

Course A *Storytime: Using Quality Children’s Books to Teach the Seven Christian Virtues* [In person]

Lecturers Rhonda Birenbaum and Rowena MacKeen

Description

Experts agree that reading with children promotes emotional and cognitive development. It’s also a way to share values and ethics. Focusing on quality children’s books, this course will show how to share stories and talk about them to highlight the virtues. It will also suggest strategies for choosing engaging and meaningful books.

Course Content

The five sessions of two 50-minute blocks each will be divided as follows:

Block	Content Focus
1	Seven Virtues introduction What is quality children’s literature; what it is not Read aloud run through How to find books
2	Faith
3	Hope
4	Love (charity)
5	Seven Grandfather Teaching (guest speaker)
6	Prudence
7	Courage (fortitude)
8	Temperance (patience, humility)
9	Justice (kindness, honesty, compassion)
10	Wrap-up (including public library guest speaker)

Each block will unfold as:

- Introduction to virtue
- Read Aloud – specific children’s literature chosen to highlight the virtue
- Discussion – why and how this read aloud demonstrates the virtue
- Discussion – other books useful to highlight virtue including time to explore books
- Activity to accompany the book (if time)

Bibliography

Will be presented in class

Bios

Rhonda Birenbaum is a retired elementary school teacher with a speciality in reading and writing for children. Rowena MacKeen is a current elementary school teacher and a special education specialist.