

Choices and consequences — six books, what happens next

Six choices move from temptation to impact, honesty, repair, and responsibility.

six in sequence

Grades 1–3

TL06–TL07 where levelled

24 min listening

8 books in the collection

You are the teacher.

You know your students and what they need today.

Use what works. Change what doesn't. Make it yours.

Students study responsibility as a chain: available options, a choice, its effect, and the action taken afterward. The set includes temptation, a costly mix-up, a failed joke, a concealed mistake, and repeated errors so that responsibility is not reduced to simply obeying a rule.

The question that runs through all six

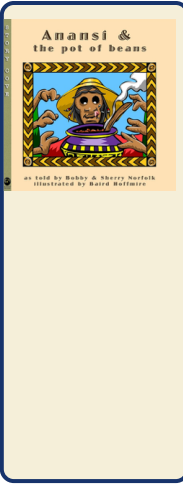
How do our choices affect other people?

Standards status

This curated reading sequence is not itself a region-specific standards claim. Review the documentary status on any linked lesson plan.

The sequence

1



Start here.

Anansi and the Pot of Beans

Book ID 8343

Bobby & Sherry Norfolk

Gr K-3

Fairy Tale / Folktale

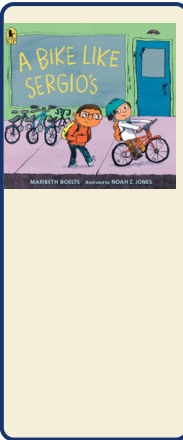
540L

8 min

Anansi's curiosity and secret choice lead to a clearly described consequence. It gives the class a compact choice-effect chain before more complicated motives appear.

Ask At what point could Anansi have changed the chain?

2



Now build the idea.

A Bike Like Sergio's

Book ID 8360

Maribeth Boelts

Gr K-3

Realistic Fiction

TL07

540L

9 min

A child who wants a bicycle must decide what to do with found money. It separates wanting something strongly from having a right to the means of getting it.

Ask Which people are affected by a choice that initially seems private?

3



Now make it harder.

The Great Garage Sale

Book ID 8252

Marilyn Helmer

Gr 1-3

Humor

TL06

560L

A garage-sale mix-up creates a costly problem that must be fixed. It adds accidental harm and asks what responsibility looks like without bad intent.

Ask Does an accident reduce the need to make things right? Explain.

4

Now test the idea.

Ellie May on April Fools' Day

Book ID 8376

Hillary Homzie

Gr 1-4

Humor

580L

A student's effort to be the funniest leads to a prank whose effect changes her understanding. It makes audience impact, not the chooser's intention, central to judging the action.

Ask When should the effect on others matter more than the joke-maker's intention?

5

Now deal with what happened.

Something's Fishy

Book ID 5888

Jeff Szpirglas and Danielle Saint-Onge

Gr 1-3

Humor

TL06

550L

A child must respond after a serious, unusual mistake involving the class pet. It foregrounds creative repair rather than pretending the original choice can be erased.

Ask Which part of taking responsibility happens after the mistake cannot be undone?

6

End by putting it together.

The Sorry Life of Timothy Shmoe

Book ID 8327

Stephanie Simpson McLellan

Gr K-5

Humor

AD700L

7 min

A boy's mistakes accumulate while his family continues to support him. It asks students to hold accountability and continuing care together across more than one incident.

Ask How can people expect better choices while still showing that a person belongs?

Also in the collection



The Trouble with Time Travel

Book ID 7701 Stephen W. Martin

A time-machine attempt to avoid a broken-vase consequence extends the idea of erasing versus repairing, but its fantasy mechanism is less direct for the core progression.



Fighting Words

Book ID 8425 Leonarda Carranza

The impact of angry words offers a powerful extension, but it already anchors the protected Big feelings set.

Teaching this set

Follow the whole chain, not only the mistake.

Draw four linked boxes labelled options, choice, effect, and next action. Tell students that a poor choice and an irresponsible person are not the same claim; the books will show what characters do after an effect becomes clear. Read the six in order: Start here. Now build the idea. Now make it harder. Now test the idea. Now deal with what happened. End by putting it together. Which matters most when judging responsibility - the options someone had, what they intended, the effect, or what they did next? Use at least three books.

Titles, authors, grade bands, levels, run times and covers are drawn from the TumbleBookLibrary catalogue. Book-title links open the catalogue title. Where supplied lessons exist, lesson links open directly online.