Books to Foster a Growth Mindset in Students

The following books can encourage the development of a growth mindset in students. As with other resources, this is but the start of an evolving list. Add to it as you learn of more.

For K–5 students, teachers might want to read books from the grades K–5 book list aloud, followed by a learning task or academic discussion focused on the aspects of the book that promoted and showcased a growth mindset.

For grades 6–12, some K–5 books will still be appropriate for the students in grades 6–8; please research the books and use your judgment. For students in grades 6–8, books on the grades 6–12 list will offer valuable growth mindset learning opportunities. While students at this age level might be able to manage reading these books on their own or in groups, the teacher will likely need to scaffold their learning and use formative assessments as needed to check for understanding.

At the high school level, students can do book studies around any of the books on the grades 6–12 list. Or teachers can select certain chapters for an academic discussion or learning task to emphasize a specific aspect of the growth mindset.

Teachers are encouraged to include these books in their classroom libraries, and librarians are encouraged to include them in the library. Teachers should aim to provide students with opportunities to do silent readings of books that match their reading level.

Growth Mindset Books for Grades K–5

- *A Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *After the Fall* by Dan Santat
- *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg
- *The Book of Mistakes* by Corinna Luyken
- *Brave Irene* by William Steig
- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle and Rafael Lopez
- *Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah* by Laurie Ann Thompson
- *Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle* by Chris Raschka
- *Flight School* by Lita Judge
- *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett
- *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin* by Chieri Uegaki
- *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers
Books to Foster a Growth Mindset in Students
Continued from previous page

*I Can’t Do That, YET* by Esther Pia Cordova
*Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds
*Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
*Making a Splash: A Growth Mindset Children’s Book* by Carol E. Reiley
*The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires
*My Strong Mind* by Niels Van Hove
*Nadia, the Girl Who Couldn’t Sit Still* by Karlin Gray
*The OK Book* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
*Rosie Revere Engineer* by Andrea Beaty
*Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* by Deloris Jordan
*A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant
*Thanks for the Feedback, I Think* by Julia Cook
*What Do You Do with an Idea?* by Kobi Yamada
*What Do you Do with a Chance?* by Kobi Yamada
*What Do You Do with a Problem?* by Kobi Yamada
*When Sophie Thinks She Can’t . . .* by Molly Bang
*Your Fantastic Elastic Brain: Stretch It, Shape It* by JoAnn Deak, Ph.D.

**Growth Mindset Books for Grades 6–12**

*Big Life Journal for Tweens/Teens* (ages 11+) available at biglifejournal.com
*Drive* by Daniel Pink
*Grit (7 Character Strengths of Highly Successful Students)* by Ramona Siddoway
*The Grit Guide for Teens: A Workbook to Help You Build Perseverance, Self-Control, and a Growth Mindset* by Caren Baruch-Feldman, Ph.D.
*Growth Mindset Journal for Tweens and Teens* by Iona Young
*Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth