
Grace loves to act out stories. She eventually overcomes restrictions of gender and race to play the part of her dreams, Peter Pan, in the school play.


Anna Banana is a fearless young girl. When she plays with a timid boy, he eventually becomes as brave as his friend.


Tommy loves to draw but feels constrained in art class. A new teacher finally strikes a compromise to allow for Tommy’s creativity.


Tony doesn’t want to become a chef like his father. Instead, he wants to dance.


Gregory does not have anywhere to grow a garden, so he creates one of his own.


An innovative young girl finds a number of uses for a large box.


When Ira is invited to sleep over at Reggie’s house, he must decide whether to take his beloved teddy bear. In the end, he learns that it is acceptable for boys to have teddy bears.


Granny, who was a star quarterback in her youth, leaps into her television to assist her favorite team with the winning touchdown.


When the Model T arrives, Mama proves that she, like the men, can drive.


Janine takes swimming lessons and becomes determined to swim the length of the pool. With practice and attention to her body’s strength, she finally does.

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This list is from their “Come and Listen to a Story about a Girl Named Rex: Using Children’s Literature to Debunk Gender Stereotypes,” in the March issue of Young Children.

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Mirette learns to walk the tight rope, taught by Monsieur Bellini, who himself has withdrawn from the performance due to fear.


This story is based on the childhood of Booker T. Washington, a boy who wants more than anything else to learn how to read.

Eventually the men and women join to make a quilt together.


This classic about the value of peace presents Ferdinand, a young bull who prefers smelling flowers to butting heads.


Tonio is new in town and wants to make friends. At the risk of making himself an outcast, he defends Toughy, a stray cat, against the other kids.


Boris is tough, but in the end when his parrot companion dies, he—like all pirates—cries.


Sophie gets angry and deals with her strong feelings by climbing trees.


Jim worries about the first day of school until he connects with another boy.


A child excitedly watches Dad ride the rodeo bull and wants to grow up to be a bull rider like him. The twist is that she’s a girl.

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