



# Mentor Texts for Character Traits

## Angry

*Frank and the Bad Surprise* by

Martha Brockenbrough

*Patina* by Jason Reynolds

*The Seventh Most Important*

*Thing* by Shelley Pearsall

*The Sea in Winter* by Christine Day

## Artistic

*Drawn Together* by Minh Lê

*Field Trip to the Moon* by John Hare

*Violets Are Blue* by Barbara Dee

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

## Bossy

*Don't Eat That!* by Drew Sheneman

*Shai and Emmie Star in Dancy*

*Pants!* by Quvenzhané Wallis with

Nancy Ohlin

*The Startup Squad* by Brian Weisfeld  
and Nicole C. Kear

## Clever and Naive

*The Donkey Egg* by Janet Stevens  
and Susan Stevens Crummel

*Mina* by Matthew Forsythe

*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang

*See You in the Cosmos* by Jack  
Cheng

## Competitive

*Mako and Tiger* by Scott Rothman

*Lola Levine Is Not Mean* by Monica  
Brown

## Confident

*I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick  
Barnes

*Once Upon a Tim* by Stuart Gibbs

*Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova

## Courageous

*Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall

*Necks Out for Adventure!* by Timothy  
Basil Ering

*Kaia and the Bees* by Maribeth  
Boelts

*My First Day* by Phung Nguyen  
Quang

*After the Fall* by Dan Santat

*Punky Aloha* by Shar Tuiasoa

*The Adventurers Guild* by Zach Loran  
Clark and Nick Eliopoulos

*We Were the Fire: Birmingham 1963*  
by Shelia P. Moses

*96 Miles* by J.L. Esplin

*Across the Desert* by Dusti Bowling

## Creative

*Thunder Boy* by Sherman Alexie

*Cat Kid Comic Club on Purpose* by  
Dav Pilkey





## Cruel

*When the World Was Ours* by Liz Kessler

## Curious

*Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty

*Another* by Christian Robinson  
*Looking for a Jumbie* by Tracey Baptiste

*What's in Your Pocket?* by Heather L. Montgomery

*The Great Shelby Holmes* by Elizabeth Eulberg

*From the Desk of Zoe*

*Washington* by Janae Marks

## Determined

*Anni Dreams of Biryani* by Namita Moolani Mehra

*Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* by Alda P. Dobbs

*Brothers Keeper* by Julie Lee

*Ali Cross* by James Patterson

*Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston

## Energetic

*You Will Be My Friend* by Peter Brown

*Goodnight, Butterfly* by Ross Burach

## Friendly

*Goodnight, Butterfly* by Ross Burach

*Luli and the Language of Tea* by Andrea Wang

*The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* by Karina Yan Glaser

## Generous

*Bilal Cooks Daal* by Aisha Saeed

*A Gift for Amma* by Meera Sriram

*Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte

## Honesty / Dishonesty

*A Day's Work* by Eve Bunting

*Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone

## Impulsive

*David Dixon's Day as a Dachshund* by Kathryn Holmes

## Independent

*Marisol McDonald Doesn't*

*Match* by Monica Brown

*Mary Had a Little Plan* by Tammi Sauer

*A Duet for Home* by Karina Yan Glaser

## Imaginative

*Sandcastle* by Einat Tsarfati

*Pizza with Everything on It* by Kyle Scheele

*The Year We Learned to Fly* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Planet Omar* by Zanib Mian





## Jealous

***Sophie and the Tiny Dognapping***

by Jamie Michalak

***Jasmine Toguchi Mochi Queen*** by

Debbi Michiko Florence

***Worser*** by Jennifer Ziegler

## Kind

***I Walk with Vanessa*** by Kerascoët

***Words to Make a Friend*** by Donna

Jo Napoli and Naoko Stoop

***The Sleepover and Other Stories*** by

Sergio Ruzzier

***Lulu and the Rabbit Next Door*** by

Hilary McKay

***Born Behind Bars*** by Padma

Venkatraman

***Invisible*** by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

## Logical

***Chicken Little: The Real and Totally***

***True Tale*** by Sam Wedelich

## Lonely

***By the Light of the Moon*** by Frann

Preston-Gannon

***Mama and Mommy and Me in the***

***Middle*** by Nina LaCour

***Nerdy Birdy*** by Aaron Reynolds

***The Impossible Destiny of Cutie***

***Grackle*** by Shawn K. Stout

## Loving

***I'll Go and Come Back*** by Rajani

LaRocca

***Dad Bakes*** by Katie Yamasaki

## Mean

***Lunch Every Day*** by Kathryn Otoshi

## Mischievous

***B is for Baby*** by Atinuke

***Dory Fantasmagory*** by Abby

Hanlon

***Middle School: The Worst Years of***

***my Life*** by James Patterson and

Chris Tebbets

## Mistrustful

***The War That Saved My Life*** by

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

## Neurodivergent

***Abdul's Story*** by Jamilah

Thompkins-Bigelow

***Flipping Forward Twisting***

***Backwards*** by Alma Fullerton

***The Unforgettable Logan Foster*** by

Shawn Peters

***Tornado Brain*** by Cat Patrick

## Perseverance

***My Day with the Panye*** by Tami

Charles

***Halal Hot Dogs*** by Susannah Azia

***Swim Team*** by Johnnie Christmas

***The Canyon's Edge*** by Dusti

Bowling





## **Problem Solver**

***Piper and Purpa Forever!*** by Susan Lendroth

***In These Magic Shoes*** by Yamile Saied Mendez

***Explorer Academy*** by Trudi Trueit

## **Sad**

***Ten Beautiful Things*** by Molly Beth Griffin

***Powwow Day*** by Traci Sorell

***Wishes*** by Muon Thi Van

***Rain Rising*** by Courtne Comrie

## **Scared**

***El Cucuy Is Scared, Too!*** by Donna Barba Higuera

***Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*** by Lenore Look

## **Shy**

***Gustavo the Shy Ghost*** by Flavia Z. Drago

***Stella Diaz has Something to Say*** by Angela Dominguez

## **Stubborn**

***Turtle and Tortoise Are Not Friends*** by Mike Reiss

## **Worried**

***Truman*** by Jean Reidy

***Boy, Everywhere*** by A.M. Dassu

***Crenshaw*** by Katherine Applegate

