

Chapter 4—Family Reading Resource Guide

Chapter 4: Persistence: Hang in There

Below is a list of readings that support this chapter's topic. Each title contains a link to a dedicated webpage where the item can be purchased or downloaded (if available). Click on the blue text at the end of the title to activate the link. If the link provided is not longer valid, you can search for the title using the ISBN provided with each title.

Elementary

Flight School. Author: Lita Judge. A persevering penguin is determined to fly in this adorably inspiring picture book from the creator of *Red Hat* and *Red Sled*. ISBN: 978-1442481770. [Available at Amazon.](#)

The Most Magnificent Thing. Author: Ashley Spires. For the early grades' exploration of character education, this funny book offers a perfect example of the rewards of perseverance and creativity. ISBN: 978-1554537044. [Available at Amazon.](#)

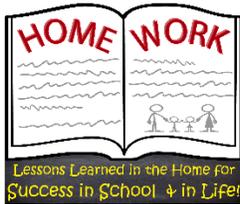
Amazing Grace. Author: Mary Hoffman. With the support of her family, Grace learns that she can be anything she wants to be, and the results are amazing! Remarkable watercolor illustrations give full expression to Grace's high-flying imagination. ISBN: 978-0395810873. [Available at Amazon.](#)

Pre-teen/Teen

Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod. Author: Gary Paulsen. Author Gary Paulsen and his team of dogs personify persistence by enduring snowstorms, frostbite, dogfights, moose attacks, sleeplessness, and hallucinations in their relentless push to go on. ISBN: 978-0156001458. [Available at Amazon.](#)

Letters from Rifka. Author: Karen Hesse. Told in the form of "letters" written by Rifka in the margins of a volume of Pushkin's verse and addressed to a Russian relative, Hesse's vivacious tale colorfully and convincingly refreshes the immigrant experience. Ages 9-12. ISBN: 978-0312535612. [Available at Amazon.](#)

The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth. Author: Kathleen Krull. Plowing a potato field in 1920, a 14-year-old farm boy from Idaho saw in the parallel rows of overturned earth a way to "make pictures fly through the air." This fascinating picture-book biography of Philo Farnsworth covers his early interest in machines and electricity, leading up to how he put it all together in one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century. ISBN: 978-0385755573. [Available at Amazon.](#)



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Black Whiteness: Admiral Byrd Alone in the Antarctic. Author: Robert Burleigh. This riveting account of Admiral Byrd's winter by himself in Antarctica was named an Orbis Pictus Honor Book and includes dramatic, full-color illustrations capture the courage of Byrd's amazing ordeal. **ISBN: 978-1442453340.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Additional Titles to Explore

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah. Author: Laurie Thompson. This picture book biography tells the true story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah, who bicycled across Ghana, nearly 400 miles, with only one leg. His perseverance and achievement changed how his country viewed people with disabilities, and he shows us all that one person really can change the world. **ISBN: 978-0449817445.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

A Chair for My Mother. Author: Vera B. Williams. After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save their coins to buy a comfortable chair for all to enjoy. A picture book "expressing the joyful spirit of a loving family." **ISBN: 978-0688040741.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

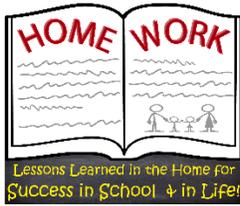
Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream. Authors: Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan. Deloris Jordan, mother of the basketball phenomenon Michael Jordan, teams up with his sister Roslyn to tell this heartwarming and inspirational story of Michael's perseverance and success. It's a tale about faith, hope and how any family working together can help a child make his/her dreams come true. **ISBN: 978-0689834196.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

The Curious Garden. Author: Peter Brown. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book. **ISBN: 978-0316015479.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Wilma Unlimited. Author: Kathleen Krull. This dramatic and inspiring true story of the first American woman to win three Olympic gold metals is illustrated in bold watercolor and acrylic paintings by Caldecott Medal-winning artist David Diaz. **ISBN: 978-0152020989.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Rosie Revere, Engineer. Author: Andrea Beaty. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal, to fly, Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. Aunt Rose insists that Rosie's contraption was a raging success. You can only truly fail, she explains, if you quit. **ISBN: 978-1419708459.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Oh, the Places You'll Go! Author: Dr. Seuss. From the award-winning and creative Dr. Seuss comes this milestone recognition book for young kindergarten graduates. Seuss' message is simple but never sappy: life may be a 'Great Balancing Act,' but through it all 'There's fun to be done.'" **ISBN: 978-0375972959.** [Available at Amazon.](#)



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Horton Hears a Who! Author: Dr. Seuss. In *Horton Hears a Who!* readers discover that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.” Thanks to the irrepressible rhymes and eye-catching illustrations, young readers will learn kindness and perseverance from the very determined, very endearing, Horton the elephant. **ISBN: 978-0394800783.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Growing Up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made It from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Miami Leagues. Author: Matt Tavares. Matt Tavares tells the story of how Pedro Martínez’s dream of becoming a major-league player came true. In a fitting homage to a modern-day baseball star, the acclaimed author-illustrator examines both Pedro Martínez’s improbable rise to the top of his game and the power that comes from the deep bond between brothers. **ISBN: 978-0763693114.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad. Author: Ellen Levine. A stirring, dramatic story of a slave who mails himself to freedom. **ISBN: 978-0545105606.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

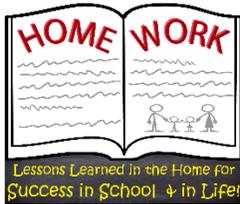
Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom. Author: Carole Eaton Weatherford. In this picture book, Weatherford depicts Harriet Tubman’s initial escape from slavery and her mission to lead others to freedom as divinely inspired, and achieved by steadfast faith and prayer. The author frames the text as an ongoing dialogue between Tubman and God, inserting narration to move the action along. On the eve of her being sold and torn from her family, Tubman prays in her despair. In response, “God speaks in a whip-poor-will’s song. ‘I set the North Star in the heavens and I mean for you to be free.’ ” The twinkling star encourages Tubman, and makes this read like a dramatic play. Tubman became known as the Moses of her people. A foreword introduces the concept of slavery for children and an author’s note includes a brief biography of Tubman. Ages 5-8. **ISBN: 978-0786851751.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like the Firebird. Author: Misty Copeland. In this delightful picture book, Misty Copeland tells the story of a young girl, an every girl, whose confidence is fragile, and who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Misty has reached. Misty encourages this young girl’s faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can become a Firebird. **ISBN: 9780399166150.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

The Language of Angels: A Story About the Reinvention of Hebrew. Author: Richard Michelson, and Karla Gudeon (illustration). In 1885, Hebrew was in danger of being lost until Ben Zion and his father got involved. Through the help of his father and a community of children, Ben modernized the ancient language. Historically influenced dialogue, engaging characters, and colorful art offer a linguistic journey about how language develops and how one person’s perseverance can make a real difference. **ISBN: 978-1580896368.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Swamped! Author: Ingrid Sawubona. Hershel has decided to leave the muggy, dark swamp for good, and he sets sail for a little place in the sun. The journey is long and the road is very perilous indeed, but Hershel’s determination and perseverance make his life better. **ISBN: 978-0998748306.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

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Gigantic Little Hero: A Story About Perseverance. Author: Matt Whitlock. In this cute story, an ant who lacks confidence seeks the aid of a spider and a grasshopper, who suddenly leave him in a lurch. With the help of his friends, however, the ant discovers a special secret about himself. **ISBN: 978-0781435178.**

[Available at Amazon.](#)

The Principles of Our World – Perseverance: A collection of stories about how the Principles of Perseverance can help us. Author: David Anthony Esposito. In a series of real-life stories, readers will be introduced to the principle of perseverance. The stories are meant to remind all of us about the importance of perseverance in our lives. This is part of a series of books that provide parents and teachers with the opportunity to read to young children (ages 4+) and talk about a variety of situations they will experience in life. **ISBN: 978-0692280362.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

Dory Fantasmagory: Dory Dory Black Sheep. Author: Abby Hanlon. In her third book, Dory takes reluctant reading to new heights with a story that is as one-of-a-kind and hilarious as she is. **ISBN: 978-1101994276.** [Available at Amazon.](#)

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark. Author: Debbie Levy. Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is celebrated in the first picture book about her life. She proves that disagreeing does not make you disagreeable. **ISBN: 978-1481465595.** [Available at Amazon.](#)