

Books to Foster a Growth Mindset in Students



The following books can encourage the development of a growth mindset in students. As with other resources, this is but the start of an evolving list. Add to it as you learn of more.

For K–5 students, teachers might want to read books from the grades K–5 book list aloud, followed by a learning task or academic discussion focused on the aspects of the book that promoted and showcased a growth mindset.

For grades 6–12, some K–5 books will still be appropriate for the students in grades 6–8; please research the books and use your judgment. For students in grades 6–8, books on the grades 6–12 list will offer valuable growth mindset learning opportunities. While students at this age level might be able to manage reading these books on their own or in groups, the teacher will likely need to scaffold their learning and use formative assessments as needed to check for understanding.

At the high school level, students can do book studies around any of the books on the grades 6–12 list. Or teachers can select certain chapters for an academic discussion or learning task to emphasize a specific aspect of the growth mindset.

Teachers are encouraged to include these books in their classroom libraries, and librarians are encouraged to include them in the library. Teachers should aim to provide students with opportunities to do silent readings of books that match their reading level.

Growth Mindset Books for Grades K–5

A Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

After the Fall by Dan Santat

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

The Book of Mistakes by Corinna Luyken

Brave Irene by William Steig

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle and Rafael Lopez

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson

Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle by Chris Raschka

Flight School by Lita Judge

The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett

Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin by Chieri Uegaki

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers

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I Can't Do That, YET by Esther Pia Cordova

Ish by Peter H. Reynolds

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Making a Splash: A Growth Mindset Children's Book by Carol E. Reiley

The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

My Strong Mind by Niels Van Hove

Nadia, the Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still by Karlin Gray

The OK Book by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty

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

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant

Thanks for the Feedback, I Think by Julia Cook

What Do You Do with an Idea? by Kobi Yamada

What Do you Do with a Chance? by Kobi Yamada

What Do You Do with a Problem? by Kobi Yamada

When Sophie Thinks She Can't . . . by Molly Bang

Your Fantastic Elastic Brain: Stretch It, Shape It by JoAnn Deak, Ph.D.

Growth Mindset Books for Grades 6–12

Big Life Journal for Tweens/Teens (ages 11+) available at biglifejournal.com

Drive by Daniel Pink

Grit (7 Character Strengths of Highly Successful Students) by Ramona Siddoway

The Grit Guide for Teens: A Workbook to Help You Build Perseverance, Self-Control, and a Growth Mindset by Caren Baruch-Feldman, Ph.D.

Growth Mindset Journal for Tweens and Teens by Iona Young

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth