

READING MATERIALS: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Below is a list of books that can be used to support discussions about personal aspirations and careers. The list begins with several fiction books that will work for all age groups, although some of the books are picture-based. Under each book title is the author's name(s), followed by the publisher's name and the publication date, unless otherwise noted. Feel free to add any biographical books about individuals from your mentee's ethnic/cultural groups, e.g., individuals who have overcome odds, who have worked to gain education and/or success in their fields, etc. Check with your local public or mentee's school library for a list of such books or additional career-related books.

Helpful Tips:



Visit MeLCat, the Michigan eLibrary Catalog at <http://elibrary.mel.org> to locate these materials at your local library!



Take your mentee to the local library and teach them how to look up and find books or ask a librarian to show you!



Talk with your mentee about which books they would like to read together. Visit your local library before your next meeting to pick them up or find out if you can take your mentee to the school library to pick up books!

Grades K–5

Amazing Grace. Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch. Dial, 1991

Note: Good for discussions about how "you can be anything."

Dream Big (starring Olivia the Pig). Ian Falconer. Andrew McMeel Publishing, 2006

Note: Great for discussions about following dreams.

Honestly, Mallory. Laurie Friedman. Lerner Publishing, 2008

No Excuses!: How What You Say Can Get in Your Way. 2009

Unstoppable Me: 10 Ways to Soar Through Life. Dr. Dwayne Dyer (author and publisher) 2006

Note: Good for helping young people believe in themselves.

Oh, the Places You'll Go. Dr. Seuss. Random House, 1990

Oliver Button is a Sissy. Tomie dePaola. Harcourt and Brace, 1979

Note: Excellent book to encourage them to do what's right for them, not others.

Stand Tall, Mary Lou Melon. Patty Lovell and David Catrow. Putnam, 2001

Note: Good for discussions about believing in yourself.

The Dot. Peter H. Reynolds. Candelwick, 2003

The Little Engine that Could. Watty Piper. Grosset and Dunlap, 1978

Note: Good for discussions about self-efficacy for young people of any age.

Grades K–3

A Day with a Doctor

A Day with an Electrician

A Day with Firefighters

(and a series of other *A Day with A...* titles). Multiple Authors. Children's Press, Rosen Works, Inc,

I Want to Be a Musician

I Want to Be a Nurse

I Want to Be a Pilot

I Want to Be a Teacher

(and other *I Want to Be A...* titles). Dan Liebman. Firefly Books, 1999 through present

Jobs People Do. DK Publishing 2001

Grades 4–5

A Day in the Life of a Dentist

A Day in the Life of a Doctor

A Day in the Life of a Veterinarian. Heather Adamson. Capstone Press, 2000

Note: Good for young girls; females are on the covers of each of the books.

See What You Can Be: Explore Careers That Could Be for You (American Girl Series). Diane Heiman, Liz Suneby, and Tracey Wood. American Girl Publishing, 2007.

Note: Geared toward girls.

Lights, Camera, Action!: Making Movies and TV From the Inside Out. Lisa O'Brien. Owl Kids Books, 2007

So You Want to be a Writer: How to Write, Get Published, and Maybe Even Make it Big!

Vicki Hambleton and Cathleen Greenwood. Beyond Words Publishing, 2001

The Secret Service (High Interest Books). Mark Beyer. Rosen Works, Inc., 2003

Today's Heroes: Ben Carson (A Detroit Native). Gregg Lewis and Deborah S. Lewis. Zonderkidz, 2002

Grades 5–6

Career Ideas for Kids Who Like...(adventure, computers, music, etc.) series. Diane Lindsey Reeves.

Checkmark Books, 2007

Discovering Careers for Your Future (Computers, Art, Health, Math, etc.—a different book for each field) Ferguson Publishing, 2000 through present

Exploring Careers: A Young Person's Guide to 1,000 Jobs. United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003

How to Do Your Homework Without Throwing Up. Trevor Romain. Free Spirit Publishing, 2006

When I Grow Up: A Young Person's Guide to Interesting and Unusual Occupations.

Jessica Loy. Henry Holtand Company, 2008