

Madison's Patriotic Project
and
Madison and the Two Wheeler
Written by Dr. Vanita Braver
Illustrated by Carl DiRocco

These two stories involve the same young girl learning and practicing the life skills of doing one's personal best, kindness, bravery, and perseverance.

Learning Engagements:

1. Comprehension Check
2. Text-to-self Connections
3. Character Map
4. Life Skills
5. From the Author
6. Artistic Representation
7. Text-to-text Connections

Learning Engagement #1: Comprehension Check

Book Prompt: In both of these books, Madison has a stuffed toy that serves as an anchor for her when she's struggling with a problem.

Use these questions to help readers discuss these toy characters.

Character		Comprehension Questions to Prompt Text-to-self Connections
<i>Courage the Lion</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the word "courage" mean? • Why did Madison name her lion Courage? • When did Madison show courage? • When have you shown courage?
<i>Hope the Bluebird</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the word "hope" mean? • Why did Madison name her bluebird Hope? • When did Madison need hope? • When have you needed hope?

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Learning Engagement #2: Text-to-self Connections

Book Prompt: These two books were written by the same author, Dr. Vanita Braver, and illustrated by the same artist, Carl DiRocco. There are two other books in the *Teach Your Children Well* series. In all of the books, parents play an important role in guiding the moral and emotional growth of Madison, the main character.

Madison's parents help her when she struggles to learn important life lessons. Share the people who help young readers in their own lives. Give examples of how they help.

- Who is the parent, teacher, brother or sister, relative, or friend who has helped you learn life lessons?
- Describe a time when that person helped you.



Learning Engagement #3: Character Map

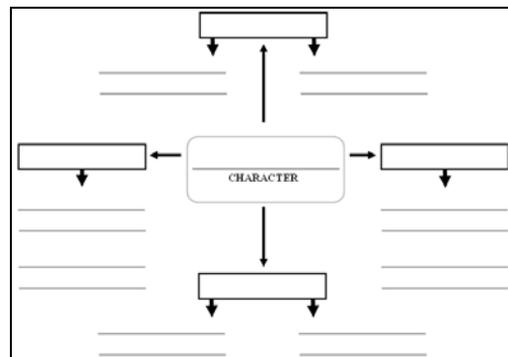
Book Prompt: Madison is the main character in both of these stories.

Using information from both books create a character map for Madison.

First, write Madison's name in the middle rectangle.

Brainstorm her strongest character traits. Write four of them in the bold rectangles.

Find two pieces of evidence from these two stories to support each of these traits. Make a note about each example on the lines below the arrows. Use abbreviations to tell in which book that example happened: *Madison's Patriot Project* (MPP) or *Madison and the Two Wheeler* (MTW).



Access a downloadable Character Map at:

http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/publishing/alaeditions/webextras/moreillon09294/Moreillon_supplement7F.doc

For a completed character map of Madison, see the parent-educator resource at the end of this Teaching Tools: Curriculum Guide.

Learning Engagement #4: Life Skills

Book Prompt: In both of these books, Madison is learning important life skills and lessons. In the Parents' Note at the end of each book, Dr. Braver offers "Ten Tips for Raising Moral Children." These ideas can be incorporated into the discussion of life skills that follow.

Complete the category matrix below. Parents and educators can ask readers to provide examples or to name the life skills exhibited by the characters in these stories. Readers can also be invited to make text-to-self connections with these concepts.

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Book	Life Skills	Example
<i>Madison's Patriotic Project</i>	Doing One's Personal Best: You won't always win the prize, but it's important to always do your personal best and to be proud of your work.	Madison did her best and learned to feel pride in her work even when she didn't win the prize.
	Kindness: Treat people the way you want to be treated.	Madison congratulated Jonathan on his prize-winning project.
<i>Madison and the Two Wheeler</i>	Bravery: Being brave means taking action even when you're scared.	Madison was scared to ride her bike without the training wheels, but she did it anyway.
	Perseverance: Sometimes you have to keep practicing until you get it right.	Madison kept trying to ride her bike even though it took her many tries and lots of practice to succeed.

Learning Engagement #5: From the Author

Book Prompt: Dr. Braver maintains a Website for parents and educators at: <http://www.drvanitabraver.com/>

Young readers can visit the "Dr. Vanita for Kids" section of her Web site where they will find mazes, puzzles, crafts, word finds, and other interactive activities:
<http://www.drvanitabraver.com/kids/index.htm>



Learning Engagement #6: Artistic Representation

Book Prompt: These books offer developmentally-appropriate examples of a primary-age child learning and practicing life skills.

Children can use drama to act out their experiences using these life skills. Provide actors with props and support to perfect their scripts and performances.

Children can also use art to express their understanding of these life skills. Choose one of the life skills from one of the books: doing one's personal best, kindness, bravery, or perseverance. Use poster board or heavy construction paper, crayons, and collage materials. Illustrate that skill with something meaningful from the artist's own life or school experience. Display posters prominently.

Learning Engagement #7: Text-to-text Connections

Book Prompt: These stories are about life skills and can be used to support a character education curriculum.

There are several picture books in each of these broad themes that can be shared along with *Madison's Patriotic Project* (doing one's personal best and kindness) and *Madison and the Two Wheeler* (bravery and perseverance).

Recommended Fiction Picture Books about Doing One's Personal Best:

The Blue Ribbon Day by Katie Couric, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Doubleday, 2004)

First Grade Takes a Test by Miriam Cohen, illustrated by Ronald Himler (Star Bright Books, 2006)

Koala Lou by Mem Fox (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988)

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Recommended Fiction Picture Books about Kindness:

- Because of You* by B. G. Hennessy, illustrated by Hiroe Nakata (Candlewick Press, 2005)
I Like Your Buttons! by Sarah Marwil Lamstein, illustrated by Nancy Cote (A. Whitman, 1999)
Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler by Margery Cuyler, illustrated by Sachiko Yohikawa (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

Recommended Fiction Picture Books about Bravery:

- Arthur's Loose Tooth* by Lillian Hoban (Harper Row, 1985)
Brave Irene by William Steig (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1986)
Harriet and the Roller Coaster by Nancy Carlson (Carolrhoda Books, 1982)
Pepito the Brave by Scott Beck (Dutton, 2001)



Recommended Fiction Picture Books about Perseverance:

- Clorinda* by Robert Kinerk, illustrated by Steven Kellogg (Simon & Schuster, 2003)
DW Flips by Marc Brown (Little, Brown, 1987)
In the Small, Small Night by Jane Kurtz, illustrated by Rachel Isadora (Greenwillow, 2005)
Wanda's Roses by Pat Brisson, illustrated by Maryann Cocca-Leffler (Boyd's Mills Press, 1994)
Where the Big Fish Are by Jonathan London, illustrated by Adam Gustavson (Candlewick Press, 2001)



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Judi Moreillon, Ph.D., compiled the learning engagements for this *Teaching Tools* guide.
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Character Map—Parent-Educator Resource

Competitive

Wants to win the prize (MPP)

Wants to ride without training wheels like Emily (MTW)

Smart/Creative

Makes a thoughtful scrapbook (MPP)

Thinks about how baby birds feel leaving the nest (MTW)

Madison

Character

Kind/Brave

Congratulates Jonathan on his project (MPP)

Works through fear of riding without training wheels (MTW)

Perseverance

Works hard on scrapbook (MPP)

Keeps practicing riding her bike without training wheels (MTW)

