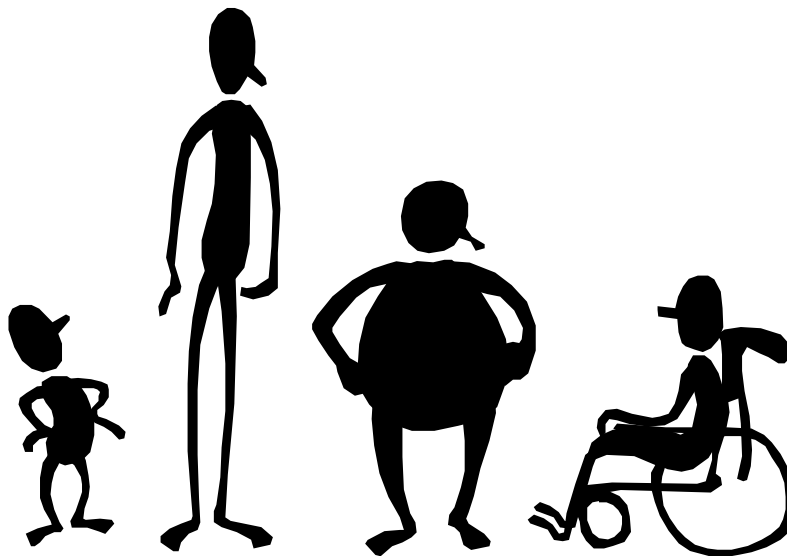


Diversity and Kinship Literacy Play:

**Planting the Seeds of Good Citizenship
through Children's Literature and Story-related Activities**



Revised and updated in 2017 by

Mary Katherine Duncan, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology

Diversity and Kinship Literacy Play II:

Planting the Seeds of Good Citizenship through Children's Literature and Story-related Activities

Citizenship is about living well with others. Good citizens bring the best of themselves to the proverbial table for the good of the Good. In other words, good citizens are people of good character. Are you a person of good character? What are your character strengths? How are your strengths the same as or different from other people's strengths? How do you use your strengths in service of others? How does using your strengths bring meaning and pleasure to your life?

Funded by a Bloomsburg University Margin of Excellence Award, the original Diversity and Kinship Literacy Play offered BU Toy Library members access to a collection of award-winning picture books that celebrate human diversity and highlight human kinship. Diversity themes included age, gender, race, ethnicity, language, health, socioeconomic status, and family structure. Kinship themes included human virtues of wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, prudence, and transcendence (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). This revised and updated booklet encourages children to reflect on experiences of human kinship and diversity by considering their own unique profiles of positive traits. Part I of this revised booklet includes a list of recommended titles whose main characters or themes highlight character strengths related to each of the six human virtues.

Consistent with the original document, this booklet includes suggestions for story-related activities aimed at honoring the different ways that people process information (Gardner, 1993, 2006). The recommended activities are intended to facilitate children's reflections on their positive traits. Most of the resources needed to engage children in the suggested activities are available at the BU Toy Library including books and puppets (linguistic intelligence); puzzles and science materials (logical-mathematical intelligence); die cuts and craft supplies (spatial intelligence); movement props (bodily-kinesthetic intelligence); instruments (musical intelligence), materials that allow for social interactions and independent activities (interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences, respectively); and resources that facilitate outdoor experiences (naturalistic intelligence). Part II includes a list story-related activities grouped according to cognitive competency.

Part I: Character Strengths and Children's Literature



WISDOM: positive traits related to acquiring/using information in service of the good life

Creativity refers to thinking in novel, productive ways	<i>Not a Box</i> by Antoinette Portis <i>Willow</i> by Denise Brennan-Nelson, Rosemarie Brennan and Cyd Moore <i>The Book with a Hole in It</i> by Herve Tullet
Curiosity refers to exploring and discovering	<i>Press Here</i> by Herve Tullet <i>Imagine a Place</i> by Sarah L. Thomson <i>Tillie and the Wall</i> by Leo Lionni
Love of Learning refers to mastering new skills or topics	<i>My Great Aunt Arizona</i> by Gloria Houston and Susan Condie Lamb
Open-mindedness refers to thinking things through and weighing all of the evidence	<i>Black Book of Colors</i> by Menena Cottin, Rosina Faria and Elisa Amado <i>Chicken Big</i> by Keith Graves <i>Seven Blind Mice</i> by Ed Young <i>Telephone</i> by Mac Barnett and Jen Corace
Perspective refers to providing wise counsel to others	<i>A Squash and a Squeeze</i> by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler <i>Duck Rabbit</i> by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld <i>Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse</i> by Lindsay Barrett George <i>A Closer Look</i> by Mary McCarthy



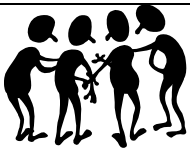
Courage: the will to accomplish goals in the face of opposition

Authenticity refers to speaking the truth and presenting yourself in genuine way	<i>A Bad Case of Stripes</i> by David Shannon <i>The Story of Ferdinand</i> by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson <i>"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," said the Sloth</i> by Eric Carle <i>Tico and the Golden Wings</i> by Leo Lionni <i>Pezzettino</i> by Leo Lionni <i>Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon</i> by Patty Lovell <i>The Empty Pot</i> by Demi
Bravery refers to speaking up for what is right and acting on your convictions	<i>Courage</i> by Bernard Waber <i>Henry's Freedom Box</i> by Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson <i>One</i> by Kathryn Otoshi <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles
Persistence refers to finishing what you start despite obstacles	<i>Katy and the Big Snow</i> by Virginia Lee Burton <i>The Little House</i> by Virginia Lee Burton <i>Giraffes Can't Dance</i> by Andreae Parker-Rees <i>Fly Away Home</i> by Eve Bunting <i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i> by Tomie dePaola
Zest refers to approaching life with excitement and energy	<i>Verdi</i> by Janell Cannon <i>Exclamation Mark</i> by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld <i>Fire Cat</i> by Ester Averill



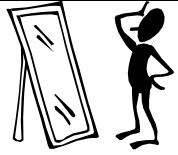
Humanity: traits evidenced in caring relationships with others

Love refers to valuing close relationships	<i>Nubs</i> by Brian Dennis, Mary Nethery and Kirby Larson <i>We Belong Together</i> by Todd Parr <i>Little Pink Pup</i> by Johanna Kerby <i>Unlikely Friendships</i> by Jennifer S. Holland <i>City Dog, Country Frog</i> by Mo Willems
Kindness refers to doing favors and good deeds	<i>The Giving Tree</i> by Shel Silverstein <i>14 Cows for America</i> by Carmen Deedy, Thomas Gonzalez, Wilson Naiyomah <i>Crossing Bok Chitto</i> by Tim Tingle and Jeanne Rorex Bridges <i>A Sick Day for Amos McGee</i> by Philip Stead
Social Intelligence refers to awareness of self's and others' motives/feelings	<i>The Gift of Nothing</i> by Patrick McDonnell <i>A Home for Bird</i> by Philip Stead <i>The Old Woman Who Named Things</i> by Cynthia Rylant <i>People</i> by Peter Spier <i>The Other Side</i> by Jacqueline Woodson



Justice: traits relevant to the optimal interaction between individual and group

Fairness refers to treating everyone the same without bias	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers <i>It's Not Fair</i> by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld <i>Honey, Honey Lion</i> by Jan Brett <i>A Day's Work</i> by Eve Bunting
Teamwork refers to showing loyalty to a group, doing one's share	<i>The Enormous Carrot</i> by Vladimir Vagin <i>The Alphabet Tree</i> by Leo Lionni <i>Swimmy</i> by Leo Lionni
Leadership refers to organizing group activities	<i>The Giant Jam Sandwich</i> by John Vernon Lord



Temperance: traits that protect us from excess hatred, arrogance, pleasure, emotional extremes

Forgiveness/Mercy refers to avoiding vengeance and offering others a second chance	<i>Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse</i> by Kevin Henkes <i>The Lion and the Mouse</i> by Jerry Pinkney <i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson
Humility/Modesty refers not elevating yourself above others	<i>The Dog Prince</i> by Lauren Mills and Dennis Nolan <i>The OK Book</i> by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenfeld
Prudence refers to being careful about choices and not taking undue risks	<i>Fireflies</i> by Julie Brinckloe <i>Hey, Little Ant</i> by Phillip and Hannah Hoose <i>Wave</i> by Suzy Lee
Self-regulation refers to maintaining control over what you do and how you feel	<i>Perfect Square</i> by Michael Hall <i>Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons</i> by Eric Litwin and James Dean <i>If You Want to See a Whale</i> by Julie Fogliano <i>So Few of Me</i> by Peter Reynolds <i>My Many Colored Days</i> by Dr. Seuss



Transcendence: traits that forge connections to universe & offer meaning to life

Appreciation of Beauty/Excellence refers to appreciating excellence	<i>Miss Rumphius</i> by Barbara Cooney <i>Twilight Comes Twice</i> by Ralph Fletcher and Kate Kiesler <i>Long Night Moon</i> by Cynthia Rylant <i>And Here's to You</i> by David Elliott <i>My People</i> by Langston Hughes
Gratitude refers to being aware of and thankful for the good things	<i>Thank You, Mr. Faulker</i> by Patricia Polacco <i>Grandpa Green</i> by Lane Smith
Hope refers to expecting the best in the future and working to achieve it	<i>A Good Day</i> by Kevin Henkes <i>Silent Music</i> by James Rumford <i>One of Those Days</i> by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Rebecca Doughty <i>The Dot</i> by Peter Reynolds <i>Owl Babies</i> by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson
Humor refers to laughing, bringing smiles to others' faces, and seeing the light side of situations	<i>Elephant and Piggie series</i> by Mo Willems
Spirituality refers to believing in a higher purpose and meaning of life	<i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i> by Eleanor Coerr and Ronald Himler <i>Can You Say Peace?</i> By Karen Katz

Part II: Multiple Intelligences-inspired Story-related Activities

Linguistic Linguistic intelligence refers to how children use language to express their thoughts and feelings in words or writing.	• Read or listen to books about this character strength. • Look up story words in a children's dictionary. • Create a word cloud of synonyms for the character strength. • Use a children's Spanish-English dictionary to learn how to say the name for this character strength and its synonyms in another language. • Read or listen to quotes about this character strength. • Use a puppet to retell the story or retell the story from a different character's point of view. • Write a book or tell a story about a time when you used this character strength.
Logical Mathematical Logical-mathematical intelligence refers to how children use logic, numbers, and reasoning to understand how something works, detect a pattern, or create something.	• Compare and contrast your character strengths with the character strengths of your classmates or siblings. • Create/complete word searches for story words with http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp. • Examine cause and effect associations in the story. What do you think will happen next in this story? • Under what circumstances or in which situations is your character strength an asset? Under what circumstances or in which situations might your character strength be a weakness? • Play I SPY [insert character strength here]. How many examples of the character strength did you find today? Examine who provided the most evidence of the character strength (e.g., boys or girls, children or adults). • Imagine that you were awarded \$100 to spend the day using the character strength as often and in as many ways as possible. What would you do?
Spatial Spatial intelligence refers to how children visualize and represent a spatial world in their minds.	• Create a diorama of your favorite part of the book. • On a half sheet of paper, draw a picture of your favorite part of the book. Make it into a jigsaw puzzle using the BU Toy Library's <i>puzzle</i> die cut. • Using everyday household items, make a sculpture symbolizing the character strength. • Create a memory box, door hanger, banner, t-shirt, or coat-of-arms for the character strength. • Use magazine clippings or photographs to create a collage that illustrates the character strength. • Construct a backdrop or props for reenacting one or more of the scenes from this story.
Kinesthetic Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence refers to how children use their bodies to make something, find a solution, or convey meaning.	• Use the BU Toy Library's copy of <i>Signs for Me</i> to learn sign language for words related to the character strength. • Using the BU Toy Library's yoga cards, practice body movements that symbolize the character strength or choreograph your own movements to symbolize the character strength portrayed in the story. • Perform a scavenger hunt to see how many objects from the story you can find. • Use a list of the story characters' activities to play charades. Can you guess which character performed the activity, too? • Reenact a scene or scenes from the picture book.

Musical Musical intelligence refers to how children relate to sounds and music and how children recognize and manipulate sounds and music.	• Sing songs or perform finger plays about the character strength. • Use instruments or your own clapping hands, snapping fingers, and stomping feet to put the book to music. • Use onomatopoeia to add relevant sounds to the book. • Use the BU Toy Library's copy of the <i>Scholastic Rhyming Dictionary</i> to tell the story in rhyme. • Compose your own song, cheer, or tune that represents the character strength.
Interpersonal Interpersonal intelligence refers to how children relate to other people.	• Work with others to retell or role play the story. • Work with your classmates to create a mural or sculpture that illustrates an important message or theme in this book. • Who is your role model of this character strength? Invite this person to speak with you and your classmates so that you can learn more about how this person uses this strength every day. • Practice this character strength by using it to serve others. See www.bloomu.edu/toy_library for an updated copy of <i>Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County: Youth Outreach Opportunities for Families, Children, and Youth</i>. • Catch you classmates in the act of showing this character strength. Host a [insert name of character strength] ceremony at the end of the week to honor all those who demonstrated the strength at least once. Trophy and badge die cuts are available at the BU Toy Library's Ellison Die Cut Center. • Make a thank you card for someone who has used this character strength in a way that benefitted you. Card die cuts are available at the BU Toy Library's Ellison Die Cut Center.
Intrapersonal Intrapersonal intelligence refers to how children understand themselves.	• How are you like the main character of the story? • What would you have done, how would you have felt, what would you have thought if you were the main character in the book? • Journal or scrapbook about a time when you used this character strength. • To what extent do you show this character strength? If you wanted to, how could you grow this character strength further?
Naturalistic Naturalistic intelligence refers to how children recognize, understand, and classify living things.	• Explore examples of the character strength in nature (i.e., plants, animals, weather). • How can/do you show your character strength in service of nature?