - Pub.



## **Piece by Piece**

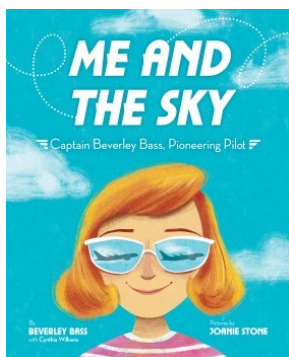
by Stephanie Shaw, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)  
(Overcoming rejection)

"Drawing inspiration from the natural world around her, a weaver woman with a magical touch crafts exquisite fabrics. And from the fabric she fashions a wondrous dress, with a bodice that sparkles of starlight and lace like the foam of an ocean wave. The weaver envisions the food and clothing she will be able to buy..." - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

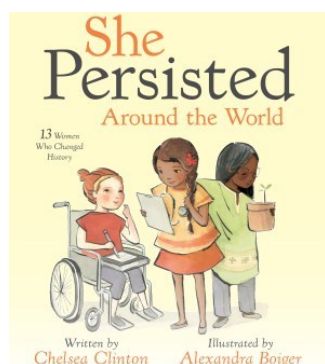
## Picture Book Format



### Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot

by Beverley Bass, c2019 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.8)

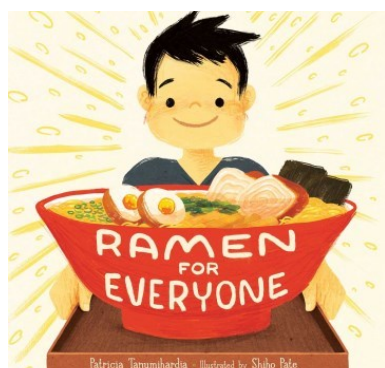
"When Beverley Bass was a young girl in the late 1950s, she told her parents she wanted to fly planes—and they told her that girls couldn't be pilots. Still, they encouraged her...in 1986 Beverley became the first female pilot promoted to captain by American Airlines and led the first all-female crewed flight shortly thereafter." - Pub.



### She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History

by Chelsea Clinton, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.8)

"Women around the world have long dreamed big, even when they've been told their dreams didn't matter. They've spoken out, risen up and fought for what's right, even when they've been told to be quiet. Whether in science, the arts, sports or activism, women and girls throughout history have been determined to break barriers and change the status quo...Chelsea Clinton introduces readers to a group of thirteen incredible women who have shaped history all across the globe." - Pub.



### Ramen for Everyone

by Patricia Tanumihardja, c2023 (IL: K-2, RL: ?)

"Hiro loves ramen. Every Sunday, Hiro's dad makes delicious, perfect ramen for dinner, using a recipe passed down from his dad. There's nori seaweed, briny like the ocean; nitamago egg, the yolk golden like the sun; and chashu pork so tender, it melts in your mouth. Yum! Hiro's dream is to make his own perfect bowl, and he's sure he can do it after watching his dad and taking notes. But when he gets started, things don't go according to plan..." - Pub.



### The Most Magnificent Idea

by Ashley Spires, c2022

"The girl in this story, with her dog at her side, loves to make things. Her brain, she says, is an "idea machine," so full of ideas that she can hardly keep up. But then one day ... it isn't. All of a sudden, the girl can't come up with a single idea for what to make. She tries everything: brainstorming, gathering new supplies, even jumping up and down on one foot to shake an idea loose. But, nothing. The girl realizes, with no ideas taking up space in her brain, it's filling with sad instead. What if she never has another idea again?" - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

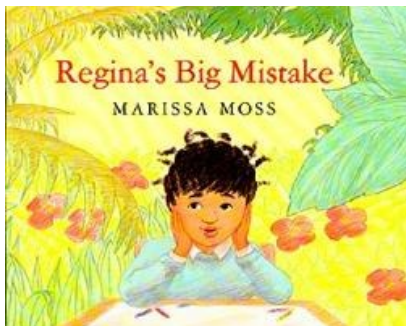
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## **Accident!**

by Andrea Tsurumi, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)  
(Overcoming Mistakes)

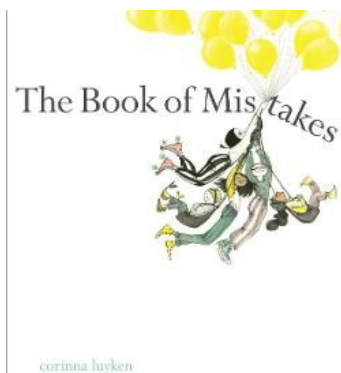
"When a clumsy armadillo named Lola knocks over a glass pitcher, she sets off a silly chain of events, encountering chaos wherever she goes. But accidents happen—just ask the goat snarled in spaghetti, the airborne sheep, and the bull who has broken a whole shop's worth of china..." - Pub.



## **Regina's Big Mistake**

by Marissa Moss, c1990 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.5)  
(Overcoming Mistakes / Frustration)

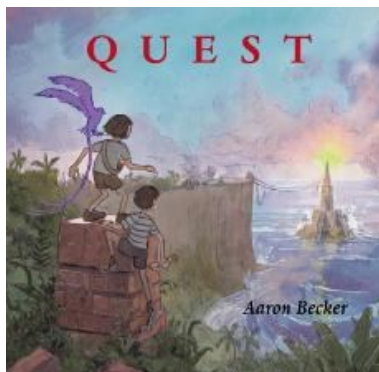
"When told to draw a jungle in art class, Regina experiences feelings of failure and creative insecurity, but manages to create a beautiful picture that's all her own." - Follett



## **The Book of Mistakes**

by Corinna Luyken, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.7)

"One eye was bigger than the other. That was a mistake. The weird frog-cat-cow thing? It made an excellent bush. And the inky smudges... they look as if they were always meant to be leaves floating gently across the sky. As one artist incorporates accidental splotches, spots, and misshapen things into her art, she transforms her piece in quirky and unexpected ways..." - Pub.



## **Quest**

by Aaron Becker, c2014 (IL: K-3)

"A king emerges from a hidden door in a city park, startling two children sheltering from the rain. No sooner does he push a map and some strange objects into their hands than he is captured by hostile forces that whisk him back through the enchanted door. Just like that, the children are caught up in a quest..." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

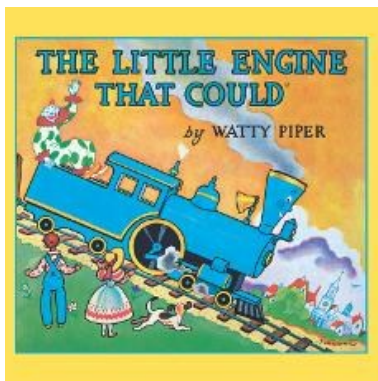
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## The Girl and the Bicycle

by Mark Pett, c2014 (IL: K-3)  
(Persevering to help others)

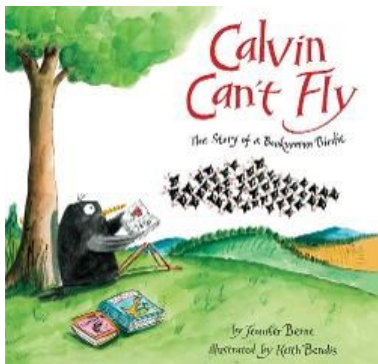
"A little girl sees a shiny new bicycle in the shop window. She hurries home to see if she has enough money in her piggy bank, but when she comes up short, she knocks on the doors of her neighbors, hoping to do their yard work. They all turn her away except for a kindly old woman."  
- Pub.



## The Little Engine That Could

retold by Watty Piper, c1976 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)  
(Persevering to help others)

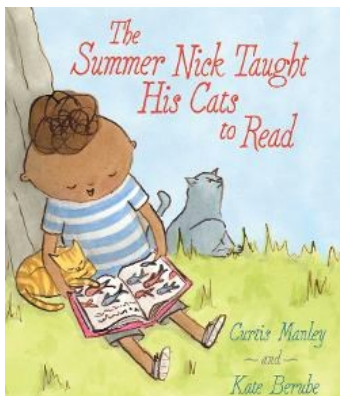
"When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain." - Follett



## Calvin Can't Fly: The Story of a Bookworm Birdie

by Jennifer Berne, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.8)  
(Persevering in being oneself)

"A young starling chooses to read books when his cousins are learning to fly, and the knowledge he acquires comes in handy when a hurricane threatens the flock's migration." - Pub.



## The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read

by Curtis Manley, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)  
(Persevering in teaching and learning)

"When Nick decides to teach his cats to read, Verne is very much interested, especially in books about mice and fish, but Stevenson wants nothing to do with the project—or does he?" - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

## Picture Book Format

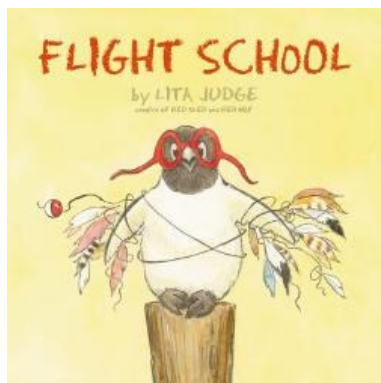


### **Hana Hashimoto, sixth Violin**

by Chieri Uegaki, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.6)

(Persevering in learning)

"Hana Hashimoto has signed up to play her violin at her school's talent show. The trouble is, she's only had only three lessons. Hana's brothers insist she isn't good enough. 'It's a talent show, Hana,' they tell her. 'You'll be a disaster!' Hana remembers how wonderfully her talented grandfather, or Ojiichan, played his violin when she was visiting him in Japan. So, just like Ojiichan, Hana begins to practice every day." - Pub.

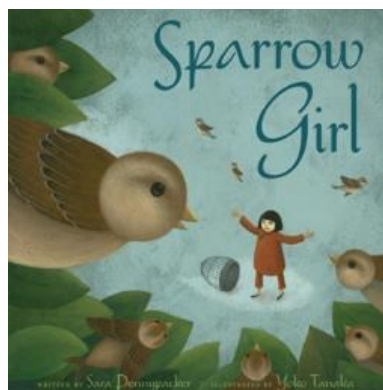


### **Flight School**

by Lita Judge, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.8)

(Helping others overcome obstacles)

"Although little Penguin has the soul of an eagle, his body wasn't built to soar. But Penguin has an irrepressible spirit, and he adamantly follows his dreams to flip, flap, fly! Even if he needs a little help with the technical parts, this penguin is ready to live on the wind." - Pub.

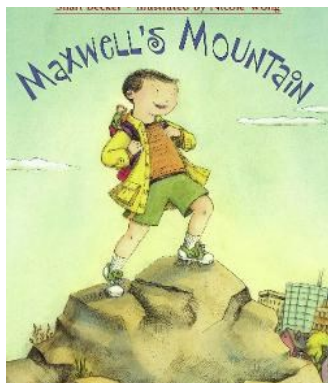


### **Sparrow Girl**

by Sara Pennypacker, c2009 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)

(Persevering in helping others/animals)

"Ming-Li looked up and tried to imagine the sky silent, empty of birds. It was a terrible thought. Her country's leader had called sparrows the enemy of the farmers—they were eating too much grain, he said. He announced a great "Sparrow War" to banish them from China, but Ming-Li did not want to chase the birds away." - Pub.



### **Maxwell's Mountain**

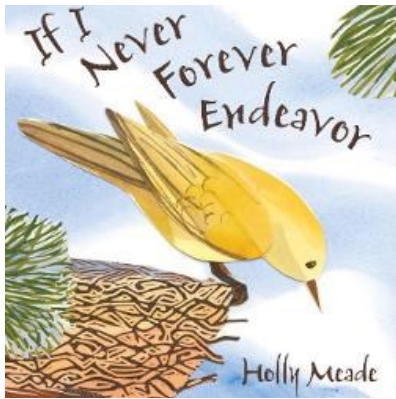
by Shari Becker, c2007

"Spotting a large, tempting hill behind the playground near his new house, Maxwell employs systematic preparation to dispel his parents' conviction that he's too little to tackle the hill. After training on the stairs, gathering first-aid and food supplies, mapping his course, and listening to parental advice ("if he gets into trouble, a true outdoorsman uses his head"), Maxwell takes on the rocky slope—accompanied by an intrepid-looking toy soldier named Harry." - Booklist

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

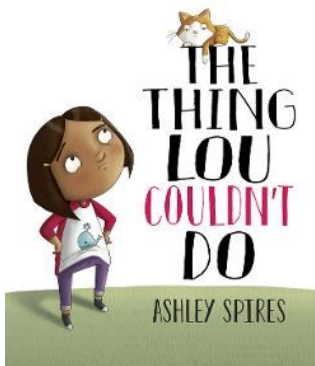
## Picture Book Format



### **If I Never Forever Endeavor**

by Holly Meade, c2011 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.0)  
(Overcoming fear)

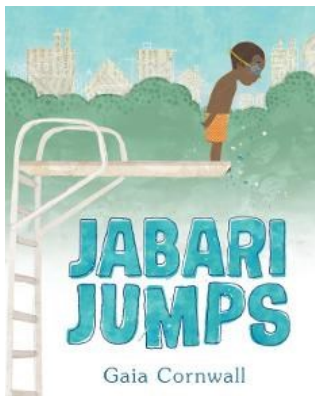
"Safe inside his cozy nest, a young bird considers whether or not to give his new wings a try. What if he tries and the wings don't work, and he flails, plummets, and looks foolish? Then again, what if his wings take him swooping and gliding, sailing and flying through a great big wonderful world? He'll never know if he never endeavors."  
- Pub.



### **The Thing Lou Couldn't Do**

by Ashley Spires, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.7)  
(Overcoming fear)

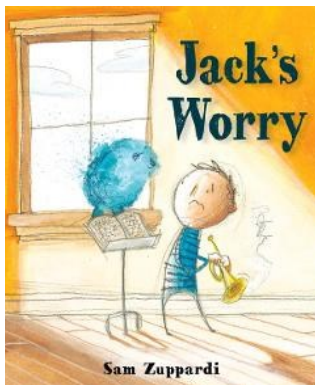
"One day Lou and her friends are looking for a ship to play pirates in when someone makes a suggestion to play up in the tree. Lou has never climbed a tree and isn't sure that she wants to. What will she do?" - Follett



### **Jabari Jumps**

by Gaia Cornwall, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.2)  
(Overcoming fear)

"Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons. He's passed his swim test. It's just... maybe he should do some stretches first. 'Looks easy,' says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back." - Pub.



### **Jack's Worry**

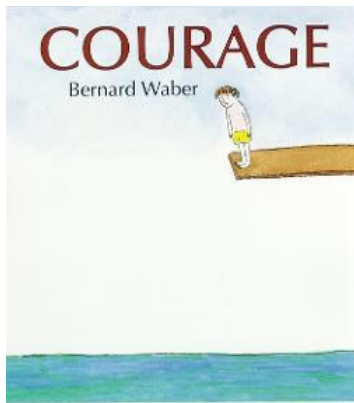
by Sam Zuppardi, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.7)  
(Overcoming fear)

"Jack loves playing the trumpet, and for weeks he's been looking forward to taking part in his first concert. But on the morning of the big day, Jack finds he has a Worry. And his Worry starts to grow. Even when Jack's mother calls him for a special breakfast, even when he hides under the bed or runs around the yard, his Worry follows him."  
- Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

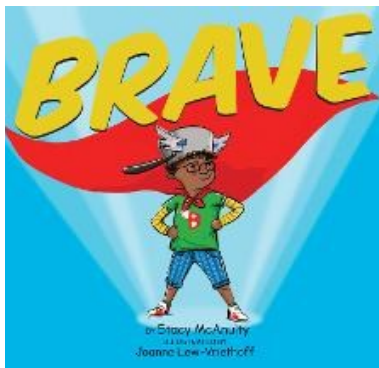
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## Courage

by Bernard Waber, c2002 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)  
(Overcoming fear)

"What is courage? Certainly it takes courage for a firefighter to rescue someone trapped in a burning building, but there are many other kinds of courage too. Everyday kinds that normal, ordinary people exhibit all the time...Bernard Waber explores the many varied kinds of courage and celebrates the moments, big and small, that bring out the hero in each of us." - Pub.



## Brave

by Stacy McAnulty, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)  
(Having the courage to act)

"Kids are brave every day. When they are told they are too little, but accomplish something big. When they check for monsters under the bed, just in case. When they face something uncertain, whether a thunderstorm or a hospital visit. When they stand up for what's right, even when it means facing consequences." - Pub.

## The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade



## Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade

by Justin Roberts, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)  
(Having the courage to act)

"Hardly anyone noticed young Sally McCabe. She was the smallest girl in the smallest grade. But Sally notices everything - from the twenty-seven keys on the janitor's ring to the bullying happening on the playground. One day, Sally has had enough and decides to make herself heard. And when she takes a chance and stands up to the bullies, she finds that one small girl can make a big difference." - Pub.

## Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Courage

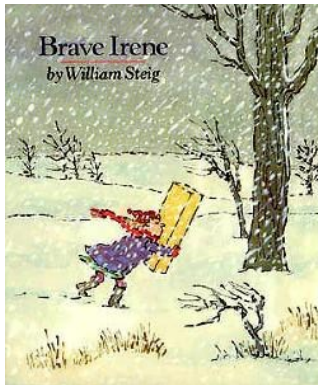


Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Courage by  
Howard Binkow, c2012 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)  
(Overcoming fear)

"Rabbit Howard B. Wigglebottom learns about fears and courage." - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

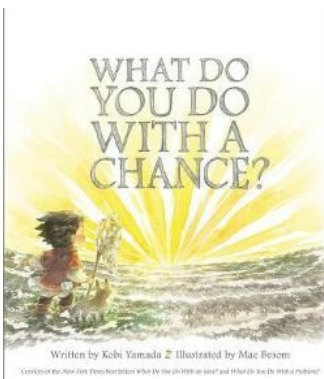
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## **Brave Irene**

by William Steig, c1986 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.9)  
(Overcoming obstacles)

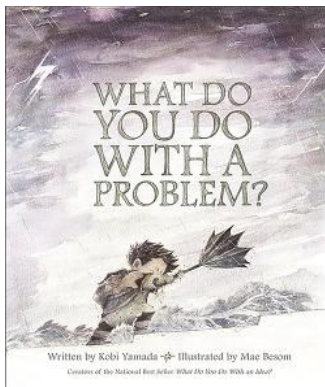
"*Brave Irene* is Irene Bobbin, the dressmaker's daughter. Her mother, Mrs. Bobbin, isn't feeling so well and can't possibly deliver the beautiful ball gown she's made for the duchess to wear that very evening. So plucky Irene volunteers to get the gown to the palace on time, in spite of the fierce snowstorm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



## **What Do You Do With a Chance**

by Kobi Yamada, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.0)  
(Overcoming fear)

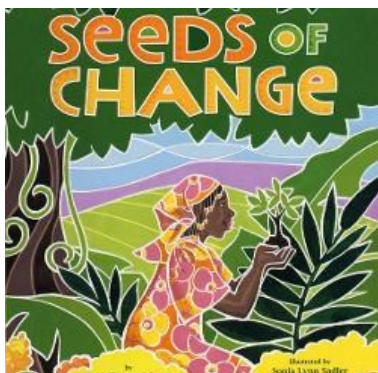
"What do you do with a chance? Especially one that seems too big or too wild or just out of reach? Do you hold back? Do you act like you don't care? Do you let it slip away? This is the story of some remarkable chances and the child who doesn't know quite what to do with them. But the more chances come around, the more the child's fascination grows. And then, one day, a little courage makes all the difference in the world." - Pub.



## **What Do You Do With a Problem?**

by Kobi Yamada, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.2)  
(Overcoming obstacles)

"This is the story of a persistent problem and the child who isn't so sure what to make of it. The longer he avoids the problem, the bigger it seems to get. But when the child finally musters up the courage to face it, the problem turns out to be something quite different indeed." - Pub.



## **Seeds of Change**

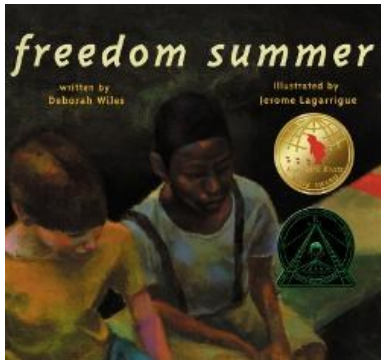
by Jen Cullerton Johnson, c2010 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.8)  
(overcoming poverty, social injustice)

"A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman - and first environmentalist - to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for planting trees in her native Kenya. Detailed narrative and vibrant images paint a robust portrait of this inspiring champion of women's rights and the environment and engagingly capture the people, clothing and landscape of Kenya." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

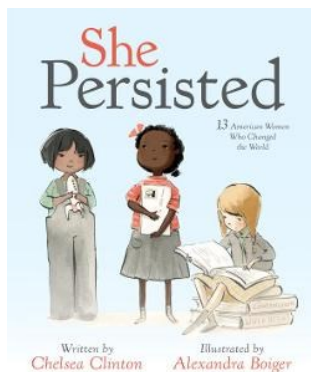
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
Picture Book Format



## Freedom Summer

by Deborah Wiles, c2001 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.7)

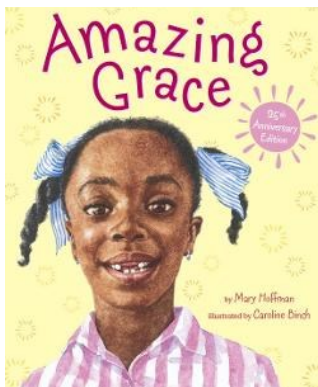
"In 1964, Joe is pleased that a new law will allow his best friend John Henry, who is African-American, to share the town pool and other public places with him, but he is dismayed to find that prejudice still exists."  
- Follett



## She Persisted

by Chelsea Clinton, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 6.0)

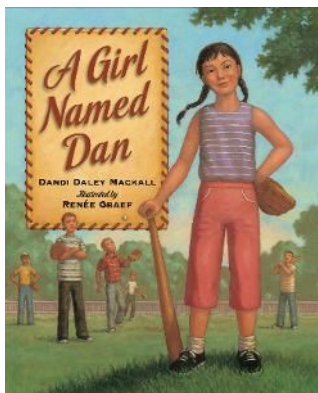
"*She Persisted* is for everyone who has ever wanted to speak up but has been told to quiet down, for everyone who has ever tried to reach for the stars but was told to sit down, and for everyone who has ever been made to feel unworthy or unimportant or small." - Pub.



## Amazing Grace

by Mary Hoffman, c1996 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.1)

"Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. So when she gets a chance to play a part in Peter Pan, she knows exactly who she wants to be. Remarkable watercolor illustrations give full expression to Grace's high-flying imagination." - Pub.



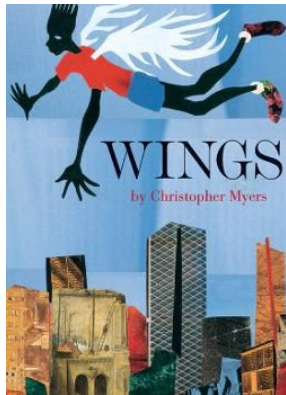
## A Girl Named Dan

by Dandi Daley Mackall, c2008 (IL: 3-6, RL: 3.6)

"Dandi enjoys nothing more than baseball, and so after the boys at school tell her their lunchtime game is now boys only, she enters an essay contest hoping to become a bat boy for the Kansas City A's, not realizing the contest is for boys only." - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*

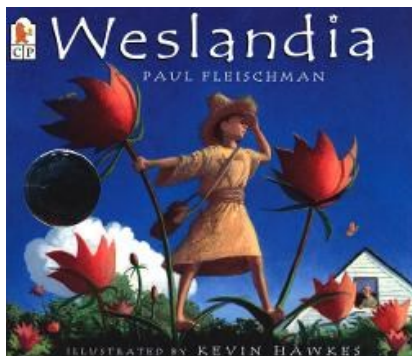


## Wings

by Christopher Myers, c2000 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.3)

"Myers retells the myth of Icarus through the story of Ikarus Jackson, the new boy on the block, who can fly above the rooftops and over the crowd. In this contemporary version, the winged kid nearly falls from the sky, not because he flies too high and dares to go too near the sun, but because jeering kids in the schoolyard and repressive adults don't like his being different and try to break his soaring spirit."

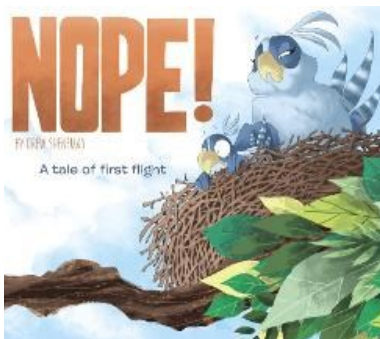
- Booklist



## Weslandia

by Paul Fleischman, 1999 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)

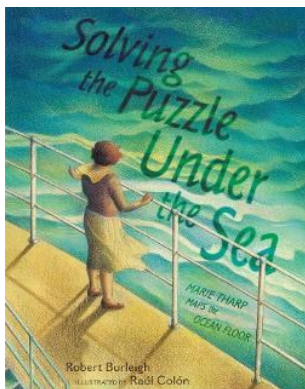
"Enter the witty, intriguing world of Weslandia! Now that school is over, Wesley needs a summer project...so he decides to sow a garden and start his own - civilization, that is. He turns over a plot of earth, and plants begin to grow. They soon tower above him and bear a curious-looking fruit. As Wesley experiments, he finds that the plant will provide food, clothing, shelter, and even recreation." - Pub.



## Nope! A Tale of First Flight

by Drew Sheneman, c2017 (IL: K-3)

"Does Little Bird want to leave the nest and learn to fly? NOPE!" - Pub.



## Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor

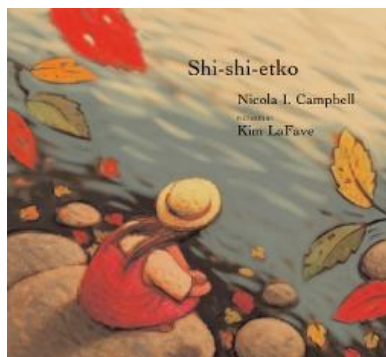
by Robert Burleigh, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.4)

"Marie Tharp was always fascinated by the ocean. Taught to think big by her father who was a mapmaker, Marie wanted to do something no one had ever done before: map the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Was it even possible? Not sure if she would succeed, Marie decided to give it a try." - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

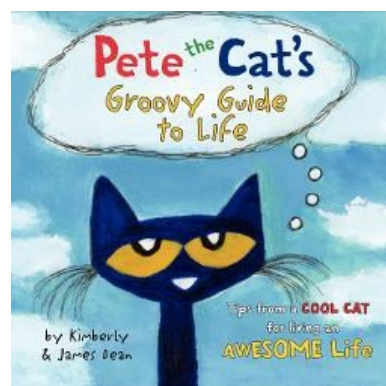
## Picture Book Format



### **Shi-shi-etko**

by Nicola Campbell, c2005 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)

"Shi-shi-etko just has four days until she will have to leave her family and everything she knows to attend residential school. She spends her last precious days at home treasuring and appreciating the beauty of her world—the dancing sunlight, the tall grass, each shiny rock, the tadpoles in the creek, her grandfather's paddle song. Her mother, father, and grandmother, each in turn, share valuable teachings that they want her to remember." - Pub.



### **Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life**

by James Dean, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.0)

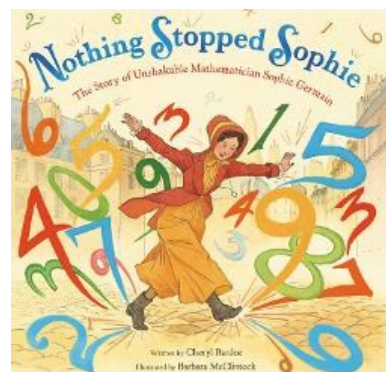
"Everyone's favorite cat shares a collection of his favorite inspirational and feel-good quotes in *Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life*. Pete's glass-half-full outlook on life shines through as he adds his fun take on well-known classics attributed to luminaries from Albert Einstein to Confucius to Abraham Lincoln to Shakespeare and more!" - Pub.



### **Secret of the Dance**

by Andrea Spalding, c2006 (IL: 3-6, RL: 3.1)

"In 1935, a nine-year-old boy's family held a forbidden Potlatch in faraway Kingcome Inlet. Wat'l'kina slipped from his bed to bear witness. In the Big House masked figures danced by firelight to the beat of the drum. And there, he saw a figure he knew." - Pub.



### **Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain**

by Cheryl Bardoe, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.0)

"A biography of Sophie Germain, who grew up during the French Revolution and followed her dream of studying mathematics, becoming the first woman to win a grand prize from the Royal Academy of Sciences and changing the world with her discoveries." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

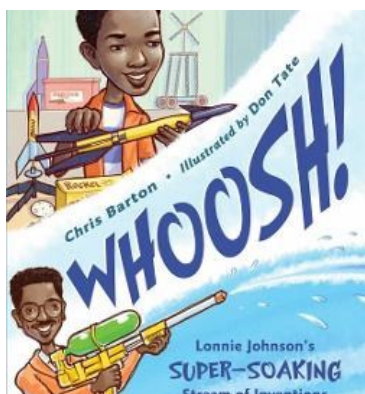
## Picture Book Format



### The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon

by Frances Polettic, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.3)

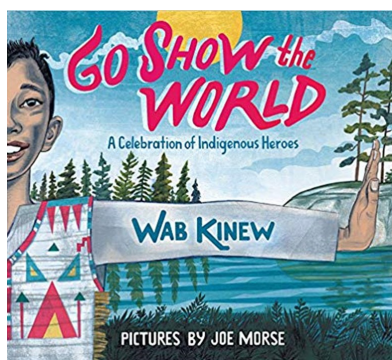
"In 1966, the world believed it was impossible for a woman to run the Boston Marathon. Bobbi Gibb was determined to prove them wrong" - Pub.



### Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions

by Chris Barton, c2019 (IL: 3-6)

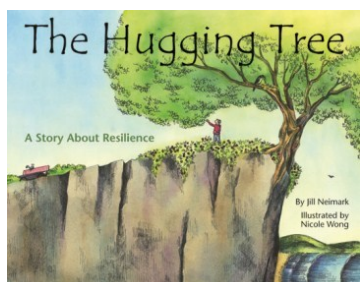
"...Trying to create a new cooling system for rockets, inventor Lonnie Johnson instead created the mechanics for an iconic toy [Super Soaker]. Lonnie Johnson's life began alongside a whole mess of brothers and sisters and grew to include a love for rockets, robots, inventions, and creativity. With persistence and a passion for problem solving, he became an engineer and worked for NASA." - Pub.



### Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes

by Wab Kinew, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

"Celebrating the stories of Indigenous people throughout time, Wab Kinew has created a powerful rap song, the lyrics of which are the basis for the text in this beautiful picture book, illustrated by the acclaimed Joe Morse. Including figures such as Crazy Horse, Net-no-kwa, former NASA astronaut John Herrington and Canadian NHL goalie Carey Price." - Amazon.ca



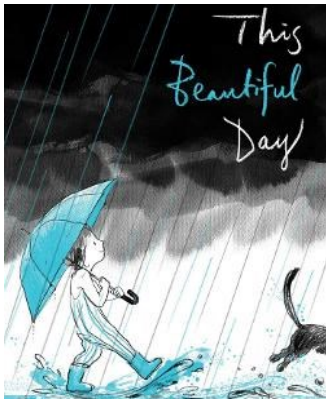
### The Hugging Tree: A Story About Resilience

by Jill Neimark, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.9)

"The Hugging Tree tells the story of a little tree growing all alone on a cliff, by a vast and mighty sea. Through thundering storms and the cold of winter, the tree holds fast. Sustained by the natural world and the kindness and compassion of one little boy, eventually the tree grows until it can hold and shelter others. The resilience of the Hugging Tree calls to mind the potential in all of us: to thrive, despite times of struggle and difficulty. To nurture the little spark of hope and resolve. To dream and to grow, just where we are." - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

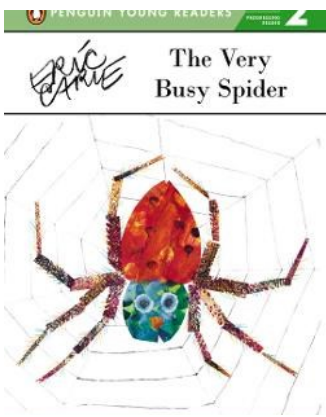
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## This Beautiful Day

by Richard Jackson, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.5)  
(positive mindset)

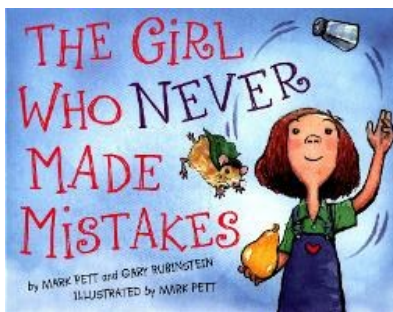
"Why spend a rainy day inside? As three children embrace a grey day, they seem to beckon the bright as they jump, splash, and dance outside, chasing the rain away. The day's palette shifts from greys to a hint of blue, then more blue. Then green! Then yellow! Until the day is a technicolor extravaganza that would make Mary Poppins proud. A joyous homage to the power of a positive attitude." - Pub.



## The Very Busy Spider

by Eric Carle, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.3)

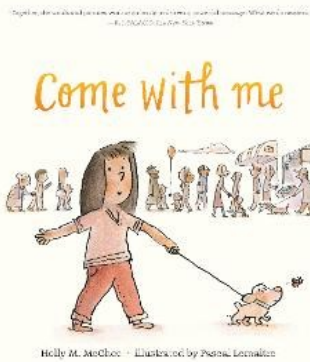
"A spider, blown by the wind to a fence post near a farm yard, begins to build her web and cannot be distracted from the task at hand—not by the horse, cow, sheep, goat, or dog. But when the rooster asks if she wants to catch a pesky fly, the busy spider is able to catch it in her web immediately!" - Pub.



## The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

by Mark Pett, c2011 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)

"Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. In fact, Beatrice holds the record of perfection in her hometown, where she is known as The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable." - Pub.



## Come With Me

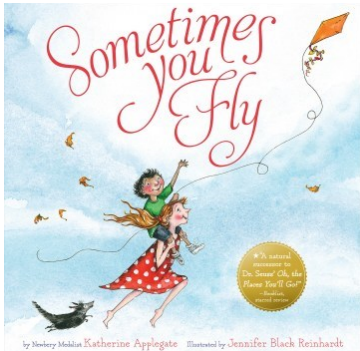
by Holly M. McGhee, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

"Frightened by news of angry people around the world, a young girl gets her parents' help in learning to be compassionate and brave a little at a time." - Follett



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## Sometimes You Fly

by Katherine Applegate, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.3)  
(positive mindset)

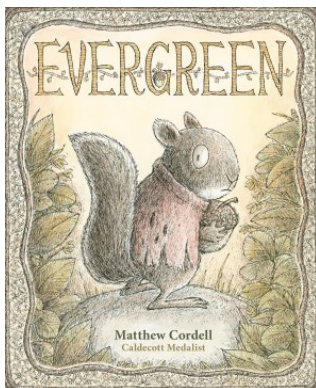
"Beginning with a first birthday, the scenes travel through childhood triumphs and milestones, coming full circle to graduation. A magical blend of succinct text and beautiful watercolors renders each moment with tenderness and humor and encourages readers to 'remember then, with every try, sometimes you fail...sometimes you fly.'" - Pub.



## Gratitude is My superpower

by amy Weber, c2022 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.3)

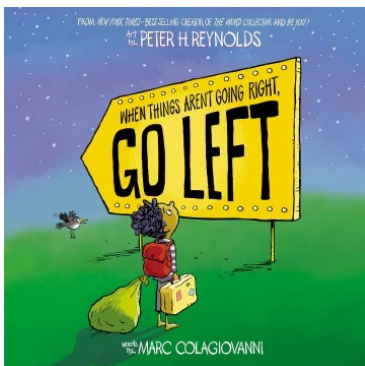
"Teaches young kids how to practice gratitude and keep a positive mindset through simple scenarios . . . written with clear language for adults to read aloud, and features discussion questions and activities that encourage kids to talk about what they learned and use it every day." - Pub.



## Evergreen

by Matthew Cordell, c2023 (IL: K-2, RL: 2.4)

"Evergreen the squirrel is afraid of many things: thunder, hawks, and the dark paths of Buckthorn Forest. But when her mother tasks Evergreen with delivering soup to her sick Granny Oak, the little squirrel must face her fears and make the journey. Along the way, Evergreen is met by other forest dwellers - some want to help her, but some want her mother's delicious soup! It's up to Evergreen to stay the course, and those who help her will surprise and delight young readers." - Pub.



## When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left

by Marc Colagiovanni, c2023 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

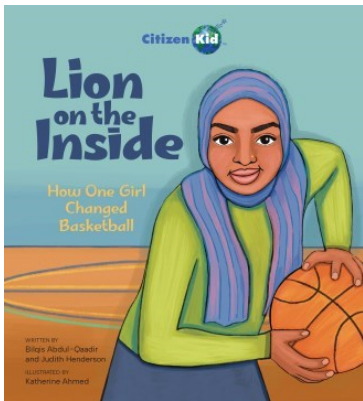
"One day for no particular reason, nothing was going right. Absolutely positively, nothing was going right. So, I decided to go left . . ."  
Told through creative language play, and with depth and whimsy, this picture book reminds readers of their own agency and the power they have to direct their own path." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce

## Picture Book Format



### Lion On the Inside: How One Girl Changed Basketball

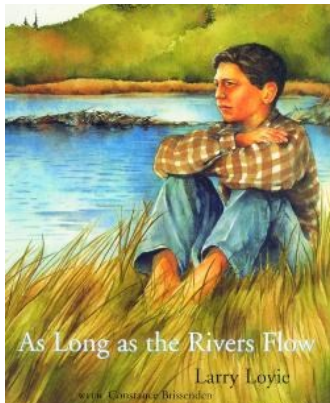
(Series: CitizenKid)

by Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir, c2023 (IL: 1-4, RL: 1.9)

"A powerful and inspiring true story about Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir, a young Muslim-American woman who, at the top of her basketball career, must make a choice between wearing her hijab and playing the sport.." - *Pub.*

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

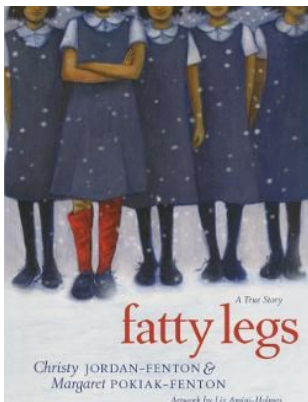
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



## As Long as the Rivers Flow

by Larry Loyie, c2002 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 4.6)

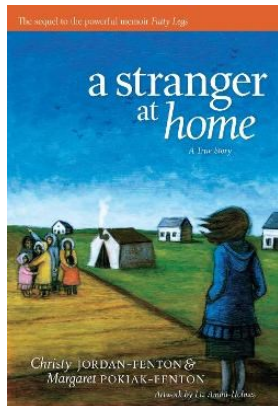
"Starting in the 1800s and continuing into the 20th century, First Nations children were forcibly taken to government-sponsored residential schools to erase their traditional languages and cultures. This moving book tells of one such child, author Larry Loyie, and his last summer with his Cree tribe. It is a time of learning and adventure. He cares for an abandoned baby owl, watches his grandmother make winter moccasins, and sees her kill a huge grizzly with one shot." - Pub.



## Fatty Legs

by Christy Jordan-Fenton , c2010 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.5)

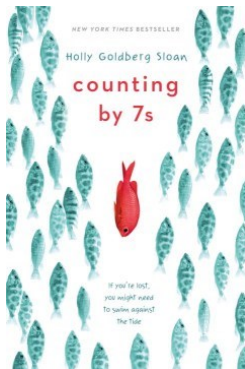
"Margaret Pokiak-Fenton tells the story of her experiences as an eight-year-old Inuit girl in a church-run school in Aklavik, Canada, where her strong will made her the target of a mean-spirited nun."  
- Follett



## A Stranger at Home: A True Story

by Christy Jordan-Fenton, c2011 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.5)

"A memoir in which the author recalls her experiences as a ten-year-old girl returning home to her family in the Arctic after two years at a residential school, discussing her struggles to relearn the language, stories, and ways of her Inuvialuit people." - Follett



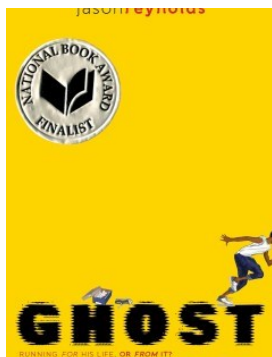
## Counting by 7's

by Holly Sloan, c2013 (IL: 5-8, 7-10; RL: 5.3)

"Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident." - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

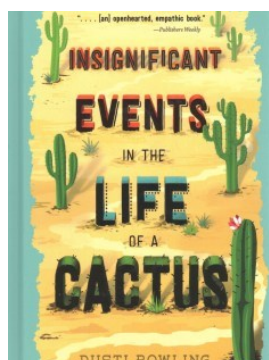
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
Novels



## Ghost

by Jason Reynolds, c2016 (IL: 5-8, 5-9; RL: 4.6)

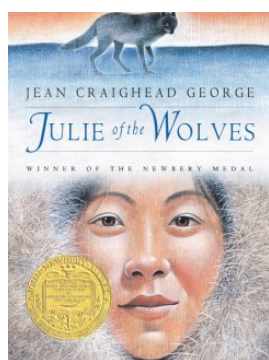
"Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential." - Pub.



## Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

by Dusti Bowling, c2020 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.6)

"Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them...life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms." - Follett



## Julie of the Wolves

by Jean Craighead George, c1972 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.8)

"While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old [Inuit] girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack." Follett



## Summer Ball

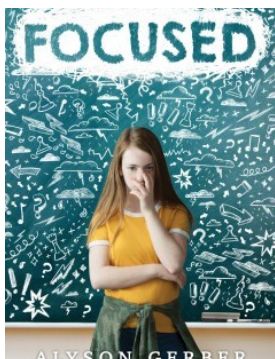
by Mike Lupica, c2007 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.3)

"Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp." - Follett



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

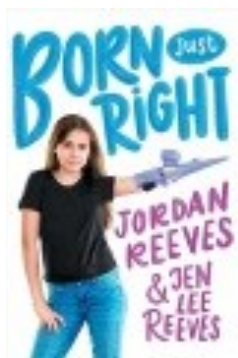
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



## **Focused**

by Alyson Gerber, c2019 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 4.6)

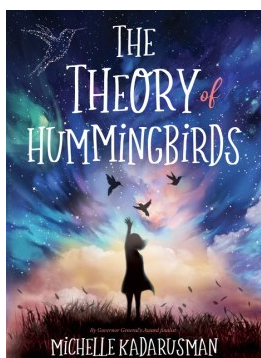
"Twelve-year-old Clea wants to do her homework, follow instructions, pay attention in school, and play chess on the school team, but somehow she cannot focus on whatever is in front of her, and the other kids at school are starting to notice and make fun of her; when her worried parents take her to be tested she finds out that she has ADHD (only without the hyperactivity) - and with help from the psychiatrist who seems to really understand her she is determined to learn how to focus." - Follett



## **Born Just Right**

by Jordan Reeves, c2019 (IL: 5-8, 4-8; RL: 5.8)

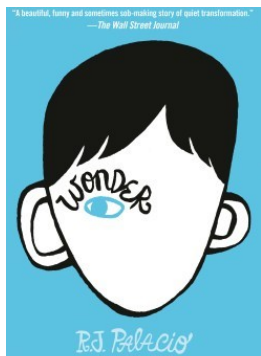
"Jordan Reeves tells her story about growing up in an able-bodied world and family, where she was treated like all of her siblings and classmates—and where she never felt limited....Jordan has channeled any negativity into a positive, and is determined to create more innovations for people just like her. Her most famous invention, aptly called Project Unicorn, is a special prosthetic (that shoots glitter!) made with the help of a 3-D printer." - Follett



## **The Theory of Hummingbirds**

by Michelle Kadarusman, c2020 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, 5-8; RL: 3.9)

"Sixth-grader Alba is strengthening her left leg after a final surgery to correct her congenital clubfoot. Her friendship with intellectual classmate Levi is threatened when he scoffs at Alba's plans to run in an upcoming cross-country race, and she responds by scorning his theory that the school librarian has discovered a wormhole in her office." - Follett



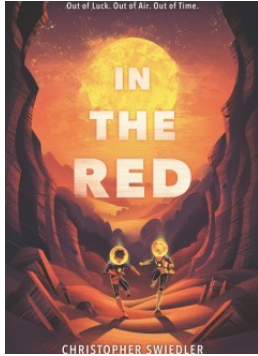
## **Wonder**

by R.J. Polacio, c2012 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, 5-8; RL: 4.8)

"Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student." - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



## In the Red

by Christopher Swiedler, c2020 (IL: 3-6, 5-7, 6 up; RL: 5.3)

"Michael Prasad knows he shouldn't go out on the Mars surface alone. It's dangerous. His parents have forbidden it. And the anxiety he feels almost every time he puts on a spacesuit makes it nearly impossible for him to leave the safety of the colony. But when his best friend, Lilith, suggests they sneak out one night, he can't resist the chance to prove everyone--including himself--wrong...Stranded hours from home with an already limited supply of food, water, and air, Michael and Lilith must risk everything if they're to get back to the colony alive." - Follett



## Dog Driven

by Terry Lynn Johnson, c2019 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.0)

"McKenna, fourteen, is losing her vision to Stargardt's disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness." - Follett



## Squint

by Chad Morris, c2018 (IL: 3-6, 5-7; RL: 4.1)

"Flint Minett has keratoconus, an eye disease, but desperately wants to win a comic book art contest so that he and his new friend McKell Panganiban will be better accepted at middle school." - Follett



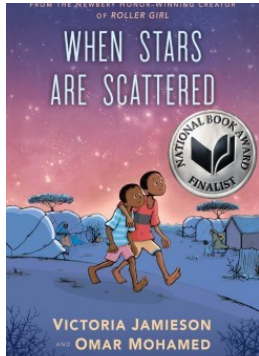
## Clan

by Sigmund Brouwer, c2020 (IL: 3-6, 4+; RL: 5.5)

"When Atlatl brings Cub back to his Clan, it begins a series of events that end with Atlatl being banished--the worst possible punishment for any Clan member...But before the Clan can leave him behind, disaster strikes, and Atlatl has to rely on his wits, his ingenuity and his bravery to face the biggest foe yet and try to save what remains of his Clan." - Follett

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



## When Stars are Scattered

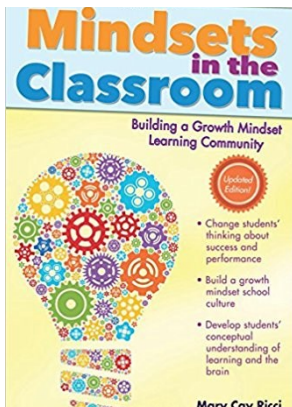
by Victoria Jamieson, c2020 (IL: 5-8, 4-8, 6-8)  
*Graphic novel*

"Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp." - Follett



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

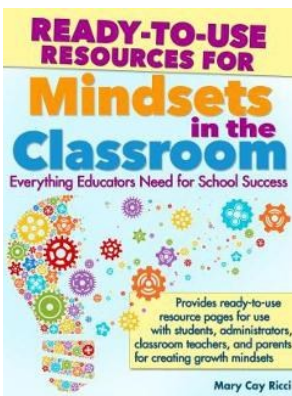
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



## Mindsets in the Classroom: Building a Growth Mindset Learning Community

by Mary Cay Ricci, c2015 (IL: PF)  
(Teacher reference)

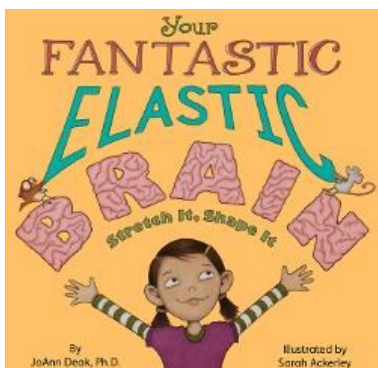
"Provides educators with ideas for building a growth mindset school culture, wherein students are challenged to change their thinking about their abilities and potential. With the book's step-by-step guidance on adopting a differentiated, responsive instruction model, teachers can immediately use growth mindset culture in their classrooms." - Amazon.ca



## Ready-to-Use Resources for Mindsets in the Classroom

by Mary Cay Ricci, c2015 (IL: PF)

"The book features ready-to-use, interactive tools for students, teachers, parents, administrators, and professional development educators." - Pub.



## Your Fantastic Elastic Brain Stretch It, Shape It by JoAnn Deak, Phd, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.1)

"Provides information about the human brain, discussing what it is, its different parts, how it grows, and its role in controlling various parts and functions of the body." - Follett



## Showing Perseverance

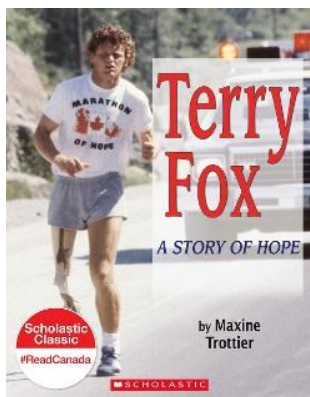
by Rebecca Pettiford, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 0.8)

Series: *Building Character*

"Simple text and illustrations introduce the character trait of perseverance. Carefully leveled text and vibrant, full-color photos support beginning readers and make reading informational text easy and fun. Includes an activity, picture glossary, and an index." - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



## Terry Fox: A Story of Hope

by Maxine Trottier, c2010 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.7)  
(Overcoming physical disabilities)

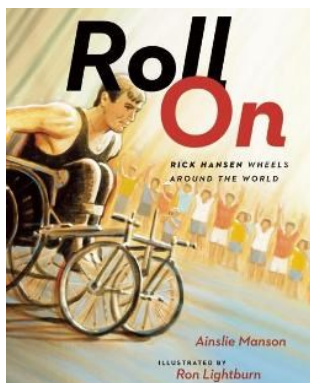
"Photographs and text tell the story of Terry Fox, a young man who lost his leg to cancer in 1976 and who then decided to raise money to find a cure for the disease by running across Canada. Includes information on the Terry Fox Run established in 1981 after Fox's death." - *Follett*



## Terry Fox

by Jennifer Sutoski, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.8)  
(Series: Pebble Plus: Canadian Bibliographies)

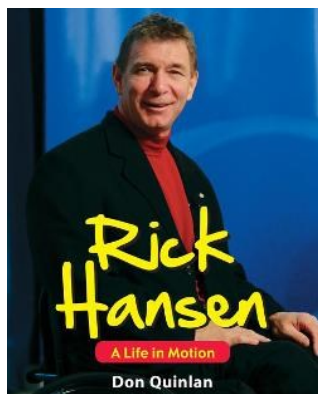
"In this book, simple text and full-color photographs describe the amazing life of Terry Fox! In 1980 Terry ran across Canada to raise money for cancer research - despite having lost a leg to the disease several years earlier!" - *Pub.*



## Roll On: Rick Hansen Wheels Around the World

by Ainslie Manson, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.0)  
(Overcoming disabilities—picture book format)

"As Rick Hansen wheels around the globe on his incredible Man in Motion World Tour, the children he meets are encouraged to dream their own dreams and work to make them come true. Readers also discover little-known facts about the great journey. They learn that Rick wheeled the equivalent of three marathons a day and went through 94 pairs of gloves." - *Pub.*



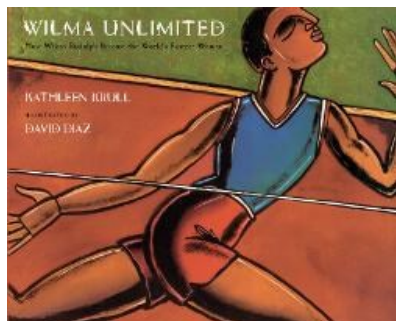
## Rick Hansen: A Life in Motion

by Don Quinlan, c2013 (IL: 3-6, RL: 6.4)  
(Overcoming disabilities)

"Rick Hansen suffered a spinal cord injury at the age of 15 after a car accident. But it didn't stop him - during the 1980s he was active in the Paralympics as a wheelchair basketball player. He became inspired by Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope and when Terry Fox was forced to end his run across Canada prematurely, Rick Hansen made a vow to carry on." - *Pub.*

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

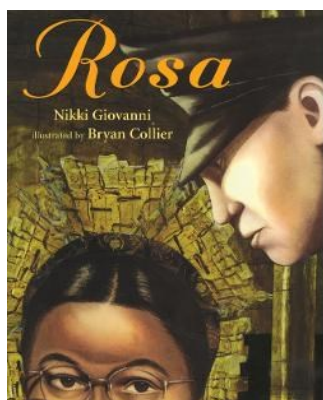
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



## Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman

by Kathleen Krull, c1996 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.8)  
(Overcoming disabilities & social injustice)

"A biography of the African-American woman who overcame crippling polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympics." - Follett

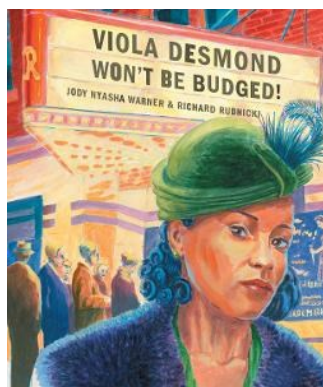


## Rosa

by Nikki Giovanni, c2005 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.2)  
(Overcoming social injustice)

"She had not sought this moment but she was ready for it. When the policeman bent down to ask "Auntie, are you going to move?" all the strength of all the people through all those many years joined in her. She said, "No."

An inspiring account of an event that shaped American history." - Pub.



## Viola Desmond Won't be Budged!

by Jody Nyasha Warner, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.6)  
(Overcoming social injustice)

In 1946, Viola Desmond bought a movie ticket at the Roseland Theatre in Nova Scotia. After settling into a main floor seat, an usher came by and told her to move, because her ticket was only good for the balcony. "You people have to sit in the upstairs section." Viola refused to move. She was hauled off to jail, but her actions gave strength and inspiration to Canada's black community." - Pub.



## Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909

by Michelle Markel, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.6)  
(Overcoming social injustice)

"The true story of the young immigrant who led the largest strike of women workers in U.S. history. This picture book biography about Ukrainian immigrant Clara Lemlich tackles topics like activism and the U.S. garment industry..." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
Non-fiction



## The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid

by Jeanette Winter, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)  
(Overcoming conformity)

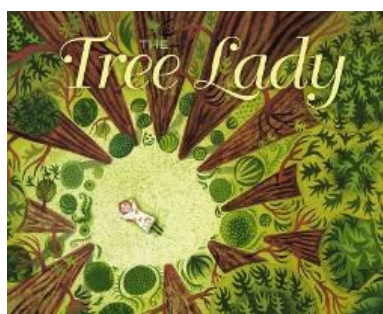
"Zaha Hadid grew up in Baghdad, Iraq, and dreamed of designing her own cities. After studying architecture in London, she opened her own studio and started designing buildings. But as a Muslim woman, Hadid faced many obstacles...she worked hard for many years, and achieved her goals--and now you can see the buildings Hadid has designed all over the world." - Pub.



## Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing

by Dean Robbins, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.8)  
(Overcoming conformity)

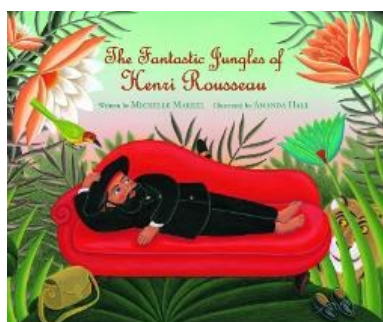
"Margaret Hamilton loved numbers as a young girl. She knew how many miles it was to the moon (and how many back)...Soon math led her to MIT and then to helping NASA put a man on the moon! She handwrote code that would allow the spacecraft's computer to solve any problems it might encounter." - Pub.



## The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever

by Joseph H. Hopkins, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.5)  
(Overcoming conformity)

"Katherine Olivia Sessions never thought she'd live in a place without trees. After all, Kate grew up among the towering pines and redwoods of Northern California. But after becoming the first woman to graduate from the University of California with a degree in science, she took a job as a teacher far south in the dry desert town of San Diego. Where there were almost no trees." - Pub.



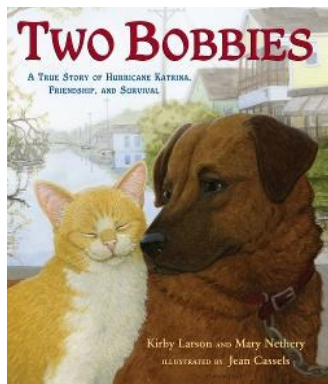
## The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau

by Michelle Markel, c2012 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.8)  
(Overcoming conformity)

"Henri Rousseau wanted to be an artist. But he had no formal training. Instead, he taught himself to paint. He painted until the jungles and animals and distant lands in his head came alive on the space of his canvases." - Pub.

# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



## Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival

by Kirby Larson, c2008 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.2)  
(Overcoming the odds)

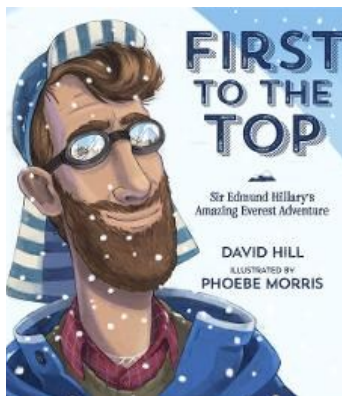
"During Hurricane Katrina, evacuating New Orleans residents were forced to leave their pets behind. Bobbi the dog was initially chained to keep her safe, but after her owners failed to return, she had to break free. For months, Bobbi wandered the city's ravaged streets—dragging her chain behind her—followed by her feline companion, Bob Cat." - Pub.



## Lighter Than Air: Sophie Blanchard, the First Woman Pilot

by Matthew Clark Smith, c2019 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.0)  
(Overcoming conformity)

"Behold the story of Sophie Blanchard, an extraordinary woman who is largely forgotten despite her claim to being the very first female pilot in history. In eighteenth-century France, "balloonomania" has fiercely gripped the nation . . . but all of the pioneering aeronauts are men. The job of shattering that myth falls to a most unlikely figure: a shy girl from a seaside village, entirely devoted to her dream of flight." - Pub.

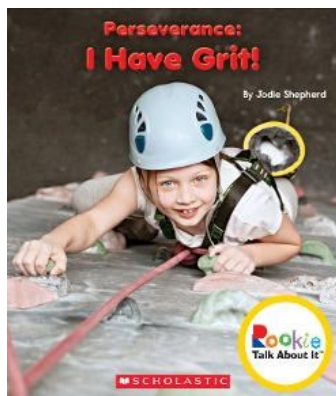


## First to the Top: Sir Edmund Hillary's Amazing Everest Adventure

by David Hill, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

"Up on the world's highest mountain, the sky is tinged the black colour of space and the air is almost too thin to breathe.

How did Ed, a small, shy boy from the tiny town of Tuakau in New Zealand, grow up to become the world's most famous mountaineer and adventurer? How did he climb Everest and do so many other astonishing things?" - Pub.



## Perseverance: I Have Grit!

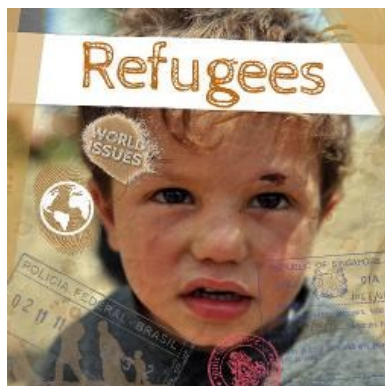
by Jodie Shepherd, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

"How do you teach a child to have grit? How do you encourage youngsters to show empathy to their peers? The books in the Rookie Talk About It series are a great way to introduce character education. Engaging text introduces each topic to the readers, while anecdotes provide real-life examples of how they can build these character strengths themselves." - Pub.



# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

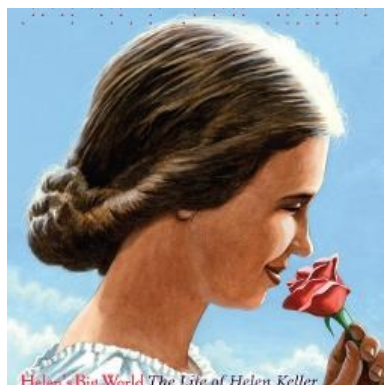
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



## **Refugees**

by Harriet Brundle, c2017 (IL: 3-6, RL: 7.0)  
(Series: World Issues)

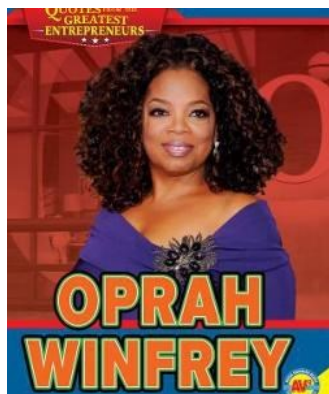
"What is a refugee? Why do people become refugees, and how do they migrate? What is it like to migrate on foot, by boat, or by vehicle? What are refugee camps? How does it feel to be a refugee? Includes a case study of Syrian refugees." - Pub.



## **Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller**

by Doreen Rappaport, c2012 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.9)

"This picture book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world's most influential luminaries. With her signature style of prose laced with stirring quotes, Doreen Rappaport brings to life Helen Keller's poignant narrative." - Pub.



## **Oprah Winfrey**

by Oprah Winfrey, c2016 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.7)

**Series:** *Quotes from the Greatest Entrepreneurs*

"Pairs words of encouragement with stunning photography to create a truly unique reading experience. Readers are sure to understand the power of hard work and perseverance through this exciting series." - Pub.



## **Series: Remarkable Lives Revealed**

by Crabtree Publishing, c2017-2018 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.5-7.5)

### **Titles**

*Mae Jemison: Trailblazing Astronaut, Doctor, and Teacher*

*Malala Yousafzai: Defender of Education for Girls*

*Rick Hansen: Improving Live for People with Disabilities*

*Temple Grandin: Pioneer for Animal rights and Autism Awareness*

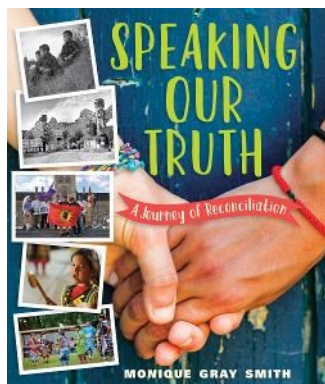
*William Kamkwamba: Powering his village*

*Wilma Rudolph: Track and field Champion*



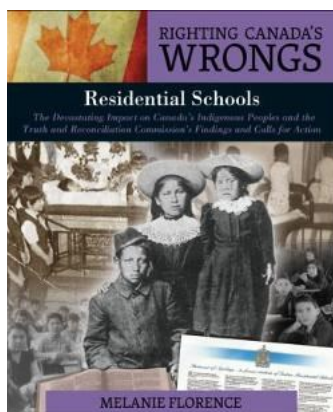
# Persevering/ Overcoming Obstacles

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Non-fiction*



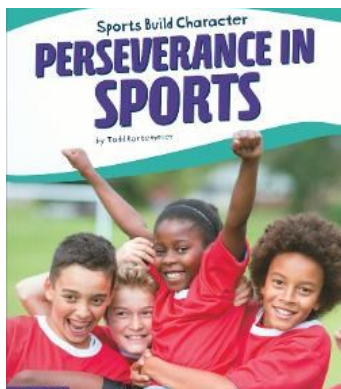
## Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation by Monique Gray Smith, c2017 (IL: 5-8, RL: 7.9)

"Canada's relationship with its Indigenous people has suffered as a result of both the residential school system and the lack of understanding of the historical and current impact of those schools. Healing and repairing that relationship requires education, awareness and increased understanding of the legacy and the impacts still being felt by Survivors and their families."  
- Pub.



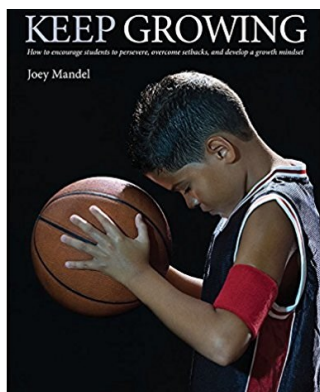
## Residential Schools by Melanie Florence, c2016 (IL: YA) Series: *Righting Canada's Wrongs*

"Explores the history of Canada's residential school system for aboriginal young people where 150,000 First Nations, Metis, and Inuit were taken from their families and were forced to abandon their native culture; and includes the full text of the government's apology issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission." - Follett



## Perseverance in Sports by Todd Kortemeier, c2018 (IL: 3-6, RL: 5.1) Series: *Sports Build Character*

"Demonstrates the game-changing power of perseverance. Through action-filled stories and a character-building quiz, readers will consider their own character and be encouraged to take it to the next level." - OCLC



## Keep Growing: How to encourage Students to Persevere, Overcome Setbacks, and Develop a Growth Mindset by Joey Mandel, c2017 (IL: PF)

"Growing shows how teachers can provide opportunities for children to change their mindsets and foster their ownership of their behavior, their desire to tackle difficult tasks, their ability to push through..."  
- Amazon.ca