

Brave, Determined, and Strong: Books for Girls (and Sometimes Boys).

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Brave, Determined, and Strong: Books for Girls (and Sometimes Boys)

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Abstract

Today's teachers need to choose texts that provide strong role models for young readers, both male and female. When choosing a book for a girl, merely reaching for any old book with female characters isn't enough. Care should be taken to find books that feature strong female literary role models, allowing girls to explore their own identities, claim their own voices, and gain confidence, particularly during the adolescent years. The expectations of society and peers often prompt girls to assume false identities. In addition, finding and becoming true to oneself is an arduous task that can be made easier through books with excellent female protagonists.

The following books were reviewed:

Grades K-2

Baruzzi, Agnese and Sandro Natalini. (2009). The true story of Little Red Riding Hood

Bernheimer, Kate. (2008). The girl in the castle inside the museum

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. (2009). Katie Duck is a caterpillar

Isadora, Rachel. (2009). Hansel and Gretel

McCormack, Caren McNelly. (2009). Fiesta dress: A quinceanera tale

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O'Connor, Jane. (2009). *Fancy Nancy: Explorer extraordinaire!*
Ouellet, Debbie. (2009). *How Robin Saved Spring*
Yum, Hyewon. (2008). *Last night*

Grades 3-5

Badger, Meredith. *Fairy school dropout*
Durst, Sarah Beth. (2008). *Out of the wild*
Holt, Kimberly Willis. (2008). *Piper Reed: The great gypsy*
Rappaport, Doreen. (2009). *Eleanor, quiet no more: The life of Eleanor Roosevelt*
Shange, Ntozake. (2009). *Coretta Scott*

Grades 6-8

Gladstone, Valerie. (2009). *A young dancer: The life of an Ailey student*
Harris, Lewis. (2009). *A taste for red*
Hoose, Phillip. (2009). *Claudette Colvin: Twice toward justice*
Klass, Sheila Solomon. (2009). *Soldier's secret: The story of Deborah Sampson*
Lin, Grace. (2009). *Where the mountain meets the moon*
López, Diana. (2009). *Confetti girl*
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. (2009). *Faith, hope, and Ivy June*
Patron, Susan. (2009). *Lucky breaks*
Smith, Hope Anita. (2009). *Mother poems*

Grades 9-12

Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2009). *Wintergirls*
Caletti, Deb. (2008). *The fortunes of Indigo Skye*
Cashore, Kristin. (2008). *Graceling*
Collins, Suzanne. (2008). *The Hunger Games*
Karim, Sheba. (2009). *Skunk girl*
Williams, Carol Lynch. (2009). *The chosen one.*

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