

Children's Books on the theme of Perseverance Available at the Wallingford Public Library

Picture Books

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman

Grace wants to play Peter Pan in the school play but is told by a classmate that she can't. Grace sets her mind to the task anyway.

Apple Batter by Debora Turney Zagwyn

Delmore's mom spends years trying to grow apples and Delmore spends his time trying to learn to hit a baseball. Frustration and persistence eventually lead to success.

The Art Lesson by Tomie DePaola

An artistic boy follows his own rules to become the artist he was meant to be.

The Bat Boy and his Violin by Gavin Curtis

Although his father wants him to play sports Reginald prefers the violin.

Best Beekeeper of Lalibela by Christina Kessler

Although she is afraid to climb a tree and all the village beekeepers tell her she cannot be a beekeeper, Almaz proves them wrong.

Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells

Max simply must get red-hot marshmallow squirters for his grandmother's birthday cake – but how?

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Despite everyone's negative attitude a little boy keeps working on his garden.

Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

A group of cold cows keep trying to convince the farmer to meet their needs.

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

A little girl who believes she cannot draw is challenged by her teacher to begin.

Gumption by Elise Broach

Uncle Nigel, who hopes to spot a rare gorilla, takes Peter on an African journey telling him he'll need gumption to make it through.

The Hallelujah Flight by Phil Bildner

James Banning must overcome the Great Depression, prejudice and jeers in order to be the first black pilot to make a transcontinental flight.

Hook by Ed Young

An abandoned eagle egg is hatched by a hen. With the help of a young boy, and much effort, he finally flies.

Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss

Horton agrees to sit on an egg while its lazy mother bird takes a very long vacation. Horton is left to sit through some very trying times.

Ice by Arthur Geisert

A wordless picture book showing what a group of persevering pigs can accomplish!

Koala Lou by Mem Fox

A little koala works extremely hard to succeed in the Bush Olympics so she can impress her mother.

Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

The classic tale of the little engine that succeeds when he thinks he can.

Little by Little by Amber Stewart

When an otter can't swim his older sister suggests he start small.. so he can finish big.

Mirette on the High Wire by Emily Arnold McCully

A young girl meets the great Bellini, master of the high wire, and decides she must follow his lead.

Mouse Practice by Emily Arnold McCully

A young mouse named Monk learns that practice can make perfect.

My Shoelaces are Hard to Tie by Karla Roberson

A young girl learns the value of continued practice in this beginning reader.

Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream, by Roslyn Jordan

Because Michael Jordan is smaller than the others he needs to prove that size doesn't matter as much as hard work.

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

The heart-warming story of a young girl who struggles mightily to read for years before she meets the one teacher who helps her succeed.

Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree King Mitchell

Sarah Jean's uncle Jed dreams of owning his own barbershop. He works his entire life facing many setbacks before he makes his dream come true.

Where the Big Fish Are by Jonathan London

Tired of fishing for minnows off the end of a dock, two boys plan to build a raft and head out where the big fish are...

Chapter Books

Almost Home by Joan Bauer

Sugar Mae Cole gets hit hard by life - but she is determined to keep her beloved rescue dog at all costs.

Being Teddy Roosevelt by Claudia Mills

What would Teddy do if he wanted something very badly and couldn't afford to buy it? Riley O'Rourke is inspired after reading and studying about Teddy Roosevelt.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother find themselves in labor camps during the Great Depression after a life of wealth and privilege in Mexico.

Floors by Patrick Carman

Leo, the son of the maintenance man in an amazingly unique hotel, must solve the puzzle of what has happened to its eccentric owner.

Frindle by Andrew Clements

One boy determined to create a new word and how it affects a school and community.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Most survival stories are about perseverance in the face of great odds and this is one of the best.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Roy is new to Florida and having a hard time fitting in until he becomes fascinated with the "running boy" and saving owls.

Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, Marlee learns how hard it is to have an interracial friendship.

Plunked by Michael Northrop

Sixth-grader Jack Mogen has a shot at being a starter on the Little League team until he is hit by a stray pitch.

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner

Determined to help keep his grandfather from losing their farm he enters a dogsled race, with his dog Searchlight, hoping to win the prize money and pay the back taxes.

Swimming with Sharks by Betty Hicks

Rita's friends are on the Sharks team but she isn't fast enough to join them.

Tale of Desperaux by Kate DiCamillo

The story of Desperaux Tilling, a very small mouse, who dares to be different.

Non-fiction

Annie and Helen by Deborah Hopkinson

This is an introduction to Helen Keller who was both blind and deaf, and Annie Sullivan the woman who taught her to communicate with the world.

Black Whiteness by Robert Burleigh

Admiral Byrd, the great explorer, spent six months alone in the Antarctic cold and darkness while carrying on his scientific work.

Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition by Elizabeth Cody Kimmell

The unbelievable – but TRUE- story of Ernest Shackleton and his crew who were caught in their wooden boat in the ice pack surrounding Antarctica in 1914.

Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman

The story of General George Washington and his troops during the tough winter at Valley Forge.

When Marian Sang: the True Recital of Marian Anderson: the voice of a century by Pam Munoz Ryan

Marian Anderson was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera. This is the story of that performance and an introduction to her life.

Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull

How Wilma Rudolph became the world's fastest woman.

Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again by Juliana Hatkoff

After being injured in a crab trap and eventually losing its tail a dolphin learns how to swim with a prosthetic tail.

A Wizard from the Start: the Incredible Boyhood & Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison by Don Brown

Thomas Edison met with one challenge after another and became one of our greatest inventors.