

Appendix F

Effort Books

A Bibliography

This bibliography was originally compiled 10 years ago by Jackie Richardson, Library Media Specialist, Croton-Harmon School District. It has since been updated with contributions by various RBT consultants and participants in our courses. We encourage readers to share with us additional contributions they recommend.

Title, author; illustrator

Publishing information

Description

K-3

Albie's First Word by Jacqueline Tourville; illustrated by Wynne Evans
New York, NY: Schwartz & Wade, 2014

This historical fiction picture book is about the early childhood of Albert Einstein, the world's most famous physicist. Three-year-old Albie has never said a single word. When his worried mother and father consult a doctor, he advises them to expose little Albie to new things: a trip to the orchestra, an astronomy lecture, a toy boat race in the park. Although Albie dances with excitement at each new experience, he remains silent. Finally, the thoughtful, quiet child witnesses something so incredible, he utters his very first word: "Why?"

Arthur's Christmas by Marc Brown

Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1984

Arthur puts a lot of time, effort, and thought into his special present for Santa Claus.

Ballerina Rosie by Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; illustrated by Diane Goode

New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2012

Rosie wears her tutu everywhere and loves to listen to ballet stories. After enrolling in ballet class, she discovers that it is harder than she expected, making her look like a “wilted flower” instead of a prima ballerina. She almost gives up before her teacher shares with her a pair of red ballet shoes that bring her success. At first she attributes her dancing to the shoes, but her teacher points out that it came from her confidence within—and it was there all along.

A Barnyard Collection: Click, Clack, Moo and More by Doreen Cronin

New York, NY: Atheneum Books, 2000

Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. But Farmer Brown's problems *really* begin when his cows start leaving him notes.

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

New York, NY: Workman, 2010

This interactive book shows children how every mistake is an opportunity to make something beautiful. Filled with pop-ups, flaps, holes, tears, and more, it encourages children to be creative without the fear of messing things up.

The Beetle Bush by Beverly Keller; illustrated by Marc Simont

New York, NY: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1976

A little girl is convinced she is a failure at everything she tries until she begins a garden.

The Best Mistake Ever by Richard Scarry

New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers, 1984

Huckle Cat is sent to the grocery store but forgets the shopping list his mother gave him. His friend tries to help him, but they misremember the list and buy similar-sounding sweets instead.

The Boy Who Held Back the Sea adapted by Lenny Hort from Mary Mapes Dodge's *Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates*; illustrated by Thomas Locker

New York, NY: Dial Books, 1987

By blocking a leaking hole in the dike, a young boy saves his town from destruction.

The Brain: All About Our Nervous System and More! by Seymour Simon

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1997

Brave Irene by William Steig

New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1986

Plucky Irene, a dressmaker's daughter, braves a fierce snowstorm to deliver a new gown to the duchess in time for the ball.

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss; illustrated by Crockett Johnson

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1973

Despite everyone's dire predictions, a little boy has faith in the carrot seed he plants.

Crow Boy by Taro Yashima

New York, NY: Viking Press, 1955

This is the story of a strange, shy little boy in a Japanese village school who was ignored by his classmates until suddenly, and almost too late, a new teacher showed them that Crow Boy had much to offer.

The Day That Henry Cleaned His Room by Sarah Wilson

New York, NY: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1990

When Henry cleans his room, he attracts the attention of reporters, scientists, the army, and something long and green and scaly that lives under Henry's bed.

Do Not Open by Brinton Turkle

New York, NY: Dutton, 1981

Following a storm, Miss Moody and her cat find an intriguing bottle washed up on the beach. Should they ignore its "Do not open" warning?

The Dot by Peter Reynolds

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2003

Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.

The Enormous Carrot by Vladimir Vasilevich Vagin

New York, NY: Scholastic, 1998

A group learns the value of teamwork as one animal after another joins in the effort to pull a giant carrot out of the ground. Based on a Russian folktale.

Eyes of the Dragon by Margaret Leaf; illustrated by Ed Young

New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987

An artist agrees to paint a dragon on the wall of a Chinese village, but the magistrate's insistence that he paint eyes on the dragon has amazing results.

The Garden of Happiness by Erika Tamar; illustrated by Barbara Lambase

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1996

Marisol and her neighbors turn a vacant New York City lot into a lush community garden.

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae. 2012

This book is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend.

The Great Big Enormous Turnip by Alexei Tolstoy; illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

New York, NY: F. Watts, 1968

An old man plants a little turnip that grows and grows until it's so big that it takes everyone, including the mouse, to pull it.

Gumption! by Elise Broach

New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010

Peter goes on an expedition with his uncle Nigel in search of a rare African gorilla, but making it through the jungle involves lots of challenges. Nigel leads the way, surmounting each obstacle, from a dense thicket to a deep river, with cheerful encouragement (“All it takes is a bit of gumption”).

Henry’s Awful Mistake by Robert Quackenbush

New York, NY: Robert Quackenbush Studios, 2005

This story is about a disaster-prone duck named Henry who tries to rid his house of a pesky ant before his guest comes to supper.

The Hill and The Rock by David McKee

London, UK: Andersen Press, 2011

Mr. and Mrs. Quest lived in a little house on the top of a hill. The views were wonderful; they would have been perfect, had it not been for the rock. It would not budge.

How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina R. Friedman; illustrated by Allen Say

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1984

An American sailor courts a Japanese girl and each tries, in secret, to learn the other’s way of eating.

Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty

Harry Abrams, 2007

Iggy has one passion: building. His parents are proud of his fabulous creations, though they’re sometimes surprised by his materials—who could forget the tower he built of dirty diapers? When his second-grade teacher declares her dislike of architecture, Iggy faces a challenge. He loves building too much to give it up!

Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1971

Katy is a crawler tractor who saves the city when it is snowed in by a blizzard.

Koala Lou by Mem Fox

Melbourne, Australia: Ian Drakeford, 1988

When Koala Lou's mother becomes so busy that she forgets to tell her firstborn how much she loves her, Koala Lou enters the Bush Olympics, intending to win an event and her mother's love all at one time.

Leo the Late Bloomer by Jose Aruego

New York, NY: Windmill, 1971

Leo, a young tiger, finally blooms under the anxious eyes of his parents.

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper; illustrated by George and Doris Hauman

New York, NY: Platt & Munk, 1990

A little blue engine comes to the rescue of a train that is loaded with toys, dolls, and good things to eat but cannot get over the mountains to deliver the cargo to waiting children.

Little Horse on His Own by Betsy Byars; illustrated by David McPhail

New York, NY: Henry Holt, 2004

Little Horse confronts lightning, fire, and dangerous animals in his effort to return home to his mother and the valley of the little horses.

The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza retold by Philemon Sturges; illustrated by Amy Walrod

New York, NY: Dutton, 1999

In this version of the traditional tale, the duck, the dog, and the cat refuse to help the Little Red Hen make a pizza but do get to participate when the time comes to eat it.

Maggie and the Monster by Elizabeth Winthrop; illustrated by Tomie dePaola

New York, NY: Holiday House, 1987

Maggie wants to get rid of the monster that visits her room every night and accepts her mother's suggestion to simply ask the monster what it wants.

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1939

When Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, lose their jobs to the gasoline, electric, and diesel motor shovels, they go to a little country town where they find that one new job leads to another.

The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014

A little girl decides to make the most magnificent thing. She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. "Easy-peasy!" But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, she comes back to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to get it just right.

A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziefert; illustrated by Anita Lobel

New York, NY: Knopf, 1986

Even though there is no money, Anna's mother finds a way to make Anna a badly needed winter coat.

Now One Foot, Now the Other by Tomie de Paola

New York, NY: Putnam, 1981

When his grandfather suffers a stroke, Bobby teaches him to walk, just as his grandfather had once taught him.

Oh, the Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss

New York, NY: Random House, 1990

This book offers advice in rhyme for proceeding in life; weathering fear, loneliness, and confusion; and being in charge of your actions.

The OK Book by Amy Rosenthal; illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2007

In this clever and literal play on words, OK is turned on its side, upside down, and right side up to show that being OK can really be quite great. Whether OK personifies an OK skipper, an OK climber, an OK lightning bug catcher, or an OK whatever there is to experience, OK is an OK place to be. And being OK just may lead to the discovery of what makes one great.

The Paperboy by Dav Pilkey

New York, NY: Orchard Books, 1996

A paperboy and his dog enjoy the quiet of the early morning as they go about their rounds.

Peep: A Little Book About Taking a Leap by Maria van Lieshout

New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends, 2009

Peep is a baby chick who follows his mother and sisters along the sidewalk, but when his sisters jump confidently off the edge, Peep hesitates. His reactions run the gamut from nervous to angry, to terrified, and when he finally gulps and takes that leap, he's overjoyed at his own prowess. But new challenges always await; for Peep, it's the curb that he must climb next.

Someday by Ellen Spinelli; illustrated by Rosie Winstead

New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2007

Goldie dreams of being a famous artist, an animal scientist, an archeologist, and much more. Each page alternates with "someday" and present day as she hones her skills she needs to make those goals happen.

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1998

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1984

The farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing of both beauty and usefulness. The pictures can be felt as well as seen.

The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle

New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1990

A very quiet cricket who wants to rub his wings together and make a sound as do so many other animals finally achieves his wish. The cricket's sound is reproduced at the end of the book.

A Walk in the Rain With a Brain by Edward Hallowell; illustrated by Bill Mayer

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2004

This story is about Lucy, a little girl who worries that she isn't smart enough, and a walking, talking cerebrum named Fred. When Lucy finds him, Fred is sitting forlornly in a puddle on a rainy day. He's lost, so Lucy decides to help him find his way back into his head. Along the way, the courtly cerebrum, who speaks in rhyming couplets, teaches and reassures Lucy that "everyone's smart/You just need to find out at what."

Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Donald Carrick

New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1989

On Wednesday nights, when Grandma stays with Anna, everyone thinks she is teaching Anna to read.

What Do You Do With an Idea by Kobi Yamada

Seattle, WA: Compendium Kids, 2013

Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 1964

"Mr. Keats's illustrations boldly, colorfully capture the child, his city world, and the shimmering heat of a summer's day" (*New York Times*, 1964).

Young Frank, Architect by Frank Viva

New York, NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013

Frank lives with his grandfather and aspires to be an architect. His attempts to create a toilet-paper-roll chair and wiggly book skyscraper are initially dismissed by his grandfather, until the two visit the Museum of Modern Art and discover the creative aspects behind architecture and art. The message is that you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it, whether conventional or creative.

Folktales and Fables

The Ant and the Grasshopper by Aesop

The Lion and the Mouse by Aesop

The Tortoise and the Hare by Aesop

The Little Red Hen

The Three Little Pigs

3–6

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman; illustrated by Caroline Binch

New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, *Grace* discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White; illustrated by Garth Williams

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2006

Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner, until his spider friend Charlotte decides to help him.

Dominic by William Steig

New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972

El Chino by Allen Say

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1990

This is a biography of Bill Wong, a Chinese American who became a famous bullfighter in Spain.

Margaret's Moves by Berniece Rabe; illustrated by Julie Downing

New York, NY: Dutton, 1987

Nine-year-old Margaret, confined to a wheelchair by spina bifida, longs for a new, lightweight "sportsmodel" chair so that she can speed around as fast as the athletic brother with whom she has an ongoing rivalry.

Me and My Little Brain by John D. Fitzgerald; illustrated by Mercer Mayer

New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1971

In the absence of his older brother, the Great Brain, J. D. finds that his own little elastic brain can accomplish feats on a somewhat lesser scale.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

New York, NY: E. P. Dutton, 1991

A city dweller learns to survive in the wilderness through determination, research, and effort.

On a Beam of Light by Jennifer Berne

San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2013

This is an accessible story about the life of Albert Einstein as a learner whose language was delayed and everyone feared he would never be able to learn. It highlights his different path to learning and his nature of always questioning along the way.

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner; illustrated by Marcia Sewall

New York, NY: Harper Trophy, 2003

Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1998

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2000

The main character embodies all elements of effective effort.

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by David Diaz

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1996

This is 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.

Your Fantastic Elastic Brain by JoAnn Deak; illustrated by Sarah Ackerley

Belvedere, CA: Little Pickle Press, 2010

This innovative book helps children understand how their brain is structured, what functions it performs, and then, most importantly,

how they can stretch and grow their brains. The language is fun and easy enough for even young kids to follow along.

5–8

Athlete vs. Mathlete by W. C. Mack

New York, NY: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2013

Owen Evans lights up the scoreboards. His brother, Russell, rocks the school boards. These twin brothers couldn't be more different. They've long kept the peace by going their separate ways, but all that is about to change. The new basketball coach recruits Russell for the seventh-grade team, and a jealous Owen has to fight to stay in the game. When someone tries to steal Russell's spot as captain of the mathlete team, will the two be able to put aside their differences in order to save his position? Or will they be sidelined?

Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry

New York, NY: Aladdin Books, 1990

Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep

Santa Barbara, CA: Cornerstone Books, 1975

In the early 20th century, a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

Holes by Louis Sachar

New York, NY: Random House, 1998

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse, a curse that began with his no-good, dirty-rotten, pig-stealing great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes; illustrated by Lynd Ward

New York, NY: Yearling Book, 2005

A young boy encounters many historical figures as he works as a horse boy for the local newspaper.

On the Frontier With Mr. Audubon by Barbara Brenner

New York, NY: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1977

Audubon's young apprentice describes the experiences he shared with his master during their 18-month trip down the Mississippi studying and drawing the birds they found along the way.

Sasquatch in the Paint by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

New York, NY: Disney-Hyperion Books, 2013

Theo Rollins had been one of the most inconspicuous members of his class until he experienced a six-inch growth spurt before the start of eighth grade. Now, Coach Mandrake wants to build his entire offense around him, much to the dismay of the other team members because Theo is a science geek who stinks at basketball. The first game he plays is a disaster, and, after a spectator makes a racist comment causing him to make a costly mistake, a classmate named Rain gives him the nickname "Sasquatch." Later, Theo discovers that there is more to Rain than meets the eye. Faced with dismissal from the "Brain Train," the school's Aca-lympic team, because of the time he spends on basketball, Theo must make an important decision about his future. This is a heart-warming story about growing up, facing down bullies, and learning what true friendship is all about.

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

New York, NY: Yearling Book, 2005

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in 18th-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

The Story of Jackie Robinson, Bravest Man in Baseball by Margaret Davidson; illustrated by Floyd Cooper

New York, NY: Dell, 1988

This book examines the life of the talented black athlete who broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1994

After her mother leaves home suddenly, 13-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Where the Lilies Bloom by Vera and Bill Cleaver; illustrated by Jim Spanfeller

Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippincott, 1969

In the Great Smoky Mountains region, a 14-year-old girl struggles to keep her family together after their father dies.

Where the Red Fern Grows: The Story of Two Dogs and a Boy by Wilson Rawls

Austin, TX: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2000

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

YOUNG ADULT AND ADULT

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

New York, NY: Scribner, 1996

This is a memoir of the author's miserable childhood growing up in the perpetually damp country of Ireland, with the stereotypically long-suffering mother and drunken father who nurtures in his son an appetite for stories.

A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nasar

New York, NY: Faber and Faber, 1999

This biography chronicles the life of mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. and discusses his contributions to the study of economics, his illegitimate child, his bouts with schizophrenia, and his Nobel Prize-winning theories.

Lost on a Mountain in Maine by Donn Fendler

New York, NY: HarperCollins Children's, 2013

This is a true story about 12-year-old Donn Fendler, who, when he gets tired of waiting for his father and brothers to join him on the summit of Maine's highest peak, decides to find his own way back to camp.

But Donn doesn't expect a fast-moving fog to obscure his path, knocking him completely off course. He doesn't count on falling down an embankment that hides him from sight. And he never could have imagined taking a wrong turn that leaves him alone to wander aimlessly for nearly 2 weeks in the empty mountain wilderness.

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey

New York, NY: N. A. Talese/Doubleday, 2003

This book presents the author's firsthand account of his recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, beginning with his enrollment in a Minnesota rehabilitation center after a 2-week blackout and ending with his rejection of all 12-step programs.

Three Letters From Teddy and Other Stories by Elizabeth Silance Ballard

Virginia Beach, VA: Eslyn, 2000

The title story is about the special relationship between a teacher and an underachieving fifth-grader.

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 1994

This is a fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.