



"PATIENCE" IN ACTION

JANUARY 2025

As we begin a new year, we focus on the powerful trait of patience. Patience challenges us to remain calm in the face of delays or frustrations, helping us approach obstacles with understanding rather than haste. By practicing patience, we foster empathy, thoughtful decision-making, and deeper connections—laying a strong foundation for positive personal growth. Our selection of suggested media embodies this theme.

Please note: Hyperlinks are included, where applicable, for easy searching.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FILMS

Encanto (2021)
Raya and the Last Dragon (2021)
A Shaun the Sheep Movie:
Farmageddon (2020)

BOOKS

The Cool Bean by Jory John
I Promise by LeBron James
Waiting Is Not Easy! by Mo Willems

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BOOKS

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds
Some Places More Than Others by Renée Watson
Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renée Watson
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

BOOKS

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston



"RESILIENCE" IN ACTION

FEBRUARY 2025

Moving into February, we shift our attention to resilience. Resilience is the capacity to bounce back from difficulties and adapt to challenges with courage and optimism. When we embrace resilience, we transform setbacks into opportunities for growth, nurturing a mindset that embraces change. Through stories, activities, and practical insights, we'll discover how resilience can empower our community and inspire us to keep moving forward.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FILMS

Inside Out (2015)

The Lion King (2019)

Frozen 2 (2019)

BOOKS

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

FILMS

Black Panther (2018)

Akeelah and the Bee (2006)

BOOKS

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

TEDTalks

[The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Lee Duckworth](#)

[Building Resilience in Youth by Taryn Marie Stejskal](#)

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

FILMS

Hidden Figures (2016)

The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)

BOOKS

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds by Laurie Halse Anderson

TEDTalks

["Your Elusive Creative Genius" by Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

["What I Learned from 100 Days of Rejection" by Jia Jiang](#)



"COOPERATION" IN ACTION

MARCH 2025

Cooperation is a powerful force that brings people together, fosters understanding, and helps us achieve more than we ever could alone. Through the stories in these books, films, and TED Talks, we see how teamwork, shared goals, and mutual support create stronger communities, friendships, and opportunities. Whether in the classroom, workplace, or everyday life, cooperation reminds us that when we collaborate, we all rise together. Let these selections inspire you to embrace teamwork and unity in your own journey!

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FILMS

Finding Nemo (2003)
Zootopia (2016)
The Incredibles (2004)

BOOKS

Swimmy by Leo Lionni
The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

FILMS

Remember the Titans (2000)
The Mighty Ducks (1992)

BOOKS

Ghost by Jason Reynolds
The Giver by Lois Lowry

TEDTalks

[Why it's worth listening to people you disagree with – Zachary R. Wood](#)
[How to turn a group of strangers into a team – Amy Edmondson](#)

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

FILMS

Hidden Figures (2016)
The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)

BOOKS

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

TEDTalks

[How Great Leaders Inspire Action – Simon Sinek](#)
[The Secret to Giving Great Feedback – LeeAnn Renninger](#)



"FAIRNESS" IN ACTION

APRIL 2025

Fairness is the foundation of trust, justice, and respect in our communities. It means treating others with honesty, considering different perspectives, and ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. This month's Character in Action media collection explores fairness in action—how people navigate difficult choices, stand up for what's right, and create a more just world. Through these books, films, and TED Talks, we'll see how fairness shapes relationships, decision-making, and the way we interact with others every day.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FILMS

Zootopia (2016)
Akeelah and the Bee (2006)
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019)

BOOKS

Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev
Chocolate Me! by Taye Diggs
The Colors of Us by Karen Katz

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

FILMS

The Great Debaters (2007)
A Wrinkle in Time (2018)

BOOKS

New Kid by Jerry Craft
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

TEDTalks

[What Kids Can Teach Adults About Fairness – Yuko Munakata](#)
[Color Blind or Color Brave? – Mellody Hobson](#)

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

FILMS

Just Mercy (2019)
The Trial of the Chicago 7 (2020)

BOOKS

March (Trilogy) by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box by Evette Dionne

TEDTalks

["The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)
[We Need to Talk About Injustice – Bryan Stevenson](#)



"CREATIVITY" IN ACTION

MAY 2025

Creativity is the spark that fuels innovation, problem-solving, and self-expression. It allows us to see the world in new ways, turn ideas into reality, and find solutions where others see obstacles. This month's Character in Action media collection explores the power of creativity—how it shapes art, storytelling, and even everyday problem-solving. Through these books, films, and TED Talks, we'll discover how creativity helps individuals and communities grow, inspire change, and bring their unique visions to life.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FILMS

Ratatouille (2007)
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2009)
The Lego Movie (2014)

BOOKS

"Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat" by Javaka Steptoe
"The Word Collector" by Peter H. Reynolds
"Milo Imagines the World" by Matt de la Peña

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

FILMS

October Sky (1999)
Black Panther (2018)

BOOKS

"Some Places More Than Others" by Renée Watson
"Harbor Me" by Jacqueline Woodson

TEDTalks

["Creativity Under Pressure" – Todd Henry](#)
["Your Elusive Creative Genius" – Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

FILMS

Soul (2020)
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (2018)

BOOKS

"Let Me Hear a Rhyme" by Tiffany D. Jackson
"Genesis Begins Again" by Alicia D. Williams

TEDTalks

["Do Schools Kill Creativity?" – Sir Ken Robinson](#)
["The Power of Creative Constraints" – Brandon Rodriguez](#)