

Books about Perseverance

Picture Books

Barber, Tiki. Teammates

A story of teamwork and perseverance based on the childhood of National Football League stars and twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber.

Bowen, Fred. No Easy Way: the Story of Ted Williams and the Last .400 Season

Ted Williams hit .406 for the season in 1941-- a feat not matched since. In this inspirational picture book, authentic sports writing and rich, classic illustrations bring to life the truly spectacular story of the Red Sox legend, whose hard work and perseverance make him the perfect role model for baseball enthusiasts of all ages.

Broach, Elise. Gumption

When Peter goes on an African adventure with his beloved Uncle Nigel, who hopes to spot a rare gorilla, the oblivious Nigel urges Peter on by telling him to have gumption, while Peter keeps his eyes open and uses his ingenuity.

Lee, Spike. Giant Steps to Change the World

Pursuing one's own path in life takes courage, strength, and perseverance, as demonstrated by such inspirational leaders as Barack Obama, Albert Einstein, and Muhammad Ali.

Young, Ed. Hook

A chick hatched by hens turns out to be an eaglet who must get help from a boy in learning how to fly.

Ward, Helen. The Hare and the Tortoise : a fable from Aesop

Retells the events of the famous race between the boastful hare and the persevering tortoise.

Early Readers

McDonald, Megan. Changes for Julie

Julie is in school detention for passing a note to Joy, a deaf student who has trouble understanding what their teacher is saying. Indignant, Julie decides to run for student body president so she can make changes to the detention system.

Mills, Claudia. Being Teddy Roosevelt

When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, fourth-grader Riley finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's tenacity and perseverance and resolves to find a way to get what he most wants--a saxophone and music lessons.

Wadsworth, Ginger. Survival in the snow

Tells the courageous story of Moses Schallenberger, a 17-year-old pioneer who traveled by wagon train from Iowa to California and suffered starvation and exposure during the winter of 1844.

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Chapter Books for Older readers

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever*, 1793

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Cattani, Dana and Haight, Angela. *A.P. Giannini: the Man With the Midas Touch*

At six, he witnessed his father's murder. At 12, he regularly sneaked out to the waterfront at midnight. At 15, he quit school. At 30, he retired, a self-made man. Then the real work of his life began. In 1904, A. P. Giannini (1870-1949) founded Bank of Italy, the predecessor of today's Bank of America, to serve his ethnic neighborhood in San Francisco. Against a backdrop of earthquake and fire, anti-immigrant fervor, war, and the Great Depression, he broke every rule and tradition on his way to a showdown with Wall Street.

Davidson, Margaret. *Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind*
The life story of the 19th-century Frenchman who invented an alphabet enabling the blind to read.

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Porter, Tacey. *Billy Creekmore*

In 1905, ten-year-old Billy is taken from an orphanage to live with an aunt and an uncle of whose existence he was previously unaware. He enjoys his first taste of family life until his work in a coal mine and his involvement with a union bring trouble. He then joins a circus in hopes of finding his father.

Rinaldi, Ann. *Juliet's Moon*

In Missouri in 1863, twelve-year-old Juliet Bradshaw learns to rely on herself and her brother, a captain with Quantrill's Raiders, as she sees her family home burned, is imprisoned by Yankees, and then kidnapped by a blood-crazed Confederate soldier.

Sperry, Armstrong. *Call It Courage*

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Yolen, Jane. *Wizard's Hall*

A young apprentice wizard saves the wizard's training hall by trusting and believing in himself.