

## Book Ideas for *Ella Enchanted: The Musical*

based on the book by Gail Carson Levine

Not every princess needs rescuing. Based on the Newberry-honor book, this Cinderella twist follows Ella, a strong-willed little girl who must defeat her evil stepmother, a hungry ogre, and a troublesome curse to find her own voice and live happily ever after.

★ **BIG IDEA:** Personal Empowerment

Links are to [goodreads](#)

---



[Ella Enchanted](#) (2017)

by Gail Carson Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Grades 5-8

---



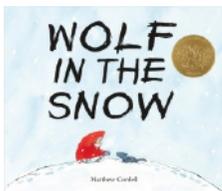
[Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot](#) (2012)

By Ann Branford

When a creative seven-year-old girl spots a blue china bird that she desperately wants, she forms an imaginative plan for getting it.

Grades 1-3

---



[Wolf in the Snow](#) (2017)

By Matthew Cordell

When a wolf cub and little girl are lost in a snowstorm they must find their way home.

Grades K-2

---



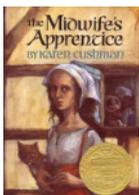
[Jabari Jumps](#) (2017)

By Gaia Cornwall

After he passes his swimming test, little Jabari decides he's ready to try jumping off the diving board, but when the big moment arrives, Jabari needs to work up the courage to jump.

Grades K-2

---



[The Midwife's Apprentice](#) (1995)

By Karen Cushman

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Grades 5-9



[Lucia the Luchadora](#) (2017)

By Cynthia Leonor Garza

Lucia's beloved abuela reveals a secret: Lucia comes from a family of luchadoras, the bold and valiant women of the Mexican lucha libre tradition. Cloaked in a flashy disguise, Lucia acts the part of a superhero at recess! But when she's confronted with a case of injustice, Lucia must decide if she can stay true to the ways of the luchadora and fight for what is right.

Grades K-2

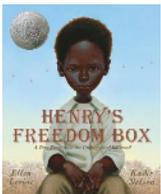


[Rapunzel's Revenge](#) (2008)

By Shannon Hale

Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls. Rapunzel dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth.

Grades 5-9

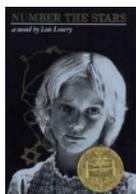


[Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad](#) (2007)

By Ellen Levine

A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Grades 2-5



[Number the Stars](#) (1989)

By Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her friend from the Nazis.

Grades 3-7



[The Spindlers](#) (2012)

By Lauren Oliver

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother whose soul has been stolen.

Grades 4-6

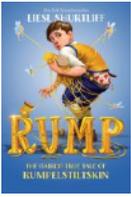


[Blizzard](#) (2014)

By John Rocco

After a massive blizzard, a boy becomes a hero when he manages to walk to the local store and bring supplies back to his neighborhood which has been snowed in for days. Based on the author's childhood experience.

Grades K-2

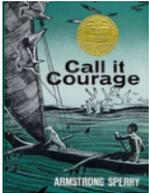


[Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin](#) (2013)

By Liesl Shurtliff

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

Grades 3-6

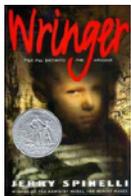


[Call it Courage](#) (1940)

By Armstrong Sperry

The Chief's son, Mafutu, sets out on a voyage of discovery with his faithful dog, Uri, and finds his courage after being driven out of his village for showing fear.

Grades 5-9

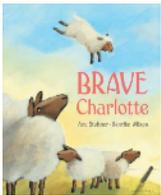


[Wringer](#) (1997)

by Jerry Spinelli

As Palmer comes of age he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his Pennsylvania town's annual Pigeon day or find the courage to oppose it.

Grades 4-8

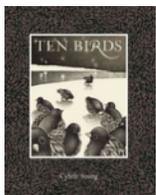


[Brave Charlotte](#) (2005)

By Any Stohner

A headstrong sheep rescues the flock when their shepherd is injured.

Grades K-2

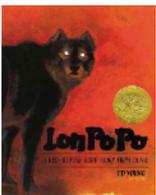


[Ten Birds](#) (2011)

By Cybèle Young

Ten Birds" tells the story of ten birds who are trying to figure out how to get to the other side of the river. With various designations, such as the "brilliant" one or the "highly satisfactory" one, the story tells of how labels must be overcome when "needs improvement" comes up with the most absurdly simple solution.

Grades K-3



[Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China](#) (1989)

By Ed Young

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother, but the eldest girl thinks up a clever plan to save her sisters and herself.

Grades 2-3