



Literary Character Day Book List: Resource for Parents

Literary Character Day is one of our school's favorite traditions! Students are invited to dress as a character from one of the books they have read. This event encourages a love of reading, helps students connect with literature, and provides opportunities to share favorite books with classmates.

From Kindergarten through 5th Grade, students read a progression of classic and award-winning children's literature that includes:

- Folktales and fairy tales
- Historical fiction
- Adventure stories
- Fantasy and allegory
- Biography and narrative nonfiction
- Classic children's novels

Character Costume Guidelines

Costumes should be school-appropriate and easy to wear throughout the day. Props should be simple and safe. No costume weapons.

Students should be prepared to share the title of their book and a few facts about their character.

GREAT HEARTS CORE BOOK LIST

Kindergarten: Core Books

Mouse Soup
Mouse Tales
Mrs. Piggle Wiggle
Grasshopper on the Road
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel
The Velveteen Rabbit
Little Bear
Little Bear's Visit
Father Bear Comes Home
Mr. Popper's Penguins
Selected *Aesop's Fables*
Selected *Brother's Grimm Fairy Tales*

Grade 1: Core Books

Owl at Home
A Bargain for Frances
Bedtime for Frances
My Father's Dragon
Frog and Toad Collection
Selected *Aesop's Fables*
Selected *Brother's Grimm Fairy Tales*
Paddington
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Stuart Little

Grade 2: Core Books

The Boxcar Children
Charlotte's Web
Little House in the Big Woods
The Cricket in Times Square
Greek Myths

Grade 3: Core Books

The Hundred Dresses
The Real Thief
Little House on the Prairie
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
The Trumpet of the Swan
The Little Prince
Pinocchio
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Grade 4: Core Books

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
The Adventures of Robin Hood
Prince Caspian
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch
The Princess and the Goblin

Grade 5: Core Books

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader



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Where the Red Fern Grows
The Secret Garden
The Phantom Tollbooth
A Wrinkle in Time
The Magician's Nephew

Helping Your Child Prepare

Before Literary Character Day, talk with your child about:

Who is your character?
What makes this character memorable?
What challenge did the character overcome?
What virtues did we come to better understand because of this story/character?

Literary Character Day is more than a dress-up event. It is an opportunity for students to celebrate the books they have read, share their love of literature and history, and bring great stories to life. Thank you for partnering with us as we cultivate joyful readers and lifelong learners.