



Central School

“Where Excellence Begins”

One Book Club

“One Book Club” emphasizes social decision making skills by teaching children positive character traits. Lessons entail the teaching of self-esteem, acceptance, and the importance of making healthy choices at an early age. This will lead students to healthy lifestyles choices free of drugs and alcohol. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and develop both concepts and decision making skills with teachers, peers, and parents through shared reading experiences with emphasis on prevention. Research indicates that children’s literature and book study groups are effective means of developing concepts, ideas, and strategies with young children. One Book Club unifies both school and community constituent groups in common goals including education, early intervention, communication, collaboration, and hands-on life skills. One book per month will be contributed to each classroom teacher for student, parent, and community discussion and will be permanent additions to classroom libraries. Our newest titles are listed first below:

September – Respect for Others/ The Empowered Bystander

Being A Good Citizen by *Mary Small*. **Synopsis:** This book has many ideas of things children can do to be good citizens, including saying hello to a new family in town and waking up parents on Election Day so they remember to vote. The simple values taught in this book will show children the importance of being a good citizen, and the importance of being a good person. Each concept is short, and is completed by a beautiful illustration that further describes the concept. Also contained in the book is a list of three books about citizenship that children can find at the library, as well as information on the FactHound website—a website that provides safe sites for children to use.

The Juice Box Bully: Empowering Kids to Stand Up for Others by *Bob Sornson, Maria Dismondy and Kim Shaw*. **Synopsis:** Have you ever seen a bully in action and done nothing about it? The kids at Pete's new school get involved, instead of being bystanders. When Pete begins to behave badly, his classmates teach him about "The Promise". Will Pete decide to shed his bullying habits and make "The Promise?"

Enemy Pie by *Derek Munson, Chronicle Books; Tara Calaban King* (Illustrator). **Synopsis:** It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with

the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipes for turning your best enemy into your best friend. Accompanied by charming illustrations, Enemy Pie serves up a sweet lesson in the difficulties and ultimate rewards of making new friends.

October – Violence and Vandalism Week - Anti- Bullying

One of Us by Mary Hynes Barry. **Synopsis:** Finding a place for yourself in a new school can be challenging, especially when you are two weeks late. However, Roberta James finds that lots of people in Baker School are willing to see her as "one of us." She is first welcomed to a group of girls whose hair styles are similar to her own straight-up pony tail. But she discovers none of this trio likes the monkey bars like Roberta and several others do—that group in turn is different from the cowboy-boot-wearing gang who eat pita rolls. So it goes, until Roberta, like others in her new school learns that the best person to be is someone who is happy with her own individual style—not just like anyone else.

Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. **Synopsis:** Bully doesn't have a kind word for any of his friends. When the other animals ask him to play, he responds in the way he's been taught: Chicken! Slow poke! You stink! Laura Vaccaro Seeger's bold, graphic artwork, along with her spare but powerful words, make for a tender, hilarious, and thoughtful tale.

Stop Picking on Me.. A First Look At Bullying by Pat Thomas. **Synopsis:** Barron's A First Look At books explore the dynamics in relationships among children of preschool through early school age, and encourage kids to understand personal and social problems as a first step toward solving them. Written by an experienced psychotherapist and counselor, these books promote positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers. The language in each book is simple and direct—easy for younger children to understand. Full-color illustrations on every page. This approachable picture book explores the difficult issue of bullying among children. It helps kids accept the normal fears and worries that accompany bullying, and suggests ways to resolve this upsetting experience.

November – Compassion/Empathy/Gratitude

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, by Emily Pearson **Synopsis:** Ordinary Mary was so very ordinary that you'd never guess she could change the world. This ordinary kid? She did! She changed the world! One ordinary day, skipping on her way from her ordinary school to her ordinary house, she passed an ordinary vacant lot filled with ordinary bushes growing ordinary berries--ordinary blue and juicy, luscious lovely berries. Well, Ordinary Mary picked the ordinary berries and brought them in a big brown bowl to Mrs. Bishops porch. What? Left berries in a big brown bowl on Mrs. Bishops porch? That sneaky kid! She did! This is a feel-good story that inspires and celebrates a world full of ordinary deeds! Demonstrating Mary's compassion, and her recipients Gratitude!

Stand in My Shoes: Kids Learning About Empathy by Bob Sornson. **Synopsis:** When

Emily asks her big sister what the word empathy means, Emily has no idea that knowing the answer will change how she looks at people. But does it really matter to others if Emily notices how they're feeling? *Standing in My Shoes* shows kids how easy it is to develop empathy toward those around them.

Have You Filled a Buck Today? – by Carol McCloud, David Messing. **Synopsis:** Through sweet, simple prose and vivid illustrations, this heart-warming book encourages positive behavior as children see how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation, and love on a daily basis.

December – Compassion/Kindness

Old Henry by Joan W Bloss. **Synopsis:** The neighbors aren't too happy about Henry and his beat-up old house. Why doesn't he clean it up, and weed his garden and sweep his walk? Henry's got better things to do. Tired of being bothered, he finally gets fed up and moves away. The funny thing is, nobody's really happy when he does—not the neighbors, and not Henry. Here is a wise and witty tale about different kinds of people learning to get along.

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett. **Synopsis:** Annabelle finds a box filled with yarn of every color, she immediately sets out to knit sweaters for everyone she knows. Barnett's story is both fairytale lean and slyly witty. No matter how many sweaters Annabelle knits, the box always has “extra yarn” for another project, until the entire town is covered with angled stitches in muted, variegated colors—people, animals, and buildings alike. A villainous archduke offers to buy the box, but Annabelle refuses. He steals it, but finds it contains no yarn at all, and with the help of just a bit more magic, it finds its way back to Annabelle. Barnett wisely leaves the box's magic a mystery, keeping the focus on Annabelle's creativity, generosity, and determination.

My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig, Abigail Marble (*Illustrator*). **Synopsis:** When Monica's friend Katie begins to call her names and humiliate her in front of other kids at school, she feels betrayed and isolated. But with help from her mother, Monica reclaims her confidence from a bully disguised as her friend. This wonderful resource for children, parents, teachers, and counselors includes helpful tips, discussion questions, and additional information for any child who has experienced relational aggression.

January – Recognizing Diversity, No Name Calling Week, The Great Kindness Challenge

Kindness is Cooler, Mrs Ruler by Margery Cuyler, Sachiko Yoshikawa. **Synopsis:** Soon the entire class is doing so many good deeds that their kindness bulletin board barely fits their classroom! From clearing the table after dinner, to helping the elderly, one kindergarten class is proving that kids really can make a difference.

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi. **Synopsis:** The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can

pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—Yoon-Hey.

The Invisible Mistakecase by Charise Mericle Harper, Houghton Mifflin 2005. **Synopsis:** Even on beautiful days, bad things can happen. Bad things like Charlotte calling her best friend, Kate, a big pink baby, and Kate crying all the way home. Charlotte feels awful . . . in fact, she feels so awful she can't even eat her pizza and french fries. It was that bad. Then Grandpa shows Charlotte his invisible mistakecase . . . and she doesn't believe her eyes! It's a place where he keeps reminders of all the mistakes he never wants to repeat. Could Charlotte possibly have a mistakecase of her very own?

February – Honesty/Friendship

The Empty Pot by *Demi*. **Synopsis:** Ping is a Chinese boy with an emerald green thumb; he can make anything grow "as if by magic." One day the Emperor announces that he needs a successor, someone who can carry on after he is gone with the ruling of the kingdom and the growing of the flowers. He gives each child one seed, and the one who grows the best flower will take over after him. Competition is fierce, and Ping is heartbroken that nothing comes up, despite his careful tending. On the day of the competition, he is the only child with an empty pot; all the others bring lush plants. But the Emperor has tricked everyone by distributing cooked seeds, unable to grow; and Ping, with his empty pot, is the only honest gardener--and the winner.

Making Friends is an Art! By *Julia Cook*. **Synopsis:** Meet Brown the least used pencil in the box. He is tall, geeky and lonely. Brown envies Red, Purple, Blue and all the other pencils who have fun coloring and playing together. Dark Green is trustworthy, Pink listens well, Orange has fun, and everybody likes Red! Brown doesn't smile very often because he doesn't get used much and hardly ever needs sharpening. When Brown asks the other pencils why no one likes him, he discovers that to have friends, he needs to be a good friend. If Brown learns to use all of the friendship skills the other pencils have, he can make friends and have fun too! In her trademark humorous fashion, author Julia Cook teaches kids of all ages (and adults too!) how to practice the art of friendship and getting along with others. This title is the first in a Building Relationships series of books focusing on relationship-building skills for children. Included in the book are tips for parents and teachers on how to help children who feel left out and have trouble making friends.

Bad Case of Tattle Tongue by *Julia Cook*, *Anita DuFalla* (Illustrator): National Center for Youth Issues December 2006. **Synopsis:** No one likes "Josh the Tattler" because he

tattles way too much. He tattles on his classmates, his brother, and even his dog! But one night he wakes up to find his tongue is very long, yellow, and covered in bright purple spots. Will a bad case of Tattle Tongue help him learn the difference between tattling and telling? This book gives teachers and counselors a humorous, cleverly creative way to address the time-consuming tattling-related issues that often sap classroom energy and thwart teaching opportunities.

March –Honesty/Respect/Self-Esteem:

The Case of the Double Cross by Crosby Bonsall, Crosby N. Bonsall. **Synopsis:** Wizard's private eyes don't want any girls in their clubhouse. But a funny little man double-crosses the boys with a message in code. Then Marigold and her girlfriends get to show just how much the private eyes really need them.

The Lovables in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem by Diane Loomans, Kim Howard (Illustrator).

Synopsis: "I Am Lovable! I Am Lovable! I Am Lovable!" With these magical words, the gates to the Kingdom of Self-Esteem swing open for readers of all ages. Inside the Kingdom live the Lovables-24 animals who help children feel unique, enthusiastic, confident, and loved. Various animals in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem illustrate the different qualities that contribute to being lovable and having self-esteem.

Say Something by *Say Something* by Peggy Moss, Lea Lyon (Illustrator). **Synopsis:** A child who never says anything when other children are being teased or bullied finds herself in their position one day when jokes are made at her expense and no one speaks up.

April – Self-Worth/Self-Acceptance

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. **Synopsis:** Long before “going green” was mainstream, Dr. Seuss’s Lorax spoke for the trees and warned of the dangers of disrespecting the environment. In this cautionary rhyming tale (printed on recycled paper) we learn of the Once-ler, who came across a valley of Truffula Trees and Brown Bar-ba-loots, and how his harvesting of the tufted trees changed the landscape forever. Dr. Seuss and his classic tale have educated a new generation of young readers not only about the importance of seeing the beauty in the world around us, but also about our responsibility to protect it.

Freckleface Strawberry by Julianne Moore. **Synopsis:** If you have freckles, you can try these things: 1) Make them go away. Unless scrubbing doesn't work. 2) Cover them up. Unless your mom yells at you for using a marker. 3) Disappear. Um, where'd you go? Oh, there you are. There's one other thing you can do: 4) LIVE WITH THEM! Because after all, the things that make you different also make you YOU. From acclaimed actress Julianne Moore and award-winning illustrator LeUyen Pham comes a delightful story of a little girl who's different ... just like everybody else.

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by [Patty Lovell](#), [David Catrow](#) (*Illustrator*). **Synopsis:** Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy, has buckteeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandma has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that to heart. But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. Ronald Durkin calls her "SHRIMPO!" and "BUCKY-TOOTH BEAVER!" But Molly Lou has learned a lot from her grandma and knows just how to put him in his place-in a very satisfying way. First time author Patty Lovell has created an irresistible free spirit in Molly Lou Melon, and artist David Catrow has infused her personality with even more wit and humor.

May – Respect/Resilience

The Potato Chip Champ by [Maria Dismundy](#), [Dawn Beacon](#). **Synopsis:** Champ and Walter Norbert Whipplemoore are about as different as two kids can be ... Well, except for their love of baseball and potato chips. Champ had everything, but always wanted more. Walter had very little, but was never seen without a smile on his face. In the end, it is Walter and some crunchy potato chips that teach Champ a lesson about character that can't be taught in school.

The Blue Ribbon Day by [Katie Couric](#). **Synopsis:** Everybody's a star, a brilliant creation. The trouble is finding the right constellation! Ellie McSnelly and Carrie O'Toole, the winning pair of friends from *The Brand New Kid*, are back in a new adventure. Ellie and Carrie decide to try out for the school team in their favorite sport, soccer. But when only one of the girls is selected, the inseparable pair faces a challenge. What do you say when your best friend is terribly disappointed?

But while some disappointments can't be avoided, Carrie learns (with some help from her mother and her old friend Lazlo) that while she may not be good at everything, she has undiscovered talents waiting to bloom, if she has the courage to try something new.

For every reader who has ever set his or her heart on joining a sports team, getting a part in the school play, or winning a class election, and been let down, Katie Couric's reassuring and inspiring story gives a charming lesson in confidence.

The Recess Queen by [Alexis O'Neill](#), [Laura Huliska-Beith](#) (*Illustrator*). **Synopsis:** Mean Jean was Recess Queen and nobody said any different. Nobody swung until Mean Jean swung. Nobody kicked until Mean Jean kicked. Nobody bounced until Mean Jean bounced. If kids ever crossed her, she'd push 'em and smoosh 'em lollapaloosh 'em, hammer 'em, slammer 'em kitz and kajammer 'em. Until a new kid came to school! With her irrepressible spirit, the new girl dethrones the reigning recess bully by becoming her friend in this infectious playground romp.

June - RESPONSIBILITY *(Review All Traits)*

Pigsty by [Mark Teague](#) **Synopsis:** Wendell Flutz's room isn't a mess. It's a total pigsty. But

Wendell's mother can't get him to clean it up. Wendell doesn't think the mess is so awful. In fact, he doesn't even mind it when one day he discovers a real pig sitting on his bed!

Scribbleville by Peter Holwitz. **Synopsis:** Welcome to Scribbleville, where everything is made entirely of wiggles, squiggles, and scribbles. Straight lines are nowhere to be found, and the people of Scribbleville like it that way! Until the day an odd-looking stranger arrives . . . He is as straight as a stick. He builds a square house with a pointed roof. Wherever he goes, people stare and think: Someone should tell him he doesn't belong! And perhaps he doesn't. Until one child looks beyond the edges and sees what others cannot.

Diversity Books: (Suggested Read-Alouds)

Pink is For Boys by Willa Liburd Tavernier. Jeremy, who lives in Tortola, loves playing with his friend Jamilla when he visits St. Kitts ... until she begins to insist that some things are for 'girls only'. Join these two friends as they learn together! 'Pink is for Boys' actively engages young readers to look past gender stereotypes. This book uses both conflict and humor to encourage playmates and parents to ask and answer thoughtful questions for lessons that will last a lifetime. Additional features include a glossary, information about the islands that the story takes place in, a map, coloring pages, and discussion questions.

Our Favorite Day of the Year by A. E. Ali. Musa's feeling nervous about his first day of school. He's not used to being away from home and he doesn't know any of the other kids in his class. And when he meets classmates Moisés, Mo, and Kevin, Musa isn't sure they'll have much in common. But over the course of the year, the four boys learn more about each other, the holidays they celebrate, their favorite foods, and what they like about school. The more they share with each other, the closer they become, until Musa can't imagine any better friends.

In this charming story of friendship and celebrating differences, young readers can discover how entering a new friendship with an open mind and sharing parts of yourself brings people together. And the calendar of holidays at the end of the book will delight children as they identify special events they can celebrate with friends throughout the year.

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed. When Little Mae was a child, she dreamed of dancing in space. She imagined herself surrounded by billions of stars, floating, gliding, and discovering. She wanted to be an astronaut. Her mom told her, "If you believe it, and work hard for it, anything is possible." Little Mae's curiosity, intelligence, and determination, matched with her parents' encouraging words, paved the way for her incredible success at NASA as the first African American woman to travel in space.

The Skin You Live In by Michal Tyler. With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme,

this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers. Themes associated with child development and social harmony, such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted in simple and straightforward prose. Vivid illustrations of children's activities for all cultures, such as swimming in the ocean, hugging, catching butterflies, and eating birthday cake are also provided. This delightful picture book offers a wonderful venue through which parents and teachers can discuss important social concepts with their children.

Sam, Same but Different by *Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw*. Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different! Through an inviting point-of-view and colorful, vivid illustrations, this story shows how two boys living oceans apart can be the best of friends.

Hidden Figures by *Margot Lee Shetterly* The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space—a powerful, revelatory history essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America. Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

My Princess Boy by *Cheryl Kilodavis*. Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy. Inspired by the author's son, and by her own initial struggles to understand, this heartwarming book is a call for tolerance and an end to bullying and judgments. The world is a brighter place when we accept everyone for who they are.

Happy In Our Skin by *Fran Manushkin*. Is there anything more splendid than a baby's skin? Cocoa-brown, cinnamon, peaches and cream. As children grow, their clever skin does, too, enjoying hugs and tickles, protecting them inside and out, and making them one of a kind. Fran Manushkin's rollicking text and Lauren Tobia's delicious illustrations paint a breezy and irresistible picture of the human family —and how wonderful it is to be just who you are.

Why am I me? by *Paige Britt*. Presented as a thoughtful, poetic exchange between two characters -- who don't realize they are thinking and asking the very same questions -- this beautiful celebration of our humanity and diversity invites readers of all ages to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we. If the first step toward healing the world is to build bridges of empathy and celebrate rather than discriminate, *Why Am I Me?* helps foster a much-needed sense of connection, compassion, and love.

All Are Welcome by *Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufmann*. Discover a school where—no matter what—young children have a place, have a space, and are loved and

appreciated. Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where students from all backgrounds learn from and celebrate each other's traditions. A school that shows the world as we will make it to be.

Let's Talk About Race by *Julius Lester*. In this acclaimed book, the author of the Newbery Honor Book *To Be a Slave* shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. A strong choice for sharing at home or in the classroom. Karen Barbour's dramatic, vibrant paintings speak to the heart of Lester's unique vision, truly a celebration of all of us. "This stunning picture book introduces race as just one of many chapters in a person's story" (School Library Journal). "Lester's poignant picture book helps children learn, grow, discuss, and begin to create a future that resolves differences" (Children's Literature). Julius Lester said: "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details." I am a story. So are you. So is everyone.

The Day You Begin by *Jacqueline Woodson*. There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

Let the Children March by *Monica Clark-Robinson*. I couldn't play on the same playground as the white kids. I couldn't go to their schools. I couldn't drink from their water fountains. There were so many things I couldn't do. In 1963 Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. They protested the laws that kept black people separate from white people. Facing fear, hate, and danger, these children used their voices to change the world. Frank Morrison's emotive oil-on-canvas paintings bring this historical event to life, while Monica Clark-Robinson's moving and poetic words document this remarkable time.

Julian is a Mermaid by *Jessica Love*. While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.

This is How We Do It by *Matt Lamothe*. In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in

Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days—and this one world we all share—unites them. This genuine exchange provides a *window* into traditions that may be different from our own as well as *mirrors* reflecting our common experiences. Inspired by his own travels, Matt Lamonthe transports readers across the globe and back with this luminous and thoughtful picture book. Perfect for kids learning about new cultures and customs. Educates children on the importance of similarities and differences. Gives kids a unique look into the lives of others across the globe.