



# Help Build Tomorrow's Leaders Today!

**League of Women Voters of Medfield**



This resource guide has been developed by the League of Women Voters of Medfield with the financial support of the Medfield Coalition for Public Education. We hope parents will use this guide to help teach children the importance of community service, volunteerism and leadership.

Our objective is to break the cycle of apathy so prevalent today, by inspiring members of the community, beginning with our elementary students and their families, to become active and involved citizens.

This guide includes a list of books that touch upon such themes as leadership, personal courage, and community service. It also includes a list of civic and community-oriented activities that families can do together to nurture the traits of leadership and community involvement in their children.

The Medfield League hopes this guide will further its mission to "Make Democracy Work" by helping parents to raise tomorrow's leaders today.

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# LEADERSHIP, PERSONAL COURAGE, COMMUNITY SERVICE:

## A Bibliography



The books included in this bibliography touch on the themes of leadership, personal courage, teamwork and community service. While some of the stories are powerful and poignant, others are light and humorous. Most of the titles are picture books and would be good 'discussion-starters' for children ages 7-11.

For annotated lists of recommended chapter books, check in one of the following: *Great Books for Girls* and *Great Books for Boys*, both by Kathleen Odean; *100 Books for Girls to Grow On* by Shireen Dodson; *Valerie and Walter's Best Books for Children* by Valerie V. Lewis and Walter M. Mayes. The list includes several biographies. For additional titles, browse the biography section of your local library for a great variety of inspirational stories.



David A. Adler, **THE BABE AND I**. Harcourt Brace and Company, 1999.

Set during the Great Depression, this is the story of a young boy who discovers that his father has lost his job and is selling apples on the street. Wanting to protect his father's secret, he goes to work to help the family during this difficult time...and meets Babe Ruth.



David A. Adler, **AMERICA'S CHAMPION SWIMMER: GERTRUDE EDERLE**. Harcourt Brace and Company, 2000.

After winning three gold medals at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, Trudy Ederle was determined to swim the English Channel, a feat which had never been accomplished by a woman.



Laurence Anholt, **STONE GIRL, BONE GIRL: THE STORY OF MARY ANNING**. Orchard, 1999.

Here's a terrific story of a bright and independent woman. In 1811, at the age of 12, Mary Anning dug up the first-ever-found fossil of a 165-million-year-old dinosaur. Without any formal schooling, she became an expert in her field.

Also: Three other titles have just been published about Mary Anning...

Jennifer Atkins, **MARY ANNING AND THE SEA DRAGON**. Farrar, 1999.

Catherine Brighton, **THE FOSSIL GIRL**. Millbrook Press, 1999. Don Brown,

RARE TREASURE: MARY ANNING AND HER REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES.  
Houghton Mifflin, 1999.



Jennifer Armstrong. **SHIPWRECK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD.** Knopf, 1998.  
In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 sailors attempted to cross the Antarctic continent. When they became trapped in pack ice, Shackleton courageously led his crew back to safety. For older readers.



Rhoda Blumberg, **BLOOMERS!** Bradbury Press, 1993.  
Here's the story of Amelia Bloomer, a friend and colleague of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She is credited with introducing "bloomers"...the first pants for women!



Barbara Bottner, **BOOTSIE BARKER BITES.** Putnam, 1996.  
A fun story of a strong young girl who refuses to give in to a bully. This hilarious account of 'standing up for oneself' is perfect for young kids.



Pat Brisson, **WANDA'S ROSES.** Boyds Mills Press, 1994.  
Wanda believes that the thorn bush growing in an empty lot is really a rose bush. She clears away the trash and creates a beautiful urban space...but does the bush ever bloom? Read this delightful story of city life to find out.



Carolyn Buehner, **FANNY'S DREAM.** Dial, 1996.  
Fanny learns that girls don't need fairy godmothers and handsome princes to be happy.



Lynne Cherry, **A RIVER RAN WILD.** Harcourt Brace Jovanivich, 1992.  
This is an ecological history of the Nashua River that describes how a once sparkling and clean waterway became horribly polluted. It is also the story of the woman who coordinated a grassroots effort that led to the Massachusetts Clean Water Act of 1966. One determined person can make a difference.



Robert Cole, **THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES.** Orchard, 1998.  
Here's the true story of a very young heroine who was the first African American child to attend her elementary school in New Orleans.



Barbara Cooney, **ELEANOR.** Viking, 1996.  
Barbara Cooney's words and pictures bring the childhood of Eleanor Roosevelt to life. Readers will be moved by her difficult early life and may come to understand her later commitment to the poor and under privileged.



Barbara Cooney, **MISS RUMPHIUS**. Viking, 1982.

A modern day classic, this is the story of how one woman can change the world and make it a more beautiful place for all.



Shana Corey, **YOU FORGOT YOUR SKIRT, AMELIA BLOOMER!** Scholastic, 2000.

Another version of the "bloomer" story, this one is accompanied by terrific illustrations.



Doreen Cronin, **CLICK CLACK MOO: COWS THAT TYPE**. Simon and Schuster, 2000.

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter, they begin to make demands to improve their lot in life. When they are turned down, they go on strike! Political activism on the farm...



Jane Cutler, **THE CELLO OF MR. O**. Dutton, 1999.

This is a very moving story about the serious subject of children living in a war zone. Mr. O's courage and quiet dignity sustain his neighbors in a very difficult time.



Tomie de Paola, **26 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE**. Putnam, 1998. **HERE WE ALL ARE**. Putnam, 2000.

De Paola has written, in these two easy-to-read autobiographies, about his childhood and his early interest in the arts. He knew from a very early age that he wanted to be an artist.



Lisa Campbell Ernst, **SAM JOHNSON AND THE BLUE RIBBON QUILT**. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1983.

How can the two competing quilting clubs --one for the women and one for the men-- resolve their differences and work together? This great story demonstrates that compromise and cooperation is the only way to go.



Carol Greene, **THE OLD LADIES WHO LIKE CATS**. Harper Collins, 1991.

Everyone in this town has a special job to do... that's how a community works. Find out what happens when the delicate balance of responsibilities is upset.



Betsy Hearne, **SEVEN BRAVE WOMEN**. Greenwillow, 1997.

The author traces the history of seven courageous women beginning with her great-great -great grandmother. They were all quite independent, self-reliant, and often, unconventional.



Kevin Henkes, **CHESTER'S WAY**. Greenwillow, 1988.

This is the Henkes book that introduces the spunky and independent Lilly. This girl is a natural leader!



Karen Hesse, **LESTER'S DOG**. Crown, 1993.

A young boy overcomes his fear of the mean neighborhood dog.



Mary Hoffman, **AMAZING GRACE**. Dial, 1991.

Grace is an actress and sees no reason why she should not be considered for the role of Peter Pan in the school play just because she's African American. She is a very determined young lady.



Deborah Hopkinson. **SWEET CLARA AND THE FREEDOM QUILT**. Knopf, 1993.

This is the story of a brave young slave who has the courage to sew a quilt, concealing a map, which will guide her people to freedom.



Anne Isaacs, **SWAMP ANGEL**. Dutton, 1994.

In the style of traditional tall tales, the author creates a wonderful original character. Swamp Angel is strong and determined... a gal of many talents.

Ellen Jackson, **CINDER EDNA**. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1994.

Who needs a fairy godmother when you're hard working, spunky and have a mind of your own? In this funny retelling of the classic tale, meet a girl who leads by example and truly lives happily ever after.



Steven Kellogg, **THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG**. Dial, 1973.

The now classic tale of the importance of working together to build a community that accepts everyone.



Kathleen Krull, **LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN**. Harcourt, 2000.

This new book for older readers introduces 20 women whom Krull chooses as history's most influential. It's informative and entertaining.



Kathryn Lasky. **MARVEN OF THE GREAT NORTH WOODS**. Harcourt, 1996.

Follow the true life adventures of 11-year-old Marven living in a logging camp in 1918.



Kathryn Lasky, **SHE'S WEARING A DEAD BIRD ON HER HEAD**. Hyperion Books, 1995.

The author creates a fictionalized story based on the real-life determination of the two women who founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society.



Helen Lester, **TACKY THE PENGUIN**. Houghton Mifflin, 1988.

Here's a character who leads the way through his unique and non-conformist style.



Arthur A. Levine, **PEARL MOSCOWITZ'S LAST STAND**. Tambourine, Books, 1993.

Pearl lives in a city neighborhood that has witnessed many changes.

People from many different backgrounds have come to settle here and Pearl has welcomed them all. Then, when the city decides to cut down her beloved ginkgo tree, Pearl decides to take a stand and demonstrates that one person can make a difference.



Leo Lionni, **FREDERICK**. Knopf, 1967.

The classic story of an unlikely leader, Frederick prepares for winter by gathering colors and words. His unusual collection comes in very handy when the food runs out and his friends need help in a difficult time.



Susan Lowell, **LITTLE RED COWBOY HAT**. Henry Holt, 1997.

Look out Mr. Wolf! This "Little Red Riding Hood" and her grandmother are clever, tough and absolutely able to take care of themselves!



Emily Arnold McCully, **BALLOT BOX BATTLE**. Knopf, 1996.

This is a fictionalized account based on the memoirs of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her fight for women's rights.



Emily Arnold McCully, **THE BOBBIN GIRL**. Dial, 1996.

Don't miss this tale of a courageous young mill girl working in Lowell, Massachusetts during the 1830's. Based on an actual incident, the determination of this girl, and other young women, to improve working conditions is inspiring.



Yona Zeldis McDonough. **SISTERS IN STRENGTH.** Henry Holt, 2000.

This illustrated biography features 11 famous leaders, including Margaret Mead and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.



Lauren Mills, **THE RAG COAT.** Little Brown and Company, 1991.

Minna receives a much needed patchwork coat thanks to the kindness of the women in her community. She then faces the taunts of her classmates, who consider the coat to be nothing more than a collection of rags, with strength and dignity.



**MY WISH FOR TOMORROW.** Tambourine Books, 1995.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, children around the world were asked, "If you were granted one wish to make the world a better place, what would it be?" It's illustrated by the kids, too.



Patricia Polacco, **PINK AND SAY.** Philomel, 1994.

This is a picture book for older readers. It is the true tale of two young boys, one white and the other a former slave, who befriend one another during the Civil War. Courage, compassion and justice are just a few of the themes that Polacco introduces so poignantly.



Faith Ringgold, **AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY.** Crown 1992.

Starring Cassie of Ringgold's **TAR BEACH**, the reader is introduced to a great American heroine, Harriet Tubman.



Faith Ringgold, **IF A BUS COULD TALK: THE STORY OF ROSA PARKS.** Simon and Schuster, 1999.

Here's an unusual interpretation of the story of the African American woman whose refusal to give up her seat on the bus launched the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott.



Deborah Lee Rose, **THE PEOPLE WHO HUGGED TREES: AN ENVIRONMENTAL FOLK TALE.** Roberts Rinehart, 1996.

One person can make a difference. That is the message of this story of a determined young girl to save the forest near her village.



Pam Munoz Ryan, **AMELIA AND ELEANOR GO FOR A RIDE**. Scholastic, 1999.  
Imagine what it would be like if Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt could fly together! This is the fictionalized account of that historic meeting.



Judith St. George, **SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT**. Philomel, 2000.  
Here is an entertaining account of the personal histories of our chief executives. A political primer that's absolutely delightful. For older readers.



Allen Say, **EL CHINO**. Houghton Mifflin, 1996.  
Billy Wong is a Chinese American living in Spain and he wants to be a bullfighter. This story will inspire young readers to hold on to their dreams.



David Small, **RUBY MAE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY**. Crown, 1996.  
Ruby Mae has something to say at the United Nations about peace and understanding.



Diane Stanley, **RUMPELSTILTSKIN'S DAUGHTER**. Morrow, 1997.  
Here's a funny retelling of the classic tale. Meredith, Rumpelstiltskin's daughter, is no push-over. She has no interest in marrying the greedy and overbearing King. In fact, she thinks that the hard working Rumpelstiltskin is a much better choice. She even winds up as prime minister of the kingdom!



Diane Stanley, **SAVING SWEETNESS**. Putnam, 1996.  
Meet one spunky gal who knows what she wants and how to get it.



William Steig, **BRAVE IRENE**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1986.  
Here is one determined young girl. She is on a mission and even a blizzard will not stop her!



Sam Swope. **THE ARABOOLIES OF LIBERTY STREET**. Crown. 1989.  
General Pinch and his wife force their tastes on the entire neighborhood, squashing any attempts at individuality. And then the free-spirited Araboolies move in.



Corinne Szabo, **SKY PIONEER**. National Geographic, 1997.

This is a photo biography of Amelia Earhart that is sure to inspire girls and boys alike.



Martin Waddell, **FARMER DUCK**. Candlewick, 1996.

This overworked duck gets a little help from his barnyard friends.

Working together, they come up with a plan to help their pal.



Rosemary Wells, **MARY ON HORSEBACK: THREE MOUNTAIN STORIES**. Dial, 1998.

This is the story of Mary Breckinridge the resourceful and compassionate woman who founded the Frontier Nursing Service to help the people of Appalachia.



Vera Williams, **A CHAIR FOR MY MOTHER**. Greenwillow, 1982.

A modern classic, this is the inspiring story of a hard working family who, with the help of their community, rebuild their home after a devastating fire.



Jane Yolen, **LETTING SWIFT RIVER GO**. Little, Brown and Company, 1992.

Between 1927 and 1946, towns along the Swift River in Massachusetts were "drowned" as the Quabbin Reservoir was formed in order to provide water for Boston. This beautifully illustrated book gives us a glimpse of the human side of this powerful political decision.



**FIELD TRIP GUIDE: READ A BOOK... VISIT A SITE**

You have just finished reading Emily Arnold McCully's **THE BOBBIN GIRL**, the picture book account of a young girl, working in the Lowell mills, determined to improve abysmal working conditions. What a great opportunity to visit the Lowell National Historical Park where you can experience first -hand the life of a 19th century mill girl.

If you love day-trips--and there are so many great destinations in our area--consider combining



a field trip with one of our recommended books.

We offer below a number of book/trip combinations too good to pass up. May we also suggest a wonderful guide book that is packed with other entertaining and educational ideas for your family:

Marcia Galssman-Jaffe, **FUN WITH THE FAMILY IN MASSACHUSETTS**. The Globe Pequot Press, 2000.

**To get you started , try one of these:**

- ◆ After reading Lasky's **SHE'S WEARING A DEAD BIRD ON HER HEAD**, visit a local Audubon sanctuary. Medfield is quite close to Moosehill in Sharon, Broadmoor in Natick and Stony Brook in Norfolk. All three feature flat terrain for easy hikes as well as family programming. Call for hours and directions.
- ◆ After reading Cherry's **A RIVER RAN WILD**, check out Broad Meadow Brook, the largest urban wildlife sanctuary in New England. 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester; (508) 753-6087.
- ◆ After reading McCully's, **THE BOBBIN GIRL**, visit Lowell National Historical Park. The visitor center is at Market Mills, 246 Market Street; (978)970-5000. Also in Lowell, The American Textile History Museum and boat rides through the city's canal system.
- ◆ After reading Anholt's **STONE GIRL, BONE GIRL: THE STORY OF MARY ANNING** visit the Harvard Museum of Natural History. You can see animals, dinosaur fossils and the world famous glass flowers...plus much, much more. 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge; (617) 495-3045.
- ◆ After reading Ringgold's **AUNT HARRIET'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE SKY**, visit the African Meeting House, the headquarters of the Underground Railroad in Boston. Walk the Black Heritage Trail too. 8 Smith Court, off Joy Street on Beacon Hill; (617) 742-5415.
- ◆ After reading Yolen's **LETTING SWIFT RIVER GO**, drive out to the beautiful Quabbin Reservoir, the source of Boston's water supply. The views are spectacular, there are marked hiking trails and the museum of artifacts and memorabilia from the "drowned" towns is poignant. Winsor Dam, Belchertown; (413) 323-6921.

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### **BRING OUT THE VOLUNTEER IN YOUR CHILD!**

- ◆ Get involved in the process with your child; don't just pick an activity for him.
- ◆ Volunteer with your child so the two of you can share the



experience together.

- ◆ Make sure to have fun. If not, the whole experience will be lost.
- ◆ Be realistic about how much time you and your child can contribute.
- ◆ Before committing, research the organization to get a feel for its expectations and overall environment. Make sure they know you are including your child.
- ◆ Have your child track service hours for future school or job applications.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

- ◆ Have kids accompany an adult to help out at the Medfield Food Cupboard. Call 359-4958 for details.
- ◆ Have kids accompany parent on a drive with a senior for the Council-On-Aging. Call 359-3665 for more information.
- ◆ Pick up bottles for collection from neighbors to donate to a local charity.
- ◆ Volunteer with a parent at an animal shelter and walk/pet/feed the homeless animals.
- ◆ Collect unused clothing from closets and neighbors to donate.
- ◆ Participate in a fun RUN, WALK or BIKE event to raise money for a charity.
- ◆ Collect donations for the Secret Santa Foundation (781) 453-9310.
- ◆ Raise a puppy as a companion for a person who's disabled or has other special needs. Call Canine Companions for Independence at 1-800-572-BARK for more information on this great cause.
- ◆ Mount a community cleanup or recycling drive. Make it fun by ending the project with a neighborhood party or cook out.
- ◆ Plant trees in a park or around your neighborhood. For advice on how to proceed, contact the National Arbor Day Foundation at 1-402-474-5655.
- ◆ Work to save a rainforest. Check out the Rainforest Action Network's Kid's Action Team (they publish a newsletter full of ideas on how to get involved). For information call 1-415-398-4404 or direct questions via e-mail to [rainforest@ran.org](mailto:rainforest@ran.org).
- ◆ Check with your local place of worship for additional opportunities.

