




25- 26 JRE Monthly Character Traits

Month	General Trait	Learning Target in the classroom
August	Community Engagement and Teamwork	<p>Teamwork means working together and helping each other to reach a goal, and community engagement means getting involved to make your neighborhood or school a better place for everyone.</p> <p>Teamwork Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working together on a group project in class, like building a model or making a poster. 2. Taking turns during games or activities in gym or recess. 3. Helping a classmate who is struggling with reading or math. 4. Cleaning up the classroom together at the end of the day. 5. Listening to others' ideas during group discussions and sharing their own kindly. <p>Community Engagement Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participating in a school-wide cleanup to keep the playground or garden tidy. 2. Making cards or drawings for local hospital patients, firefighters, or senior homes. 3. Donating books, clothes, or toys for school charity drives. 4. Helping welcome a new student to school or showing them around. 5. Volunteering for classroom jobs like line leader, plant waterer, or lunch helper to care for their school environment. <p> Books about Teamwork & Community Engagement</p> <p>Teamwork</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Swimmy" by Leo Lionni <i>A little fish teaches others how to work together to stay safe.</i> 2. "The Little Red Hen" (various versions) <i>Classic tale about helping out and the consequences of not doing your part.</i> 3. "Stone Soup" by Jon J. Muth (or other versions) <i>Strangers convince villagers to share and create something wonderful together.</i> 4. "Teamwork Isn't My Thing, and I Don't Like to Share!" by Julia Cook <i>Funny, relatable book about learning to work with others.</i> 5. "Duck in the Truck" by Jez Alborough <i>A fun story about needing help and working together.</i> <p>Community Engagement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Last Stop on Market Street" by Matt de la Peña <i>A boy learns about kindness, gratitude, and helping others.</i> 2. "What If Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick

		<p><i>Shows how small actions can help or hurt a community.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. "Come With Me" by Holly M. McGhee <i>A gentle story about standing up for kindness and peace in the world.</i> 4. "Maybe Something Beautiful" by F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell <i>Based on a true story of how art transformed a community.</i> 5. "I Can Help" by David Hyde Costello <i>A simple story about how even young children can help others.</i> <hr/> <p> Videos to Teach Teamwork & Community Engagement</p> <p>Teamwork</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sesame Street: "Teamwork Song" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube Link ○ Fun song with characters working together. 2. "The Power of Teamwork" Pixar's <i>For the Birds</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube Link ○ A short, silent animated film that opens discussion on cooperation. 3. PBS Kids – Arthur: "Teamwork" Clip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PBS Kids Video Library ○ Great for modeling conflict resolution and collaboration. <p>Community Engagement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kid President: "How to Change the World" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube Link ○ Funny, inspiring message about kindness and helping others. 2. Sesame Street: "Respecting Our Neighborhood" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube Link ○ Talks about caring for shared spaces and community. 3. Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood: "Neighborhood Jobs" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PBS Kids Video Library ○ Helps younger children understand community roles and helping out.
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<p>September</p>	<p>Civic Responsibility</p>	<p>Civic responsibility means helping your community and doing your part to make the world a better place. It's about being a good neighbor, following rules, and working together to solve problems.</p> <hr/> <p> Examples of Civic Responsibility (for Kids)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following rules at school and in your neighborhood
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- **Picking up trash** and keeping your environment clean
- **Helping others** — like being kind to classmates or helping a neighbor
- **Voting** (when you're older) or learning how voting works
- **Speaking up** when something is unfair (respectfully)
- **Joining in community projects** like food drives or park clean-ups
- **Respecting others' rights** and differences




Books to Teach Civic Responsibility



1. **"What If Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick**
– Shows the impact of everyone's actions on a community. Great for teaching responsibility and consequences.
2. **"I Am a Good Citizen" by Mary Small**
– Explains what it means to be a good citizen with simple language and illustrations.
3. **"Civic Responsibility" by Kristin Thoennes Keller**
– A nonfiction book that explains concepts like voting, laws, and volunteering in kid-friendly terms.
4. **"Grace for President" by Kelly DiPucchio**
– A fun and empowering book that introduces voting and leadership through a school election.
5. **"If I Ran for President" by Catherine Stier**
– Helps kids understand the electoral process and the responsibilities that come with leadership.



Videos and Online Resources

1. **BrainPOP Jr. – "Citizenship"**
<https://jr.brainpop.com/socialstudies/citizenship/citizenship/>
(Requires subscription)
 - Engaging and animated explanation of being a good citizen.
2. **PBS LearningMedia – "Civic Responsibility"**
<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/> (Search "Civic Responsibility")
 - Offers videos, lesson plans, and activities for various grade

		<p>levels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sesame Street – “Good Citizenship” moments https://www.sesamestreet.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, relatable clips about helping others and being responsible. Kid President – “How To Change The World” YouTube Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funny and inspiring video to get kids thinking about their role in the world.
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<p>October</p>	<p>Integrity</p>	<p>Integrity means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. It’s about being honest, keeping your promises, and doing what you say you’ll do—even when it’s hard.</p> <hr/> <p> What Integrity Looks Like for Students</p> <p>Here are examples of integrity in action at school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling the truth, even if you might get in trouble. Not cheating on a test, even if others are. Returning something that doesn’t belong to you. Admitting a mistake instead of blaming someone else. Standing up for what’s right, even when it’s not popular. Doing your own work and not copying from a friend. <hr/> <p> Books That Teach Integrity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "A Bike Like Sergio’s" by Maribeth Boelts "Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie" by Laura Rankin "What If Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick "The Empty Pot" by Demi "Say Something" by Peter H. Reynolds <hr/> <p> Videos That Show Integrity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sesame Street – "Integrity" with Zoe and Cookie Monster
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		<p>2. Kid President – How to Be a Person</p> <p>3. Character Education: Integrity (Boys Town Press)</p>
<p>November</p>	<p>Collaboration</p>	<p>Collaboration means working together with others to reach a common goal. It's about listening, sharing ideas, helping each other, and respecting everyone's contributions.</p> <hr/> <p> Examples of Collaboration at School</p> <p>Here are some ways students can show collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with classmates to complete a science experiment or group project. ○ Taking turns when using supplies or sharing materials. ○ Listening to everyone's ideas during group discussions. ● On the playground: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including others in games and making sure everyone has a role. ○ Solving disagreements by talking and finding a solution together. ● In art or music class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a group mural, song, or performance where everyone adds something special. ● During school events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helping decorate for assemblies or supporting classmates in a class play. <hr/> <p> Book Suggestions About Collaboration</p> <p>Here are some picture books and early chapter books that show teamwork and collaboration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Swimmy” by Leo Lionni — A little fish teaches others to work together to stay safe. 2. “Duck! Rabbit!” by Amy Krouse Rosenthal — Shows how two characters see things differently and learn to cooperate. 3. “Stone Soup” (various versions) — Villagers collaborate to make something wonderful by sharing what they have. 4. “The Crayon Box That Talked” by Shane DeRolf — Teaches how everyone's differences make the world more colorful. 5. “Teamwork Isn't My Thing, and I Don't Like to Share!” by Julia

		<p>Cook — Great for discussions about group work.</p> <p>6. “What If Everybody Did That?” by Ellen Javernick — Encourages thinking about how actions affect the group.</p> <hr/> <p> Video Suggestions</p> <p>Here are short, engaging videos about collaboration for kids:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Sesame Street: Teamwork Song” – Elmo and friends show how working together helps everyone. 2. PBS Kids: “Arthur – Team Trouble” – Arthur and his friends learn the importance of listening and cooperating. 3. “Peep and the Big Wide World: The Big Duck Parade” – A fun cartoon showing teamwork to solve problems. 4. ClassDojo’s “Teamwork” Growth Mindset Video Series – Short animated stories about working together and perseverance. 5. “The Power of Teamwork” by Pixar Shorts (e.g., <i>For the Birds</i>) – A funny example that opens discussion about what <i>not</i> to do when working together.
<p>December</p>	<p>Teamwork</p>	<p>Teamwork means working together with other people to reach a shared goal. It involves communicating, listening, helping each other, and using everyone’s strengths so the group succeeds.</p> <hr/> <p> Examples of Teamwork at School</p> <p>In the Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group projects: Everyone takes a different job, like researching, writing, or designing slides. ● Partner work: Students helping each other solve math problems or check each other’s writing. ● Class discussions: Listening respectfully and building on classmates’ ideas. <p>Around the School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning up the classroom together so it’s done faster. ● Working in teams during PE (relay races, team sports). ● Helping a new student learn routines or find their way. ● School events like talent shows or science fairs where students plan and set up as a team. <p>Social/Behavioral Teamwork</p>

- Including others in games at recess.
- Sharing materials and taking turns.
- Encouraging classmates when they feel stuck or nervous.



Books That Teach About Teamwork

Here are student-friendly books often used in classrooms to show teamwork:

1. **“Swimmy” by Leo Lionni** – A tiny fish works with others to stay safe.
2. **“The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza” by Philemon Sturges** – Shows why helping and teamwork matter.
3. **“Stone Soup” by Jon J. Muth** – Villagers work together to create something great.
4. **“Duck! Rabbit!” by Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld** – Demonstrates perspective-taking and cooperation.
5. **“The Invisible Boy” by Trudy Ludwig** – Highlights inclusion, kindness, and working together.



Videos That Teach About Teamwork

These are well-known, classroom-safe examples that highlight teamwork:

Short Videos / Clips

- **Sesame Street teamwork segments** (various skits showing cooperation).
- **Arthur – “Teamwork” episodes** (PBS Kids).
- **Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood** – Episodes about helping others and working together.
- **Pixar Short: “For the Birds”** – Great discussion starter about group behavior.
- **“The Power of Teamwork”** (a popular animated motivational short used in schools).

Movies with Strong Teamwork Themes

- **“Finding Nemo”** – Characters work together to solve problems.
- **“The Incredibles”** – A family learning to rely on each other.
- **“Remember the Titans”** – About teamwork and overcoming differences (better for older students).

January

Grit & Resilience

Grit means not giving up, even when something is hard.
It’s sticking with a goal, practicing again and again, and trying your

best—even when you feel frustrated.

Resilience means **bouncing back after something goes wrong**. It's staying positive, learning from mistakes, and trying again instead of quitting.



What Grit & Resilience Look Like at School

Grit Examples

- **Practicing a math skill** over and over until it finally makes sense.
- **Revising your writing** even when you'd rather be done.
- **Studying for a science test** even if the first quiz didn't go well.
- **Learning a new instrument** and practicing daily.

Resilience Examples

- **Getting a low grade**, then asking for help and improving next time.
 - **Losing in a game** but congratulating others and trying again.
 - **Making a mistake** during a presentation but continuing confidently.
 - **Having a disagreement** with a friend and working it out calmly.
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Books That Teach Grit & Resilience

Picture Books

- **“The Most Magnificent Thing” by Ashley Spires** – A girl keeps trying even when frustrated.
- **“Jabari Jumps” by Gaia Cornwall** – A boy faces fear and keeps trying.
- **“After the Fall” by Dan Santat** – Humpty Dumpty learns to overcome fear.
- **“Emmanuel’s Dream” by Laurie Ann Thompson** – True story of a boy who never gives up.
- **“Salt in His Shoes” by Deloris & Roslyn Jordan** – Michael Jordan’s journey of practice and perseverance.

Chapter Books / Middle Grades

- **“Wonder” by R.J. Palacio** – Courage, kindness, and emotional resilience.

- **“Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen** – A story of physical and mental resilience.
- **“Because of Winn-Dixie” by Kate DiCamillo** – Coping with challenges and change.



Videos That Teach Grit & Resilience

Short Videos / Classroom Clips

- **“The Power of Yet” – Sesame Street with Janelle Monáe**
Teaches that not knowing something *yet* is part of learning.
- **“Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance” – Angela Duckworth (TED-Ed or TED Talk versions)**
Explains grit in a kid-friendly way.
- **“Growth Mindset” Animations (ClassDojo series)**
Shows students how to handle mistakes and keep practicing.

Movies With Strong Themes of Grit & Resilience

- **“Finding Nemo”** – Characters keep going despite obstacles.
- **“Moana”** – Perseverance and problem-solving.
- **“Akeelah and the Bee”** – Hard work, practice, and overcoming doubt.
- **“Soul Surfer”** – Real story of resilience after a major setback (best for upper grades).

February

Effective Communication

Effective communication means **sharing your ideas clearly and listening carefully to others.**

It’s using respectful words, body language, and tone so people understand you—and you understand them.



What Effective Communication Looks Like at School

Speaking

- **Explaining your ideas** clearly during group work.
- **Asking questions** when you don’t understand.
- **Telling a teacher how you feel** or what you need.
- **Using a calm voice** to solve disagreements with friends.

Listening

- **Looking at the speaker** and staying focused.
- **Not interrupting** while others talk.
- **Repeating back important information** (“So you want me to draw the map, right?”).

Nonverbal Communication

- **Nodding** to show you understand.
- **Smiling** to show friendliness.
- **Using polite gestures** (thumbs-up, hand-raising).
- **Keeping personal space** and being aware of your body language.

During Group Work

- Everyone gets a chance to talk.
- Students encourage each other’s ideas.
- The group solves problems using respectful language.



Books That Teach Effective Communication

Picture Books

- **“My Mouth Is a Volcano!”** by **Julia Cook** – Teaches kids to listen without interrupting.
- **“Howard B. Wigglebottom Listens to His Heart”** by **Howard Binkow** – Listening and understanding others.
- **“I Don’t Want to Be a Frog”** by **Dev Petty** – Shows humorous dialogue and understanding different perspectives.
- **“The Rabbit Listened”** by **Cori Doerrfeld** – Demonstrates the power of listening and empathy.
- **“Words Are Not for Hurting”** by **Elizabeth Verdick** – Helps children understand kind and respectful communication.


Upper-Elementary Books

- **“Wonder”** by **R.J. Palacio** – Shows empathy, kindness, and clear communication.
- **“That’s What Friends Do”** by **Cathleen Barnhart** – Understanding boundaries and speaking up.



Videos That Teach Effective

		<p>Communication</p> <p>Short Educational Clips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sesame Street: “Listening and Following Directions” – Teaches active listening. ● ClassDojo “Empathy” or “Mindset” episodes – Helps with understanding and responding to others. ● Kid President videos – Simple, positive messages about speaking kindly and clearly. ● “How to Listen” by Cosmic Kids Zen Den – Teaches mindful listening. <p>Movies with Strong Communication Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Inside Out” – Shows emotional communication and understanding feelings. ● “Zootopia” – Highlights listening, cooperation, and understanding differences. ● “Akeelah and the Bee” – Shows communication, coaching, and asking for help.
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<p>March</p>	<p>Citizenship</p>	<p>Citizenship means being a responsible and caring member of your school, community, and country. It’s about following rules, helping others, respecting people, and working to make your community a better place.</p> <hr/> <p> What Citizenship Looks Like at School</p> <p>Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following classroom and school rules. ● Taking care of school property (books, desks, playground equipment). ● Turning in homework on time. <p>Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speaking politely to teachers and classmates. ● Listening when others are talking. ● Treating everyone with fairness and kindness. <p>Helping & Contributing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning up after yourself—and sometimes after others.
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- Volunteering to help a classmate or teacher.
- Welcoming new students and helping them feel included.

Community Involvement

- Participating in school community projects (food drives, recycling, charity events).
- Working together to solve class problems.
- Standing up for others when someone is treated unfairly.



Books That Teach Citizenship

Picture Books

- **“The Lorax” by Dr. Seuss** – Caring for the environment and taking responsibility.
- **“Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” by Carol McCloud** – Encourages kindness and positive community behavior.
- **“What If Everybody Did That?” by Ellen Javernick** – Shows how small actions affect the whole community.
- **“The Sandwich Swap” by Queen Rania & Kelly DiPucchio** – Respect and understanding differences.
- **“A Chair for My Mother” by Vera B. Williams** – Community, helping, and working toward a goal.

Upper-Elementary Books

- **“Wonder” by R.J. Palacio** – Empathy, kindness, and responsible behavior.
- **“Because of Winn-Dixie” by Kate DiCamillo** – Building community and treating others with care.
- **“Each Kindness” by Jacqueline Woodson** – The impact of our actions on the community.



Videos That Teach Citizenship

Short Classroom-Friendly Clips

- **Sesame Street: Helping Others & Community Helpers** – Teaches responsibility and helping.
- **Kid President videos** – Promotes kindness, service, and positive actions.
- **ClassDojo “Empathy,” “Respect,” or “Perseverance” episodes**

– Understanding how actions affect community.

Movies with Citizenship Themes

- “**Zootopia**” – Fairness, responsibility, and inclusion.
- “**Charlotte’s Web**” – Helping others and being a caring community member.
- “**Inside Out**” – Understanding emotions to communicate respectfully and support others.
- “**Moana**” – Responsibility to your community and doing what’s right.

April

Accountability

Accountability means **taking responsibility for your actions, choices, and work.**

It’s about **being honest, doing what you said you would do, and fixing mistakes instead of making excuses.**



What Accountability Looks Like at School

Responsibility for Work

- Finishing your classwork or homework on time.
- Admitting when you didn’t do something and making a plan to do better.
- Checking your work before turning it in.

Owning Your Actions

- Saying “I made a mistake” instead of blaming someone else.
- Apologizing when you hurt someone’s feelings or break a rule.
- Cleaning up a mess you made without being told.

Following Through

- Doing your part in a group project.
- Sticking to classroom jobs (line leader, librarian, helper).
- Bringing needed materials (pencils, notebooks, assignments).

Honesty

- Telling the truth even when it’s hard.
 - Being clear about what you did and didn’t do.
 - Admitting when you need help.
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Books That Teach Accountability

Picture Books

- **“What If Everybody Did That?”** by **Ellen Javernick** – Shows how choices affect everyone.
- **“Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse”** by **Kevin Henkes** – Owning mistakes and making things right.
- **“David Gets in Trouble”** by **David Shannon** – A humorous look at taking responsibility instead of making excuses.
- **“The Bad Seed”** by **Jory John** – Learning to make better choices and take responsibility.
- **“It’s Not My Fault!”** by **Julia Cook** – Teaches children about owning their actions.

Upper-Elementary Books

- **“Wonder”** by **R.J. Palacio** – Characters who model honesty, responsibility, and doing the right thing.
- **“Restart”** by **Gordon Korman** – A boy learns accountability after a life-changing event.



Videos That Teach Accountability

Short Classroom-Friendly Clips

- **Sesame Street clips on responsibility** – Simple examples of owning your choices.
- **ClassDojo “Perseverance” or “Empathy” series** – Episodes about being responsible in school and with friends.
- **Kid President videos** – Messages about doing the right thing and making good choices..

Movies with Accountability Themes

- **“Inside Out”** – Shows owning your feelings and actions.
- **“Zootopia”** – Characters take responsibility for mistakes and work to make things right.
- **“Akeelah and the Bee”** – Demonstrates responsibility, honesty, and follow-through.

May

Ownership

Ownership means **taking charge of your learning, actions, and responsibilities.**

It’s doing your best, fixing mistakes, and making choices that help you

succeed—because *you* are in control of your effort and behavior.

What Ownership Looks Like at School

In the Classroom

- **Keeping track of your own assignments** and making sure they're done on time.
- **Asking for help** when you don't understand something.
- **Setting goals** for your learning and working toward them.
- **Staying organized**, like keeping your desk, folder, or Chromebook tidy.

With Your Behavior

- **Admitting when you made a mistake** and choosing to fix it.
- **Following rules** without being reminded.
- **Using class time wisely** without needing the teacher to tell you repeatedly.
- **Taking care of your belongings** (coat, water bottle, pencil case).

In Group Work

- Doing your part and not expecting others to finish things for you.
- Being dependable—others can trust you.
- Bringing the materials or research you agreed to complete.

With Personal Growth

- Practicing even when something is hard.
 - Trying again after setbacks.
 - Celebrating your progress and effort, not just perfection.
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Books That Teach Ownership

Picture Books

- **“The Most Magnificent Thing” by Ashley Spires** – Taking ownership of your work and improving it.
- **“Ish” by Peter H. Reynolds** – Taking responsibility for creating and growing your own ideas.

- **“Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse” by Kevin Henkes** – Owing mistakes and making things right.
- **“What Do You Do With a Problem?” by Kobi Yamada** – Facing challenges instead of avoiding them.
- **“It’s Not My Fault!” by Julia Cook** – Helps kids understand why blaming others doesn’t work.

Upper-Elementary Books

- **“Frindle” by Andrew Clements** – A student takes ownership of his creativity and choices.
- **“Fish in a Tree” by Lynda Mullaly Hunt** – Owing challenges and working to improve.
- **“Wonder” by R.J. Palacio** – Responsibility, kindness, and choosing to do the right thing.



Videos That Teach Ownership

Short Classroom-Friendly Clips

- **ClassDojo “Growth Mindset” series** – Encourages kids to take charge of their learning.
- **Sesame Street: Responsibility clips** – Shows owning your actions and tasks.
- **Kid President videos** – Inspire kids to make positive choices and take responsibility.

Movies with Ownership Themes

- **“Inside Out”** – Characters learn to take responsibility for emotions and choices.
- **“Zootopia”** – Judy takes ownership of her mistakes and works to fix them.
- **“Moana”** – She takes responsibility for helping her people and following through.
- **“Akeelah and the Bee”** – Shows commitment, effort, and responsibility over time.