

IB Learner Profile Literature Connections

Balanced: We care for our mind, body, and heart. We work well with others and with ourselves.



***The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns**

Dissatisfied with its shape, a triangle keeps asking the local shapeshifter to add more lines and angles until it doesn't know which side is up.

***The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco**

A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love.

***A Fine Fine School* by Sharon Creech**

Tillie goes to a fine, fine school where kids learn about dinosaurs, build pyramids, and paint portraits. When her principal decides to call all the students and teachers together for an announcement, no one could have predicted he would say that there will be school on Saturdays! Soon everyone goes to school on Sundays, holidays, and even the summer. He loves school so much that he forgets to give anyone time off!

***Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds**

Drawing is what makes Ramon happy. But in one split second, all that changes. A single reckless remark by Ramon's older brother, Leon, turns Ramon's carefree sketches into joyless struggles. Luckily for Ramon, his little sister, Marisol, sees the world differently. She opens his eyes to something a lot more valuable than getting things just "right."

***Little Pea* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal**

If Little Pea doesn't eat all of his sweets, there will be no vegetables for dessert! What's a young pea to do?

***The Gift of Nothing* by Patrick McDonnell**

What can Mooch the cat give Earl the dog when Earl has everything? The answer, of course, is nothing.

Caring: We are kind to ourselves and to others. We take care of our earth.



***The Wump World* by Bill Peet**

The Wump World is an unspoiled place until huge monsters bring hordes of tiny creatures from the planet Pollutus.

***Caring* by Lucia Raatma**

Describes caring as a virtue and suggests ways in which caring can be shown, such as recycling, donating to charity, helping others, and listening.

***The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig**

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

***Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes**

Chrysanthemum thinks her name is absolutely perfect—until her first day of school. *Chrysanthemum* is a funny and honest story about self-esteem and acceptance.

***Have You Filled a Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud**

This heartwarming book encourages positive behavior by using the concept of an invisible bucket to show children how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation and love by "filling buckets."

Communicators: We respectfully share our ideas and listen to others. We express our ideas confidently and in many different ways.



***Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester**

All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he can't pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's speech impediment that drives away the class bully.

***Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson**

It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy!

***How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills**

An endearing white dog with black spots loves chasing leaves and chewing sticks. He also loves napping under his favorite tree. Then his sleep is interrupted one spring day by a tiny yellow bird that designates him her first student. Rocket wants no part of her lessons, but the bird is determined to teach him to read.

***Same, Same But Different* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw**

Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different!

Inquirers: We are curious and lifelong learners. We discover new knowledge and chase our questions.



***Verdi* by Janell Cannon**

A young python does not want to grow slow and boring like the older snakes he sees in the tropical jungle where he lives.

***The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats**

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.

***Curious George* by H.A. Rey**

The curiosity of a newly captured monkey gets him into continuous trouble, but he is saved by his friend, the man in the yellow hat.

***On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne**

Travel along with Einstein on a journey full of curiosity, laughter, and scientific discovery.

***What Do You Do With an Idea?* by Kobi Yamada**

This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens.

***Everywhere, Wonder* by Matthew Swanson**

Everywhere, Wonder explores the wonder in the world, while encouraging young minds to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, and creatively share their stories with others.

Knowledgeable: We ask questions and learn about many topics. We explore ideas and concepts.



***A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Aston**

Poetic in voice and elegant in design, the book introduces children to a fascinating array of seed and plant facts.

***The Librarian Who Measured the Earth* by Kathryn Lasky**

This colorfully illustrated biography of the Greek philosopher and scientist Eratosthenes, who compiled the first geography book and accurately measured the globe's circumference, is just right for budding mathematicians and scientists!

***Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard* by Annette LeBlanc Cate**

This conversational, humorous introduction to bird-watching encourages kids to get outdoors with a sketchbook and really look around. Quirky full-color illustrations portray dozens of birds chatting about their distinctive characteristics, including color, shape, plumage, and beak and foot types.

Open-Minded: We listen to the ideas of others. We respect other people's beliefs and cultures.



***Gregory Cool* by Caroline Binch**

When he goes to visit his grandparents and his cousin on the island of Tobago, Gregory misses home at first, but as he gets to know both the island ways and his relatives, Gregory begins to enjoy himself.

***When Pigasso Met Mootise* by Nina Laden**

Pigasso, a talented pig, and Mootisse, an artistic bull, live across the road from one another, but when conflicts arise they build fences that ultimately become modern art masterpieces. Includes biographies of real-life artists Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso

***The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Two girls of different backgrounds gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

***The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds**

This empowering tale emphasizes the artistic process, gently reminding the creative spirit in all of us that there is no wrong way to create.

***How My Parents Learned to Eat* by Ina R. Friedman**

This book is wonderfully thought-provoking in its portrayal of the subtle similarities and differences among cultures.

***Odd Velvet* by Mary Whitcomb**

Velvet is odd. Instead of dolls, Velvet brings a milkweed pod for show and tell. She likes to collect rocks. But as the school year unfolds, the things Velvet does and the things that Velvet says slowly begin to make sense. In the end, Velvet's classmates discover that being different is what makes Velvet so much fun.

***The Ugly Vegetables* by Grace Lin**

In this charming story about celebrating differences, a girl wishes for a garden of bright flowers instead of one full of bumpy, ugly, vegetables. The neighbors' gardens look so much prettier and so much more inviting to the young gardener. Nevertheless, her mother assures her that "these are better than flowers." Come harvest time, everyone agrees as those ugly vegetables become the tastiest, most aromatic soup they have ever known. The young gardener learns that regardless of appearances, everything has its own beauty and purpose.

Principled: We are honest and fair. We take charge of our body.



***Jamaica's Find* by Juanita Havill**

A little girl finds a stuffed dog in the park and decides to take it home.

***Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes**

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her to wait a while before showing her new purse, she does something for which she is very sorry later.

***Milo and the Magical Stones* by Marcus Pfister**

A mouse discovers an extraordinary stone that can bring delight or disaster to the world. Halfway through the book it splits into two sections, each offering a different ending.

***The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes**

Wanda Petronski is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't. The class feels terrible when she leaves school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again."

***The Empty Pot* by Demi**

Long ago in China, a boy named Ping loved flowers. The Emperor loved flowers, too. When it was time to choose an heir, he gave a flower seed to each child in the kingdom asking them to grow the best flower. Ping tends to his seed every day but nothing grows. Ping must go to the Emperor with nothing but an empty pot. Demi's exquisite art and beautifully simple text show how Ping's embarrassing failure is turned triumphant in this tale of honesty rewarded.

***A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts**

Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. So when Ruben sees a dollar bill fall out of someone's purse, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. But when he gets home, he discovers it's not one dollar or even five or ten—it's a *hundred*-dollar bill, more than enough for a new bike just like Sergio's! But what about the crossed-off groceries? And what about the woman who lost her money?

***The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade* by Justin Roberts**

Sally was the smallest girl in the smallest grade. But Sally notices everything—from the twenty-seven keys on the janitor's ring to the conflicts happening on the playground. One day, Sally has had enough and decides to make herself heard. When she takes a chance, she finds that one small girl can make a big difference.

***Words are Not for Hurting* by Elizabeth Verdick**

The older children get, the more words they know and can use—including hurtful words. This book teaches children that their words belong to them: They can think before they speak, then choose what to say and how to say it. It also explores positive ways to respond when others use unkind words.

***My Mouth is a Volcano* by Julia Cook**

All of Louis thoughts are very important to him. In fact, his thoughts are so important to him that when he has something to say, his words begin to wiggle, then his tongue pushes all of his important words up against his teeth and he erupts, or interrupts others. His mouth is a volcano! This book takes an empathetic approach to the habit of interrupting and teaches children a witty technique to capture their thoughts and words for expression at an appropriate time.

Reflective: We think about our actions and work. We find ways to improve our learning and behavior.



***When Sophie Gets Angry- Really, Really, Angry* by Molly Bang**

A young girl is upset and doesn't know how to manage her anger but takes the time to cool off and regain her composure.

***When I Was Little* by Jamie Lee Curtis**

This book is about a little girl's simple, childlike celebration of herself, as she looks back on her childhood from the lofty height of four and a half years.

***The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein**

Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable- she makes her first mistake in a very public way!

***Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell and Helen Oxenbury**

Farmer Duck isn't your average duck. This duck cooks and cleans, tends the fields, and cares for the other animals on the farm—all because the owner of the farm will not do these things himself. But when Farmer Duck finally collapses from exhaustion, the farmyard animals come to the rescue with a simple but heroic plan.

***What if Everybody Did That?* by Ellen Javernick**

If you drop just one soda can out the window, it's no big deal ... right? But what if everybody did that? What if everybody broke the rules ... and spoke during story time, didn't wash up, or splashed too much at the pool? Then the world would be a mess. But what if everybody obeyed the rules so that the world would become a better place? Using humorous illustrations rendered in mixed media, these questions are answered in a child-friendly way and show the consequences of thoughtless behavior.

***Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts**

All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.

***Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes**

Wemberly worried about spilling her juice, about shrinking in the bathtub, even about snakes in the radiator. She worried morning, noon, and night. "Worry, worry, worry," her family said. "Too much worry." And Wemberly worried about one thing most of all: her first day of school. But when she meets a fellow worrywart in her class, Wemberly realizes that school is too much fun to waste time worrying!

***The Way I Feel* by Janan Cain**

Feelings are neither good nor bad, they simply are. Kids need words to name their feelings, just as they need words to name all things in their world. The Way I Feel uses strong, colorful, and expressive images which go along with simple verses to help children connect the word and the emotion. Your child will learn useful words, and you will have many chances to open conversations about what's going on in her/his life.

Risk-Takers: We have confidence when trying new things. We challenge ourselves and stand up for what is right.



***Sheila Rae the Brave* by Kevin Henkes**

Sheila Rae is not afraid of anything. She walks backwards with her eyes closed, steps on every crack, and growls at stray dogs. But when Sheila Rae becomes lost on the way home from school, it is her “scaredy cat” sister, Louise, who shows her a thing or two about bravery and sibling love.

***My Brave Year of Firsts: Tries, Sighs, and High Fives* by Jamie Lee Curtis**

This book celebrates the extraordinary, everyday bravery of trying new things for the very first time. Whether Frankie's learning to ride a bike, love her first dog, or make new friends, she discovers that trying new things is how she grows—and that being brave enough to do so is what growing up is all about.

***Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle* by Chris Raschka**

This book not only shows kids how to learn to ride, but captures what it *feels* like to fall . . . get up . . . fall again . . . and finally ride a bicycle!

***I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato (Charlie and Lola)* by Lauren Child**

Lola is a fussy eater. She won't eat her carrots (until big brother Charlie reveals that they are really orange twiglets from Jupiter). There are many, many things Lola absolutely will not eat, including—and especially—tomatoes. Or will she?

***Ira Sleeps Over* by Bernard Waber**

Ira is thrilled to spend the night at Reggie's, until his sister raises the question of whether he should take his teddy bear.

***Roller Coaster* by Marla Frazee**

The roller coaster car is going up, up, up to the highest spot. And at least one of the people in the car has never ridden on a roller coaster before . . . ever.

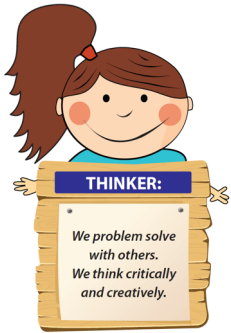
***The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson**

When a tiny snail meets a humpback whale, the two travel together to far-off lands. It's a dream come true for the snail, who has never left home before. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her new friend?

***A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni**

Elephants are gray. Pigs are pink. Only the chameleon has no color of his own. Then one day a chameleon has an idea to remain one color forever by staying on the greenest leaf he can find. But in the autumn, the leaf changes from green to yellow to red . . . and so does the chameleon. When another chameleon suggests they travel together, he learns that companionship is more important than having a color of his own.

Thinkers: We problem solve with others. We think critically and creatively.



Swimmy by Leo Lionni

Swimmy, a small black fish, finds a way to protect a school of small red fish from their natural enemies.

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Marla Frazee

When James and Eamon go to a week of Nature Camp and stay at Eamon's grandparents' house, it turns out that their free time spent staying inside, eating waffles, and playing video games is way more interesting than nature. But sometimes things work out best when they *don't* go exactly as planned.

What's Your Favorite Animal? by Eric Carle

Everybody has a favorite animal. Some like little white dogs or big black cats or hoppy brown bunnies best. Others prefer squishy snails or tall giraffes or sleek black panthers. With beautiful illustrations and charming personal stories, 14 children's book artists share their favorite animals and why they love them.

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback

Joseph had a little overcoat, but it was full of holes! When Joseph's coat got too old and shabby, he made it into a jacket. But what did he make it into after that? As children turn the pages, they will guess what Joseph will be making next from his amazing overcoat!

Best Friends for Frances by Russell Hoban

Frances doesn't think her little sister, Gloria, can be her friend. But when Frances's friend Albert has a no-girls baseball game, Frances shows him a thing or two about friendship—and a thing or two about what girls can do. Along the way, Frances discovers that sisters can indeed be friends . . . maybe even best friends.

Emily's Art by Peter Catalanotto

"What a gorgeous painting," exclaimed the judge of Ms. Fair's first-grade art contest. "What a beautiful rabbit!" For Emily, the words are a shock. Her painting is of her dog, Thor. Not a rabbit. But instead of thinking: What's wrong with this judge? Emily takes the words, and the judgment, to heart. Just as she takes her art. Not everyone, not Ms. Fair, or even Emily's best friend, Kelly, can see that. *At first.*

What Do You Do With a Problem? by Kobi Yamada

This is the story of a persistent problem and the child who isn't so sure what to make of it. The longer the problem is avoided, the bigger it seems to get. But when the child finally musters up the courage to face it, the problem turns out to be something quite different than it appeared.

Going Places by Peter and Paul Reynolds

It's time for this year's Going Places contest! Finally. Time to build a go-cart, race it—and win. Each kid grabs an identical kit, and scrambles to build. Everyone but Maya. She sure doesn't seem to be in a hurry...and that sure doesn't look like anybody else's go-cart! But who said it *had* to be a go-cart? And who said there's only one way to cross the finish line? This sublime celebration of creative spirit and thinking outside the box—both figuratively and literally—is ideal for early learners.