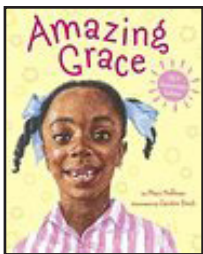


## Books about the Power of Determination & Persistence

Determination and persistence are super powers! Children who have mastered these skills are able to work through challenges, deal constructively with failures and adversity, and achieve the goals they have set for themselves. These skills are essential to accomplishing what you want in life.

### Recommended for Read-Aloud

\* Books with a star are available at very low cost through the First Book Marketplace: [www.fbmarketplace.org/favorite-preschool-read-alouds](http://www.fbmarketplace.org/favorite-preschool-read-alouds)



#### \* **Amazing Grace**

by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch

Grace has a high-flying imagination and a love of stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. When she sets her mind on trying to land the role of Peter Pan in her school play, she doesn't let obstacles get in her way. Instead, with the help of her family and her Super Power of Determination, she perseveres to reach her goal.

Preschool–3rd grade

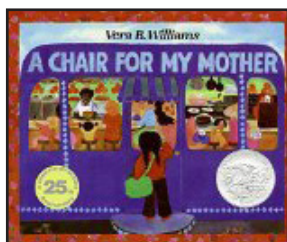


#### \* **Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman**

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by David Diaz

This beautifully told story about one of the world's greatest athletes provides young children an inspiring and powerful example of resilience and determination. Wilma Rudolph won the hearts of millions when she beat all the odds and won three Gold Medals at the 1960 Olympics.

Preschool–3rd grade

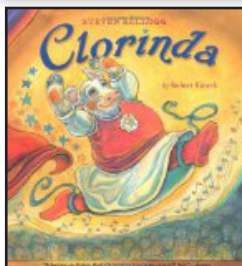


#### \* **A Chair For My Mother** (Winner of the Caldecott Medal)

written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams

Children experience the beauty of kindness and compassion in this book about a struggling family pulling together.

Kindergarten–3rd grade



#### **Clorinda**

by Robert Kinerk, illustrated by Steven Kellogg

Things don't always work out as you plan. But by using the Power of Persistence amazing things can happen, as children will discover in this charming book about a cow who dreams of dancing in a ballet performance!

Preschool–3rd grade

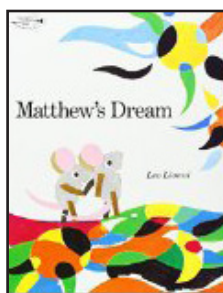


#### \* **Can I Play Too?**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems

This hilarious story about Gerald, Piggie, and their new friend, Snake, models problem solving and illustrates ways to be inclusive and caring.

Preschool–2nd grade

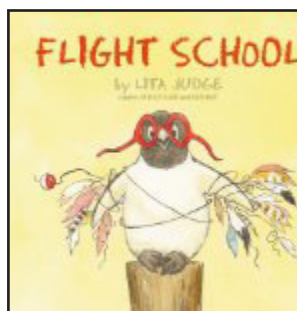


## **Matthew's Dream**

*written and illustrated by Leo Lionni*

In this beautiful tale of self-discovery, Matthew the mouse visits an art museum and finds inspiration to become an artist and see things in a new (and artful) way.

*Preschool–3rd grade*

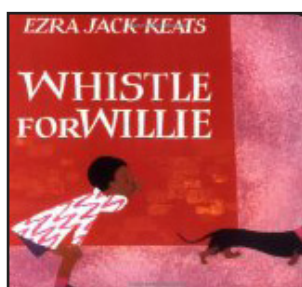


## **Flight School**

*written and illustrated by Lita Judge*

Penguins can't fly, can they? In this endearing tale children will delight in Penguin's determination to follow his dream and take flight.

*Preschool–2nd grade*

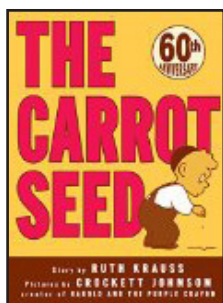


## **\* Whistle for Willie**

*written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats*

Every child wants to learn how to whistle or do things that don't always come easy. Peter tries so hard to whistle that his cheeks hurt, but he doesn't give up!

*Preschool–2nd grade*

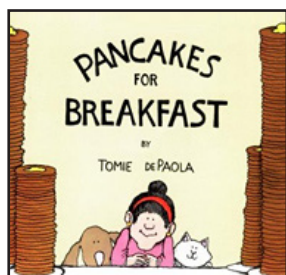


## **\* The Carrot Seed**

*by Ruth Krauss, illustrated by Crockett Johnson*

Despite everyone telling him his tiny seed won't grow, a little boy knows better. So with quiet determination, he waters his seed, tends the soil, and waits patiently, until one day... !

*Preschool–3rd grade*



## **\* Pancakes for Breakfast**

*written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola*

In this humorous book about a little old lady's attempt to make a pancake breakfast, dePaola tickles the funny bone and gives a lesson about optimism and persistence. Children can make predictions about how this heroine will use her Super Power of Determination to finally have a pancake breakfast!

*Preschool–3rd grade*

# Ideas to Extend the Power of Books in the Classroom

## Super Power: Determination

Start by reading a selection of books that underscore the theme *Determination*. Bring these books to life through activities and experiences that provide ways for children to practice the “Super Power” of *Determination* introduced in the stories.

## Create Opportunities to Celebrate and Practice Determination

### Set a Classroom Reading Goal

Talk with children about the *Super Power of Determination* and how they can use it to reach their goals. Help them set a challenging classroom goal to read an agreed upon number of books in one month (perhaps 100!). Children can construct a beautiful paper chain of rings representing the books they have read. Reaching their collective goal will be fun to follow as the paper chain grows! Children writing book titles on the rings enhances the challenge. Drape the paper chain around the room and celebrate with extra read-aloud when the goal is reached (or exceeded!).

### Recognize Effort in Meaningful Ways

When you see a child putting his or her best effort into a task, recognize the child for using their *Super Power of Determination* in a way that is meaningful to him or her. This could be a pat on the back, a “thumb’s up,” a handwritten note, or a simple smile.

### Instead of Thinking... Try Thinking...

Talk to children about the Super Power of “Instead of” ideas. Post these ideas in the classroom to be used by all.

Instead Of...	Try Thinking...
I’m not good at this .....	What am I missing?
I’m awesome at this .....	I’m on the right track
I give up !.....	I’ll use some of the strategies I’ve learned
This is too hard .....	This may take some time and effort
I can’t make this any better .....	I can always improve. I’ll keep trying
I made a mistake.....	Mistakes help me learn and improve
It’s good enough .....	Is it really my best work?
I’ll never be as smart as her/him .....	I have my own strengths and I will try

### Create Intentional Challenges

Create an intentionally challenging task for children that requires persistence and problem solving. Encourage children to try:

- Using chopsticks to stack small cubes, dice, or flat rubber erasers
- Creating an art project using various media by assembling the pieces in a specific order
- Piecing together new puzzles they have never tackled before
- Building towering structures from blocks

### Keep it on the Line!

Stick a strip of wide tape on the floor or on a table. Give each child a straw and a pompom. One at a time, ask each child to blow the pompom from one end of the tape to the other. If the pompom veers off the tape, the child starts over! Remind children of their *Super Power of Determination* to work hard and focus on the challenge.

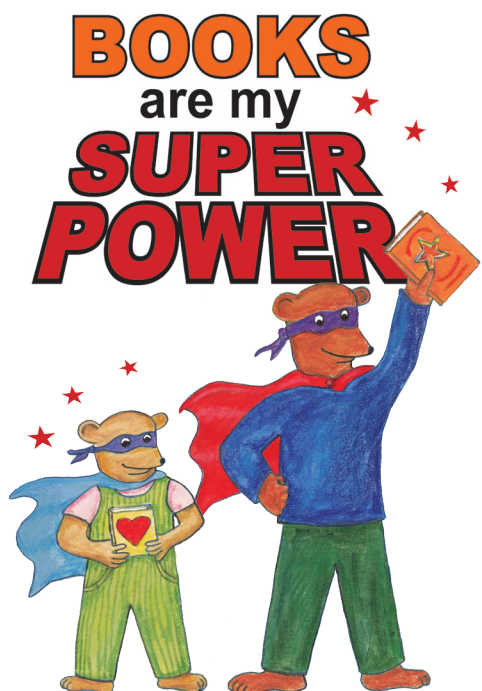
## Engage Families

Reading aloud is a proven way for families to help their children develop the “super powers” they need to love books, become readers, and enjoy success in school and in life!

Explore the Tool Kit of resources online at [www.familyreading.org/read-aloud-challenge](http://www.familyreading.org/read-aloud-challenge) that includes a calendar of read-aloud fun, activities for kids and families, and recommended books for read-aloud.

Here are ways to keep families actively engaged during the *Books are my Super Power* Read-Aloud Challenge in March:

- Print and send home the Read-Aloud Challenge Calendar. Families can hang it on their refrigerator to keep up with special events and challenges. Use ideas on the calendar in your classroom newsletters to families. Activity ideas from the calendar can be used for your classroom planning as well!
- Send home the Super Power Kids’ Activity page or do this activity at school for kids to take home. Children can decorate and cut out a Mask and Cuffs to become a Read-Aloud Super Hero!
- Print out the Kids’ Read-Aloud Pledge for each student. Children can decorate, fold into a little booklet, and share with their families.
- Invite families to take the Read-Aloud Challenge Pledge online and be eligible for prize packages of books and to download read-aloud activities.
- Invite and remind families to share photos on the Family Reading Partnership Facebook page of their family reading together and they will be entered into drawings for weekly prizes.
- Expand your classroom library by having a book drive in the community of a book swap at school so children can take books home to borrow or to keep.



*in partnership with*



National Head Start Association  
members, visit:  
[www.nhsa.org/read-aloud-challenge](http://www.nhsa.org/read-aloud-challenge)  
to pledge and access the tool kit.

You can also join the NHSA  
Read-Aloud Challenge event on  
Facebook to post pictures!