Character Traits

**Ambition**

Best Figure Skater in the Whole Wide World by Linda Bailey  
PZ 7 .B1526 BE 2001

All Lizzy wants is to be the best figure skater in the whole wide world. When she begins taking lessons, Lizzy discovers that ice-skating is a lot harder than it looks.

**Appearance**

Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen  
PZ 6 .A542 Ugl 2002

An ugly duckling spends an unhappy year ostracized by the other animals before he grows into a beautiful swan.

**Being Different**

Dr Zargle's Book of Earth Relations by Jeanne Willis  
PZ 7 .W6799 DR 2003

Dr Zargle is teaching his class of young aliens all about Earthlets and their families. ‘They have identical earflaps and hooter shapes,’ he tells them.

Horace by Holly Keller  
PZ 7 .K28132 Ho 1991

Horace, a leopard, is the adopted son of tiger parents. Every night, at bedtime, Mama tells him how he came to be their child. But Horace always falls asleep before the story ends. As Horace grows older, he begins to wonder whether he belongs with his adopted family.

**Bravery**

Hour of the Frog by Tim Wynne-Jones  
PZ 7 .W94 Hou 1989

A little girl hears the nighttime noises of a frog getting a snack in her kitchen and makes up her mind to confront him.

Princess Florecita and the Iron Shoes by John Warren Stewig  
PZ 8 .S64 Pr 1995

A princess braves many perils to wake an enchanted sleeping prince.

**Cleanliness**

Max Cleans Up by Rosemary Wells  
PZ 7 .W46843 MART 2000

Max’s big sister Ruby is determined to help him clean up his messy room, but he keeps finding things that he wants to throw away.

**Cleverness**

Chestnut Grey: A Folk Tale from Russia by Helen Cooper  
PZ 8 .C7913 CH 2000

Ivan, a poor farm boy, uses the power of a magical horse and his own wit to outsmart his two older brothers in a competition for the hand of a beautiful princess.

Puss in Boots by Mr. Philip Pullman  
PZ 8 .P97 Pul 2001

Jacques inherits his father's cat, and soon discovers that Puss is no ordinary cat. Not only can he talk, but he’s also got brains. And he’s got a plan — a plan that involves Jacques, a Royal Princess and a very large fortune!
Character Traits

Compassion

Hunter and His Dog by Brian Wildsmith
Though trained to retrieve birds for his master, a dog finds that he is too kind-hearted for such work.

Confidence

Dot by Peter H. Reynolds
Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.

William Tell by Margaret Early
Recounts how the legendary Swiss folk hero, forced to shoot an apple from his son's head by the evil governor, catalyzed the Swiss mountainers' revolt against Austrian tyranny.

Courage

East of the Sun and West of the Moon by László Gál
Ingrid, the beautiful daughter of a poor woodcutter, must show courage and cunning to rescue the prince she loves from the mysterious castle that lies east of the sun and west of the moon.

Little Fingerling: A Japanese Folktale by Monica Hughes
A teenaged boy only a finger-length high proves himself a warrior by vanquishing two monsters with his cunning and bravery.

Curiosity

Curious George Learns the Alphabet by H.A. Ray
George marvels as the man with the yellow hat shows him how letters can become pictures, and how they go together to make words.

Determination

My Rows and Piles of Coins by Tololwa M. Mollel
A boy saves his coins to buy a bicycle so that he can help his parents carry goods to market, but then he discovers that in spite of all he has saved, he still does not have enough money.

Foolishness

Story of Chicken Licken by Jan Ormerod
Fable of the chicken who believes the world is coming to an end because the sky is falling in.

Two Hoots by Helen Cresswell
A little owl's daytime search for a mouse will bring him a big surprise tomorrow.

Two Hoots Play Hide-and-Seek by Helen Cresswell
Little Hoot tries to interest his owl friends in a game of hide-and-seek.
Character Traits

Freedom

Hawk, I'm Your Brother by Byrd Baylor
PZ 7 .B3435 Haw 1986
Determined to learn to fly, Rudy adopts a hawk hoping that their kinship will bring him closer to his goal.

Nightingale by Hans Christian Andersen
PZ 8 .A542 Nig 1991
Though the emperor banishes the nightingale in preference for a jeweled mechanical imitaiton, the little bird remains faithful and returns years later when the emperor is near death and no one else can help him.

Generosity

Just Like New by Ainslie Manson
PZ 7 .M36 Jus 1995
For Sally and her brother Jim, life in Montreal during World War II means fewer books and an added food shortage, but when the children are asked to bring something from home, something “just like new,” to send to children in England, the war becomes more real for Sally.

Tilt for Tat by Dorothy O. Van Woerkom
PZ 7 .V39 T1 1977
A rich man and a poor woman spend an entire day magically repeating the first thing they did in the morning.

Helpfulness

Careful Corey! by Pamela Nuttall Nason
PZ 7 .N37 Ca 2002
Corey likes to help his mother put away the groceries. He even knows the names of some of the things in their big orange box. But, Corey is still learning that some things need to be handled with special care.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile by Bernard Waber
PZ 7 .W113 Lyl 1965
A cranky neighbor puts Lyle in the zoo, but experiences a change of heart when the crocodile saves him from a fire.

Individuality

Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley by Aaron Blabey
Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley are the best of friends, but they are different in almost every way.

Red is Best by Kathy Stinson
PZ 7 .S856 Re 2006
Kelly’s mom doesn’t understand about red. Sure, the brown mittens are warmer, but the red mitts make better snowballs. The red boots aren’t just for rain; they take bigger steps in any weather. No doubt about it, red is best.

Veronica by Roger Duvoisin
PZ 7 .D957 Ve 2006
A hippopotamus who is never noticed among all the other hippopotamuses sets out to find a country where she can be conspicuous, but finds city life not so great.

Independence

I’ll Do It Myself by Jirina Marton
PZ 7 .M37 I4 1989
“I’ll do it myself,” is young Michelle’s response to her mother’s sign that she will brush her hair. She eventually gets it right, and she and Mom celebrate with a special story about the pink elephants.
Character Traits

**Kindness**

Long Nellie by Deborah Turney-Zagwijn

- Kind: Jeremy finds a stray kitten, he is determined to find a home for it with Long Nellie, an eccentric scavenger who lives all by herself in an old trailer.

**Loyalty**

How Smudge Came by Nan Gregory

- Loyal: Cindy lives, no dogs are allowed, so she must bundle puppy up when she goes to work. One patient is so blind with illness that he can barely see the dog; it looks like a smudge. But, oh, how nice to hold the puppy. What is Cindy to do? How will she care for Smudge?

Mightiest Heart by Lynn Cullen

- Loyal: Based on a Welsh legend about Prince Llywelyn and his loyal dog Gelert, who is wrongly banished when the prince believes that the dog has attacked his son.

**Patience**

Big Rain Coming by Katrina Germein

- Patient: Though everyone eagerly awaits the rain, it is slow in coming.

Subira Subira by Tololwa M. Mollel

- Patient: A young girl learns a lesson in patience when a spirit woman sends her to get three whiskers from a lion.

**Perseverance**

Follow that Hat by Pierre Pratt

- Persevering: Leon’s heroic attempts to recover his favorite hat after it is whisked off his head by a gust of wind.

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers

- Persevering: Eager to have a star of his own, a boy devises imaginative ways of catching one.

Little Engine that Could by Watty Piper

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

Tim All Alone by Edward Ardizzone

- Persevering: Tim arrives home from a long sea voyage only to find that his parents have gone. He is determined to search the whole world until he finds them.
Character Traits

Practicality

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág
PE 7 .G1214 M1 1928
How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions?

Pride

Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen
PE 8 .A542 EM 1997
Two rascally weavers convince the emperor they are making him beautiful new clothes, visible only to those fit for their posts, but when he wears them during a royal procession, a child recognizes that the emperor has nothing on.

Gaggle Sisters River Tour by Chris Jackson
PE 7 .J335 GA 2002
It's show time on Wriggle River, and the star of the show is Sadie, who sings like an angel and looks like one too. But she doesn't always act angelic, and no one knows this better than her hardworking sister Dorothy.

Petunia by Roger Duvoisin
PE 7 .D957 Pet 2002
Petunia, the goose, learns that possessing knowledge involves more than just carrying a book around under her wing.

Responsibility

Crane by Reiner Zimnik
PE 7 .Z64 CR 2003
The blue-capped man who operates the crane is so attached to the machine that he never leaves it in war or in peace.

Fragrant Garden by Day's Lee
PE 7 .L443 Fra 2005
When a fire breaks out in the kitchen of her family's restaurant, nine-year-old Jade's quick thinking response wins her praise and her father reconsider her request for more responsibility in the restaurant.

Shyness

Louie by Ezra Jack Keats
PE 7 .K2253 LO 1975B
A shy, withdrawn boy loses his heart to a puppet.

Stubbornness

Molly's Woe by Kay Chorao
PE 7 .C4463 M0
Through a process of systematic deduction, Molly finds not only her lost stuffed dinosaur, Woe, but lots of other things she's misplaced.

Alexander, who's Not Going to Move by Judith Viorst
PE 7 .V816 Ale 1995
Angry Alexander refuses to move away if it means having to leave his favorite friends and special places.

If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach, Don't! by Elise Parsley
PE 7 .P2495 Id 2016
Magnolia is a little girl with a big idea, determination, and one very heavy upright piano that she insists on taking with her to the beach, but in a series of mishaps, Magnolia slowly learns that a piano does not mix well with sand, sun, and seagulls.
Big Baby : A Little Joke by Anthony Browne

In his effort to stay young, John's father drinks a whole bottle of ELIXA DE YOOF, with surprising results.

Wisdom Bird : A Tale of Solomon and Sheba by Sheldon Oberman

Hearing of Solomon's wisdom, the Queen of Sheba travels to Jerusalem to see for herself. When Solomon puts himself at her disposal, she challenges him by asking for a palace of birds' beaks. At his command, all the birds of the earth surrender their beaks—except for little Hoopoe, who instead asks three questions that drive home the folly of keeping promises at the expense of doing wrong.

Zomo the Rabbit : A Trickster Tale from West Africa by Gerald McDermott

Zomo the rabbit, a trickster from West Africa, wants wisdom. But he must accomplish three apparently impossible tasks before Sky God will give him what he wants. Is he clever enough to do as Sky God asks?