

7 Strengths Children's Books

Here we have curated for you a strengths-specific collection. Authentic texts give children and young adults pathways to find themselves, connect to their communities, and build new worlds. We have worked side by side with children and young adults, teachers, parents, caregivers, and community members to shape a list that will accompany you in your teaching journey. Encourage your students to discover new titles to add to this collection and to debate over which book signals which strength. That is all part of the joy and the deep work of super reading: It is never finished, the conversation is ongoing, and the stories can sustain us in myriad ways. Here's to all the super reading you will do together! Please visit [scholastic.com/superreaderresources](https://www.scholastic.com/superreaderresources) for a digital version of this list, Spanish-language titles, and additional titles of interest and enjoyment.

STRENGTH ONE: BELONGING

Grades K–2

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal

Bigmama's by Donald Crews

A Birthday Basket for Tia by Pat Mora

Everything You Need for a Treehouse by Carter Higgins

Fresh Princess by Denene Millner

Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community by Susan Verde

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen

My People by Langston Hughes

The New Small Person by Lauren Child

Planet Kindergarten by Sue Ganz-Schmitt

'Twas Nochebuena by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Grades 3–5

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson

El Deafo by Cece Bell

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream by Berta de Miguel and Kent Diebolt

Landed by Milly Lee

The Sound of All Things by Myron Uhlberg

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

Testing the Ice by Sharon Robinson

Grades 6–8

Drama by Raina Telgemeier

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Forest World by Margarita Engle

Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems by David Bowles

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

STRENGTH TWO: FRIENDSHIP

Grades K–2

All Right Already! A Snowy Story by Jory John

Bee-Wigged by Cece Bell

Crazy Hair Day by Barney Saltzberg

How to Grow a Friend by Sara Gillingham

Madlenka by Peter Sís

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina

Maria Had a Little Llama/María Tenía Una Llamita by Angela Dominguez

Maybe Tomorrow? by Charlotte Agell
One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo
Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day by Carmen Agra Deedy
Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts
Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka

Grades 3–5

Big Foot and Little Foot by Ellen Potter
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Dancing Home by Alma Flor Ada
Fenway and Hattie by Victoria J. Coe
The Junkyard Wonders by Patricia Polacco
The Madman of Piney Woods by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Paula Kahumbu
True Tales of Animal Heroes by Allan Zullo
Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors

Grades 6–8

Catching a Story Fish by Janice N. Harrington
Drita: My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard
Duke by Kirby Larson
Holes by Louis Sachar
If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko
The Kind of Friends We Used to Be by Frances O'Roark Dowell
Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War by Helen Frost
The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon
Spin by Lamar Giles
A Touch of Ruckus by Ash Van Otterloo

STRENGTH THREE: KINDNESS

Grades K–2

Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan
A Bike Like Sergio's by Maribeth Boelts
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson
Kindness to Share from A to Z by Peggy Snow and Todd Snow
Lucía the Luchadora and the Million Masks by Cynthia Leonor Garza

Mice and Beans by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell
Wings by Christopher Myers

Grades 3–5

Addy's Cup of Sugar by Jon J Muth
Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies by Deborah Hopkinson
The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk in World War II by Louise Borden
Manjhi Moves a Mountain by Nancy Chrunin
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech
The Three Questions by Jon J Muth
The Trees of Dancing Goats by Patricia Polacco
Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown
Zen Shorts by Jon J Muth

Grades 6–8

The Camping Trip That Changed America by Barb Rosenstock
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
Moo by Sharon Creech
Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina

STRENGTH FOUR: CURIOSITY

Grades K–2

Abuela by Arthur Dorros
Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs! by Kathleen V. Kudlinski
Chameleons Are Cool by Martin Jenkins
The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
Hello, Ocean! by Pam Muñoz Ryan
The Little Red Fort by Brenda Maier
The Magician's Hat by Malcolm Mitchell
An Orange in January by Dianna Hutts Aston
Penguin Day: A Family Story by Nic Bishop
What If You Had Animal Hair!? by Sandra Markle
The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds

Grades 3–5

Abe Lincoln’s Dream by Lane Smith
Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World by Elizabeth Rusch
Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code by Laurie Wallmark
If Polar Bears Disappeared by Lily Williams
Layla and the Bots by Vicky Fang
River by Elisha Cooper
Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds
Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson and Stephanie Sisson
The Sun Is Kind of a Big Deal by Nick Seluk
The Three Questions by Jon J Muth
Titanosaur: Discovering the World’s Largest Dinosaur by Diego Pol and Jose Luis Carballido

Grades 6–8

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly
How to Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild by Katherine Roy
Who Wants Pizza? The Kids’ Guide to the History, Science, & Culture of Food by Jan Thornhill
Wonders of the World by Toby Reynolds and Paul Calver

STRENGTH FIVE: CONFIDENCE

Grades K–2

All Because You Matter by Tami Charles
Chester the Brave by Audrey Penn
The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds
Ellie by Mike Wu
Even Superheroes Make Mistakes by Shelly Becker
Exclamation Mark by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World by Malcolm Mitchell
Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales
Standing on Her Shoulders by Monica Clark-Robinson
Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great by Bob Shea
Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez

Grades 3–5

Bobby the Brave (Sometimes) by Lisa Yee
Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street by Sharon G. Flake
Building Zaha: The Story of Architect Zaha Hadid by Victoria Tentler-Krylov
Doctor Esperanto and the Language of Hope by Mara Rockliff
Just Like Josh Gibson by Angela Johnson
Long Shot by Chris Paul
Looking Like Me by Walter Dean Myers
Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré by Anika Aldamuy Denise
Saint Louis Armstrong Beach by Brenda Woods
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of the Century by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Grades 6–8

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Favorite Greek Myths by Mary Pope Osborne
Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali by Sabina Khan
Rebel Girls Lead: 20 Tales of Extraordinary Women by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo
The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantani DasGupta
Storm Thief by Chris Wooding

STRENGTH SIX: COURAGE

Grades K–2

Brave by Stacy McAnulty
Fire! Fuego! Brave Bomberos by Susan Middleton Elya
Gordon Parks by Carole Boston Weatherford
Gustavo the Shy Ghost by Flavia Z. Drago
Ish by Peter H. Reynolds
Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall
Let’s Play in the Forest While the Wolf Is Not Around by Claudia Rueda
School’s First Day of School by Adam Rex
Sheila Rae, the Brave by Kevin Henkes
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell

Tiny T. Rex and the Very Dark Dark by Jonathan Stutzman

Grades 3–5

The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein

The Hallelujah Flight by Phil Bildner

I Survived the Galveston Hurricane, 1900 by Lauren Tarshis

Interstellar Cinderella by Deborah Underwood

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968 by Alice Faye Duncan

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca

Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain by Cheryl Barcoe

The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet! by Carmen Agra Deedy

Say Something by Peter H. Reynolds

Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride by Andrea Davis Pinkney

When Marian Sang by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Grades 6–8

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Gaby, Lost and Found by Angela Cervantes

How I Became a Ghost by Tim Tingle

I Survived (Books 1–6) by Lauren Tarshis

Just Juice by Karen Hesse

Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty

Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

Yes! We Are Latinos by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy

STRENGTH SEVEN: HOPE

Grade K–2

ABC Mindful Me by Christiane Engel

Come On, Rain! by Karen Hesse

Eight Days: A Story of Haiti by Edwidge Danticat

Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos by Monica Brown

Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King, Jr. by Jean Marzollo

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges

Steam Train, Dream Train by Sherri Duskey

Tía Isa Wants a Car by Meg Medina

What a Wonderful World by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

Grades 3–5

Alma and the Sea by Jaime Gamboa

Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You by Carole Boston Weatherford

Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport

Native American Heroes: Inspiring Leaders by Dawn Quigley

Nibi Emosaawdang: The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson

Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes by David Roessel

Redwoods by Jason Chin

So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk Toward Freedom by Gary D. Schmidt

When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson

Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind by Cynthia Grady

Grades 6–8

Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers

Bluebird by Sharon Cameron

Confetti Girl by Diana López

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

The Life I'm In by Sharon Flake

Martin Rising: Requiem for a King by Andrea Davis Pinkney

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

Where We Go From Here by Lucas Rocha