



## THOREAU SCHOOL C.A.R.E.S.

Picture books that demonstrate the Thoreau School Core Values:  
Community, Academic Excellence, Respect, Effort, Safety



### COMMUNITY: A group of people working together for the common good.

Author	Title	Call number	Summary	Grade levels	Curriculum Connection
Bateman, T.	The Bully Blockers Club	E/B	When Lottie is bothered by a bully at school, she helps start a club where everyone is welcome.	K-4	Health
Bunting, E.	Smoky Night	E/B	When violence breaks out in the streets of his neighborhood, a young boy learns the value of getting along with others no matter what their background or nationality.	4-5	
Cherry, L.	The Great Kapok Tree	E/C	The different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down the home they all share.	K-2	
Deedy, C.	The Yellow Star: King Christian X of Denmark	FIC/Dee	Retells the legend of how King Christian led a protest against the Nazi demand that Jews wear yellow stars on their clothing.	4-5	Legend genre
Diakite, P.	I Lost My Tooth in Africa	E/D	While visiting family in Mali, an American girl loses a tooth and is given a hen by the local tooth fairy.	K-2	West African Culture; family
DiSalvo, D.	City Green	E/D	Marcy and Miss Rosa start a campaign to clean up an empty lot and turn it into a community garden.	K-2	
Dooley, N.	Everybody Bakes Bread	E/D	A rainy-day errand introduces Carrie to the many different kinds of bread, including chapatis, challah, and papusas, being baked in her neighborhood. Includes recipes.	2-4	
Dooley, N.	Everybody Cooks Rice	E/D	Carrie, sent to find a younger brother at dinnertime, visits six neighborhood households and sees how each family prepares the same grain in a different manner.	2-4	
Fox, Mem	Whoever You Are	305.8	Despite the differences between people around the world, there are similarities that join us together, such as pain, joy, and love.	All grades	
Fox, Mem	Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge	E/F	A small boy asks everyone the meaning of "memory" so he can restore it to an elderly friend.	2-3	
Glaser, L.	Our Big Home: an Earth Poem	K-3	Describes the water, air, soil, sky, sun, and more shared by all living creatures on Earth.	K-2	
Hamaka, S.	All the Colors of the Earth	E/H	This poem shows that children everywhere are essentially the same and all are lovable, despite outward differences.	K-3	Poetry
Johnston, A.	Tell Me a Story Mama	E/J	A young girl and her mother remember together all the mother's favorite childhood stories.	K-2	Family
Kroll, V.	Masai and I	E/K	A little girl who lives in an American city imagines what her life might be like if she were a Masai child in East Africa.	K-2	
Lewin, T.	The Storytellers	E/L	While enjoying the sights, smells, and sounds of a marketplace in Morocco, Abdul is convinced that the work that he and his grandfather do is the most gratifying of all.	3-5	
Lionni, L.	Swimmy	E/L	A small black fish finds a way to protect a school of small red fish from their natural enemies.	K-2	

**COMMUNITY, continued**

Muth, J.	Stone Soup	398.2	Three hungry men charm a poor village into making enough soup to feed them all.	K-3	Folktale genre
Polacco, P.	Meteor!	E/P	A quiet rural community is dramatically changed when a meteor crashes down in the front yard of the Gaw family.	2-5	Astronomy
Rumford, J.	Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey		Calabash Cat sets out from his home in Chad to discover just how big the world is.	2-5	
SanSouci, R.	A Weave of Words	398.2	Retells an Armenian folktale in which a lazy prince learns to read, write, and weave to win his beloved and is saved from a three-headed monster by his new talents.	4-5	Folktale genre
Shannon, D.	The Rain Came Down	E/S	An unexpected rain shower causes quarreling among the members of a small community, but the sunshine that follows has the opposite effect.	K-2	Weather
Smith, D.	If the World Were a Village	304.6	Breaks down the population of the world into a collection of one hundred representative people and describes what one would find in this global village.	2-5	Math
Tolstoy, A.	The Enormous Turnip	398.2	A farmer's turnip grows so large that he can only pull it from the ground with the help of everyone in his family—even the smallest.	K-2	Plants Folktale genre
Torres, L.	Subway Sparrow	E/T	Although the passengers of the D train speak different languages, they work together to rescue a trapped bird.	2-4	
Wells, R.	Yoko	E/W	When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of what she eats--until one of them tries it himself.	K-2	
Young, E.	Night Visitors	398.2	Chinese folktale in which a young scholar learns respect for all forms of life when he dreams that he becomes part of an ant colony.	4-5	China Folktale genre
Ziefert, H.	A New Coat for Anna	E/Z	Even though there is no money, Anna's mother and her neighbors find a way to make Anna a winter coat.	2-3	

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Working toward being an outstanding life-long learner.**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Call number</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Grade level</b>	<b>Curriculum connection</b>
Bloom, S.	Wolf!	E/B	A wolf learns to read in order to impress a group of farmyard animals he has met.	K-2	ELA
Bogart, J.	Jeremiah Learns to Read	E/B	A successful elderly farmer goes to school to learn something he doesn't know: how to read.	1-3	ELA
Bradby, M.	More than Anything Else	E/B	Nine-year-old Booker works with his father and brother at the salt works but dreams of the day when he'll be able to read.	1-3	ELA
Bunting, E.	The Wednesday Surprise	E/B	A loving story about a proud granddaughter and her successful efforts to teach her grandmother to read.	K-3	ELA
Cohen, M.	When Will I Read?	E/C	Impatient to begin reading, a first-grader comes to realize that there is more to reading than books.	K-1	ELA
Finchler, J.	Testing Miss Malarkey	E/F	Although the teachers, the principal, and parents say The Test is not important, their actions tell another story.	2-4	
Heide, F.	The Day of Ahmed's Secret	E/H	Young Ahmed hurries to finish his days work in Cairo so that he can return home and share his secret with his family: he has learned to write his name.	1-4	
Hest, A.	Mr. George Baker	E/H	Harry and his neighbor, a 100-year-old jazz drummer, wait for the school bus that will take them to the class where they are both learning to read.	1-3	ELA
Houston, G.	My Great-Aunt Arizona	E/H	An Appalachian girl, Arizona Houston Hughes, grows up to become a teacher who influences generations of school children.	1-3	
Hurst, C.	Rocks in His Head	E/H	A young man without a formal education has a lifelong love of rock collecting that eventually leads him to work at a science museum.	2-5	Geology
McBrier, P.	Beatrice's Goat	E/M	A young Ugandan girl's dream of attending school is fulfilled after her family is given an income-producing goat. Based on a true story about the work of Project Heifer.	1-5	
McKissack, R.	Try Your Best	E/M	Ann worries that she is not good enough to participate in Sports Day, but her teacher encourages her to try her best.	K-2	PE
McPhail, D.	Mole Music	E/M	Mole practices hard on his violin, never realizing that his beautiful, joyful music is changing the world above ground.	1-3	Music
Perez, L.	First Day in Grapes	E/P	Chico finds that his good math skills help him cope with the first day at a new school.	2-5	Math
Polacco, P.	The Bee Tree	E/P	To teach his granddaughter the value of books, a grandfather leads a growing crowd in search wild honey. "Just like we ran after the bees to find their tree, so you must also chase [learning] through the pages of a book!"	2-5	
Polacco, P.	Thank You, Mr. Falker	E/P	Trisha's difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until a new 5 <sup>th</sup> teacher helps her understand and overcome her problems.	2-5	
Reynolds, P.	The Dot	E/R	Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.	All grades	Art
Smothers, E.	The Hard-Times Jar		Emma longs for a store-bought book, but, in her migrant farm family, any extra money goes in the hard-times jar.	1-3	ELA

**RESPECT: Valuing other people's cultures, traditions, qualities, appearance, similarities and differences.**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Call number</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Curriculum Connection</b>
Ada, A.	My Name is Maria Isabel	Fic/Ada	Maria Isabel Salazar Lopez finds herself dubbed "Mary Lopez" she is placed in a class with two other Marias, but finds a way to let her teacher know how her real name reflects her Cuban heritage.	2-5	
Andersen, H.	The Ugly Duckling	E/A	An ugly duckling is scorned by everyone because he is different, but after a lonely winter he discovers he has grown into a beautiful swan.	1-5	
Coles, R.	The Story of Ruby Bridges	B/Bri	Six-year-old Ruby must confront the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate a New Orleans school.	2-5	Biography
DePaola, T.	Oliver Button is a Sissy	E/D	His classmates' taunts can't stop Oliver Button from doing what he likes best.	K-3	
Ernst, L.	Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt	E/E	Sam discovers that he enjoys creating patchwork quilts but meets with scorn and ridicule when he asks his wife if he can join her quilting club.	K-3	Quilts
Fleming, V.	Be Good to Eddie Lee	E/F	Christy begins appreciate the woods near her house when Eddie Lee, a young neighbor with Down's syndrome, shows her some of its secrets.	1-5	
Friedman, I	How My Parents Learned to Eat	E/F	When an American sailor courts a Japanese girl, each tries in secret to learn the other's way of eating.	1-4	
Golenbock, P.	Teammates	796.357	Describes the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson when he joined the Brooklyn and depicts the acceptance and support he received from his white teammate Pee Wee Reese.	2-5	Biography
Hoffman, M.	Amazing Grace	E/H	Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is an African-American girl, Grace's talent wins their respect -and the part- at her audition.	K-3	
Lionni, Leo	Frederick		Frederick, dreams while the other mice gather supplies for the winter, but it is Frederick's poetry that sustains them when the food is gone.	K-2	Poetry
Mills, L.	Rag Coat	E/M	Minna proudly wears her new coat made of clothing scraps to school, but the other children laugh at her until she tells them the family stories behind each piece.	2-5	
Mitchell, L.	Different Like Me	E/M	A young girl notices how people are different from her (they speak in sign language or other languages, read Braille, use a wheelchair, are grown up....), but she also sees how, in some way, they're just like her.	K-3	
Polacco, P.	Pink and Say	E/P	Based on a true story, this book tells of the friendship between Pink, a fifteen-year-old African-American Union soldier, and Say, his poor white comrade. Note: Please read this yourself before reading it with your students.	4-5	
Prelutsky, J.	Me Am I!	811/Pre	Three children list the things that they value about themselves in this poem that celebrates individuality.	K-2	Poetry

## RESPECT, Continued

Dr. Seuss	Horton Hears a Who	E/S	Horton the Elephant goes to great trouble to protect the tiny creatures that live on a dust speck because “a person’s a person, not matter how small.”	All grades	
Dr. Seuss	The Sneetches	E/S	The Star-Bellied Sneetches learn the hard way that they are not superior to the Plain-Bellied Sneetches they have been bullying.	All grades	Health

## EFFORT: Trying your best to work toward a goal.

Author	Title	Call Number	Summary	Grade Level	Curriculum Connection
Aesop	The Tortoise and the Hare	398.2	Recounts the famous fable of a race where the turtle’s “slow but steady” effort wins out over the rabbit’s lazy attempt.	K-2	PE Fable genre
Aliki	A Weed is a Flower	B/Ali	The life of George Washington Carver, a man born a slave, who became a scientist and helped improve agriculture.	1-3	Plants Biography
Brisson, P.	Wanda’s Roses	E/B	Wanda clears away the trash around a thorn bush and cares for it every day, hoping that roses will bloom someday.	K-4	Plants
Burton, V.	Katy and the Big Snow	E/B	Katy the snowplow saves the city when it is snowed in by a blizzard.	K-2	Weather
Burton, V.	Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel	E/B	Mike’s steam shovel is too old fashioned to compete with newer models, but their extra effort gets the job done.	K-2	
Carle, E.	The Very Busy Spider	E/C	Farm animals try to divert a spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing beauty and usefulness.	K-2	
Cooney, B.	Eleanor	B/Roo	This biography of Eleanor Roosevelt shows her growth from a shy, lonely child to a confident, compassionate adult.	2-5	Biography
Cooney, B.	Miss Rumphius	E/C	A retired librarian follows her grandfather’s old advice of doing something to make the world more beautiful.	1-5	Plants
Day, N.	The Lion’s Whiskers	398.2	In this folktale from Ethiopia, a patient woman uses her experience with a lion to win the love of her new stepson.	2-5	Folktale genre
Demi	The Empty Pot	398.9/D	Ping tries everything he can think of to get the Emperor’s seed to grow, but in the end returns to Court with an empty pot.	1-4	Plants; China Folktale genre
Flournoy, V.	The Patchwork Quilt	E/F	When her grandmother becomes sick, Tanya works hard to finish the beautiful quilt that tells the story of her family’s life.	1-3	
Fox, Mem	Koala Lou	E/F	A young koala plans to win her distracted mother’s attention by winning the tree-climbing contest at the local sports day.	K-2	PE
Krull, K.	Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World’s Fastest Woman	B/Rud	A biography of the African-American woman who overcame polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympic Games.	1-5	Biography
London, J.	Ali, Child of the Desert	E/L	When a sudden desert sandstorm separates Ali from his father, the young boy has to decide for himself how to find him again.	2-5	
Levine, E.	I Hate English!	E/L	When her family moves to New York from Hong Kong, Mei Mei finds it difficult to adjust to school and learn the alien sounds of English.	1-4	ESL
Martin, J.	Snowflake Bentley	B/Ben	A biography of Wilson Bentley, a Vermont farmer who spent years perfecting his techniques for photographing snowflakes.	1-5	Weather

### EFFORT, Continued

McCully, E.	Mirette on the High Wire	E/M	Mirette works hard to learn tightrope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house.	1-5	
Mitchell, M.	Uncle Jed's Barbershop	E/M	At age 79, Uncle Jed, after a lifetime of obstacles (including segregation and the Great Depression), finally realizes his dream of owning a barbershop.	2-5	
Moss, M.	Regina's Big Mistake	E/M	Regina has trouble getting her jungle drawing to look the way she wants it to, but finally creates a beautiful picture that's all her own.	K-2	Art
Poole, A.	The Ant and the Grasshopper	398.2	Retells the fable about a colony of industrious ants that work hard to prepare for winter while a grasshopper makes no plans for the cold weather to come.	All grades	Fable genre
Puttock, B.	Big Bad Wolf is Good	E/P	Big Bad Wolf works hard to change his ways and turn himself into Big Good Wolf.	K-3	
Dr. Seuss	Horton Hatches the Egg	E/S	Horton the Elephant faithfully guards Maisie's egg through teasing, bad weather, and even capture by hunters.	All grades	Chicks
Steig, W.	Brave Irene	E/S	Plucky Irene, a dressmaker's daughter, bravely faces a fierce snowstorm to deliver a new gown to the duchess in time for the ball.	1-5	Weather
Winter, J.	The Librarian of Basra: a True Story from Iraq	020/Win	When war comes to Basra, Alia works hard to save her library's books, taking thousands of them to her own home, to the homes of friends, and to the restaurant next door.	3-5	Biography
Woodson, J.	The Other Side	E/W	Two girls, one white and one African-American, gradually get to know each other in spite of the fence that divides their town.	1-5	

### SAFETY: Feeling protected from risk and danger.

Author	Title	Call Number	Summary	Grade Level	Curriculum Connection
Bottner, B.	Bootsie Barker Bites	E/B	Bootsie Barker only wants to play games in which she bites, until one day her friend comes up with a better game.	1-2	
Brown, M.	D.W. Rides Again	E/B	D.W. graduates from a tricycle to her first two-wheeler and, under Arthur's careful guidance, learns the basics of bicycle safety.	K-2	
Cuyler, M.	Please Play Safe! Penguin's Guide to Playground Safety	E/C	Penguin referees the playground shenanigans and gently corrects each animal's rule infraction.	K-2	PE
De Paola, T.	Trouble in the Barker's Class	E/D	When a new girl in the Barkers' class acts like a bully, the students decide to ignore her, but Morgie finally discovers what is wrong and finds a way to fix it.	K-1	Health
Ernst, L.	Ginger Jumps	E/E	Ginger the dog loves performing in the circus, but she is unable to summon the courage for a new trick until she finds the little girl companion about whom she has been dreaming.	K-3	
Henkes, K.	Sheila Rae, the Brave	E/H	When brave Sheila Rae becomes lost one day, her "scaredy cat" sister Louise comes to the rescue.	K-2	
Howe, J.	Pinky and Rex and the Bully	FIC/How	Pinky stands up to the teasing of a bully as he defends his favorite color, pink, and his friendship with a girl, Rex.	1-3	Health
Khan, R.	The Ruler of the Courtyard	E/K	After confronting what she believes to be a snake in the bathhouse, Saba finds the courage to overcome her fear of the chickens in the courtyard. Set in Pakistan.	1-4	
McCain, B.	Nobody Knew What to Do	E/M	When bullies pick on a boy at school, a classmate is afraid to act, but finally decides that he must speak to a teacher.	2-5	Health
McNamara, M.	The Playground Problem	E/M Reader	First-grader Emma wants to play soccer with the boys on the playground, so her dad helps her to devise a plan to make them understand that it's OK for boys and girls to play together.	K-3	
O'Neill, A.	The Recess Queen	E/O	Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until new student Katie Sue asks the bully to jump rope and be her friend	1-3	Health
Pendziwol, J.	No Dragons for Tea: Fire Safety for Kids (and Dragons)	E/P	After a dragon accidentally sets fire the girl and her mother, well versed in fire safety, and everyone gets out without harm.	K-3	
Polacco, P.	Thundercake	E/P	Grandma finds a way to dispel her grandchild's fear of thunderstorms.	1-5	Weather
Rathman, P.	Officer Buckle and Gloria	E/R	Officer Buckle's school safety tips are ignored until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.	K-2	
Reynolds, P	Ish	E/R	Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things.	All grades	Art
Spinelli, E.	A Safe Place Called Home	E/S	While walking home from school, a young boy experiences many scary things, both imaginary and real, and looks forward to being safe and snug at home with his parents.	1-3	
Waber, B.	Courage	179	Provides examples of the many kinds of courage found both in everyday life and in unusual circumstances.	1-5	