

Self-Esteem and Individuality

Auch, M. The Easter Egg Farm. Pauline the hen lays unusual eggs, but Mrs. Pennywort, her owner, thinks they're beautiful, and she and Pauline work together to open an Easter egg farm. jP Auch

Bang, M. When Sophie's Feelings Are Really, Really Hurt. At school, Sophie's class is asked to create pictures of their favorite trees from memory. When Sophie paints her favorite beech tree—the very one she took refuge in during the previous book—she colors it bright blue to show how happy it makes her feel. “You did it wrong,” accuses another student, bringing Sophie to tears, but Sophie's teacher intervenes explaining that both children made very different—and very special—paintings. j PAR PIC Bang

Bonwill, A. Naughty Toes. Chloe and Belinda are sisters, but they couldn't be more different. Belinda is a born dancer and the star of Madame Mina's dance class. Chloe is . . . not. Madame Mina thinks that Chloe has 'naughty toes'. But Mr. Tiempo, the class pianist, thinks otherwise. He sees something special in Chloe. With Mr. Tiempo's help, she learns to follow her feet and step out in style! jP Bonwill

Brown, P. Mr. Tiger Goes Wild. Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature. jP Brown

Côté, G. Me and You. Two friends discuss how different they are from each other, and each decide, after wishing they were like the other, that it's best to accept one's own individuality. jP Cote

Couric, K. The Blue Ribbon Day. When Carrie is disappointed not to make the school soccer team, she turns her attention to creating a science fair project. j PAR PIC Couric

Curtis, J. I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off A Little Self-Esteem. A young girl learns to like herself every single day, no matter what. jP Curtis

Desmond, J. Red Cat, Blue Cat. Red Cat and Blue Cat share a house, but *don't* get along! But each secretly wishes that they could have some of the other's signature traits--Blue Cat is smart and opens cans and the fridge; Red Cat can bounce across rooftops and zoom up the drapes. And though Blue Cat and Red Cat try very hard to be a different sort of cat, the real change happens when they become friends. jP Desmond

Dicmas, C. Harold Finds A Voice. Harold is an amazing mimic, and can imitate the sound of everything in his home. Tired of repeating the same old noises, he yearns to find out what other voices there are in the big, wide world. But what

happens when he suddenly realizes that he doesn't yet have a voice of his own?
jP Desmond

Dolenz, M. Gakky Two-Feet. Although the other hominidees tease him, Gak prefers to walk on two legs instead of four, and one day his difference turns out to be helpful, just as his mother said it would. jP Dolenz

Engle, M. Tiny Rabbit's Big Wish. Tiny rabbit dreams of growing as big as the forest and as tall as the trees, yet no matter how hard he wishes, he stays the same small size. But in a jungle filled with beasts both big and small, perhaps being tiny is just right! jP Engle

Graves, K. Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout. Loretta, unrelenting perfectionist, is devastated when she fails to earn the Golden Marshmallow Badge, but her grandmother's picture gives her a new perspective on things. jP Graves

Graves, K. Three Nasty Gnarlies. When a butterfly informs three Nasty Gnarlies that they are ugly, they try to become beautiful like her. Eventually they realize that they like the way they are, and that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. jP Graves

Hall, M. Red: A Crayon's Story. Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. His teacher tries to help him be red (let's draw strawberries!), his mother tries to help him be red by sending him out on a playdate with a yellow classmate (go draw a nice orange!), and the scissors try to help him be red by snipping his label so that he has room to breathe. But Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! Finally, a brand-new friend offers a brand-new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue!
jP Hall

Helakoski, L. Fair Cow. Effie the cow dreams of winning a blue ribbon at the state fair, while her best friend Petunia the pig advises her to give up all that she truly enjoys in order to prepare for the big day. jP Helakoski

Henkes, K. Chrysanthemum. Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other students make fun of it. jP Henkes

Hodgkinson, L. Troll Swap. Timothy Limpet feels out of place in his troll family. He likes things to be just so, and most trolls, frankly, don't. Tabitha Lumpit likes things to be loud, loopy, and messy, and she feels like a fish out of water in her very neat family. Sometimes they wonder if their families really see them for who they are. So Timothy and Tabitha swap places . . . jP Hodgkinson

Jenkins, E. Daffodil. Triplet sisters Rose, Violet, and Daffodil grow tired of wearing the colorful party dresses that match their names. jP Jenkins

Lambert, M. A Crow of His Own. Clyde the rooster is a little scrawny, so he is having a hard time trying to measure up to his predecessor on the farm--but with a little help from a friendly goose he may find a crow of his own. jP Lambert

Lester, H. Tacky the Penguin. Tacky the penguin does not fit in with his sleek and graceful companions, but his odd behavior comes in handy when hunters come with maps and traps. jP Lester

Ludwig, T. Better Than You. Tyler's friend Jake continually boasts about his abilities, making Tyler feel bad about himself until his Uncle Kevin and new neighbor Niko help him see that Jake is the one with the problem.
j PAR PIC Ludwig

Ludwig, T. The Invisible Boy. Brian feels invisible. His teacher hardly notices him, the other kids never invite him to play, and he eats lunch alone. One day, a new boy, Justin, joins the class. The other children make fun of him, but Brian slips him a friendly note. When it is time to find partners for a class project, Justin asks Brian to join him and another boy and finally Brian is no longer invisible!
jP Ludwig

Mann, J. I Will Never Get A Star On Mrs. Benson's Blackboard. Rose is does her best at school, but sometimes her mind wanders, and she answers the wrong question. Her reading voice is quiet, not strong and loud. And her desk?..well, keeping her desk neat is a challenge. When it's time to make thank-you cards for a class visitor, Rose's art supplies turn her workspace (and her) into a colorful mess. But her artistic skills shine through in the gorgeous oversize card she creates. Could she possibly get a star after all? A cheerful and empowering picture book for the child whose talents lie in unconventional areas, and those still searching for their strengths. jP Mann

Manning, M. Cock-A-Doodle-Hooooooo! When a tired, lonely owl finds shelter in a hen house during a storm, he is awakened by a flock of bossy hens who try to force him to be a cockerel, until he demonstrates what he can do for them.
jP Manning

Meng, C. Tough Chicks. Three independent chicks who dare to be different are reprimanded by the other barnyard residents for not being quiet and docile, until the smart, fearless trio takes on a runaway tractor. jP Meng

Milgrim, D. Some Monsters Are Different. This laugh-out-loud book describes the many differences found between monsters. Some monsters will eat anything; some are picky. Some monsters talk and talk and talk; some are quiet. But ultimately, as this hilarious book makes clear, all monsters are absolutely, positively, completely perfectly wonderful . . . just the way they are!
jP Milgrim

Molk, L. Good Job, Oliver! Oliver Bunny sets out to prove to the big bunnies that he can win the annual strawberry contest, but he is still his mother's little bunny boy. jP Molk

Moss, M. Regina's Big Mistake. When told to draw a jungle in art class, Regina experiences feelings of failure and creative insecurity, but manages to create a beautiful picture that's all her own. j PAR PIC Moss

OHora, Z. My Cousin Momo. Momo is coming to visit, and his cousins are SO excited! But even though Momo is a flying squirrel, he won't fly for his cousin's friends. Plus, his games are weird. He can't even play hide and seek right! But when Momo's cousins give his strange ways a chance, they realize that doing things differently can be fun...almost as much fun as making a new friend.
jP Ohora

Reynolds, A. Nerdy Birdy. Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games, which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. One thing is clear: being a nerdy birdy is a lonely lifestyle. But when he's at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky. jP Reynolds

Reynolds, P. Ish. Ramon loved to draw. Anytime. Anything. Anywhere. It's what makes him happy. But in one split second, all that changes. A single reckless remark by Ramon's older brother, Leon, turns Ramon's carefree sketches into joyless struggles. Luckily for Ramon, though, his little sister, Marisol, sees the world differently. She opens his eyes to something a lot more valuable than getting things just "right." j PAR PIC Reynolds

Reynolds, P. The Dot. Art class is over, but Vashti is sitting glued to her chair in front of a blank piece of paper. Her teacher smiled. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." That one little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery in this delicate fable about the creative spirit in all of us. j PAR PIC Reynolds

Rudge, L. A Perfect Place for Ted. Ted has lived among the dogs at the pet store for as long as he can remember. But there are so many dogs there, nobody ever chooses Ted. So he decides to go someplace else — someplace perfect. But Ted can't fly through the air like the circus dogs, and he doesn't have fancy pom-poms like the show dogs. Just as he loses hope, he sees a sign: *Wanted: Perfect Pet*. Little animal lovers will be tickled along with Ted at the unusual household that finally becomes his perfect place. jP Rudge

Russo, M. A Very Big Bunny. Amelia is so big that she is always last in line at school and none of the other students will play with her, but a special new classmate teaches her that size is not always the most important thing.
jP Russo

Sauer, T. Mostly Monsterly. On the outside, Bernadette is a lot like the other monsters in her class but when she shows that she can be sweet, her classmates reject her until she finds a way to fit in again. jP Sauer

Schoonmaker, E. Square Cat. Eulah the cat is square and, while she longs to be round like other cats, her friends show her the benefits of the shape that she has. jP Schoonmaker

Shannon, D. A Bad Case of Stripes. In order to ensure her popularity, Camilla Cream always does what is expected, until the day arrives when she no longer recognizes herself. jP Shannon

Shulevitz, U. Troto and The Trucks. Troto is a happy little car who likes to go places. One day after a long drive, he arrives in Cactusville, where he meets some big trucks. But when those big trucks laugh at how small Troto is, Troto doesn't feel very happy anymore, so he challenges them to a race to show them just what a little car can do. jP Shulevitz

Spires, A. Small Saul. Small Saul is a different kind of pirate. Will Small Saul be able to prove his worth as a pirate or will he be thrown overboard? jP Spires

Weeks, S. I'm A Pig. In rhyming text, a little pig exults in the fact that she is a pig. jP Weeks

Wells, R. Doris's Dinosaur. When Mrs. Jenkins proposes the class paint dinosaurs, Doris's unusual artistic talent is not recognized until the class visits a modern art museum. jE Wells

Whitcomb, M. Odd Velvet. Although she dresses differently from the other girls and does things which are unusual, Velvet eventually teaches her classmates that even an outsider has something to offer. J PAR PIC Whitcomb

Wormell, C. Eric! Eric is a little boy who sometimes gets things wrong. But Eric learns that while you can't be good at everything, sometimes it takes a little time to find out what you are good at. And when a huge monster stomps down the mountain to Eric's village, Eric just might have his chance to shine. j PIC Wormell

Young, A. The Mud Fairy. Emmalina the fairy describes how, after many efforts, she finally earned her wings by just being herself. jP Young