

Delve Deeper into *The Principal Story*

A film by Tod Lending and David Mrazek

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *The Principal Story*.

ADULT NONFICTION

Anfara, Vincent. *From the Desk of the Middle School Principal: Leadership Responsive to the Needs of Young Adolescents*. Maryland: Scarecrow Education, 2002. Anfara examines the role of a principal and presents a working model that responds to the developmental needs of students.

Cerra, Cheli and Ruth Jacoby. *Principal Talk! The Art of Effective Communication in Successful School Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. This book demonstrates simple ways to effectively communicate with students, teachers and community members.

Donaldson, Jr., Gordon A. *Cultivating Leadership in Schools: Connecting People, Purpose, and Practice*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2006. This is a powerful book about the characteristics of strong leaders, how to cultivate them in staff and make them sustainable. Includes graphic summaries, and illustrative examples.

Esquith, Rafe. *Teach Like your Hair's on Fire: The Method and Madness Inside Room 56*. New York: Viking, 2007. Rafe Esquith's fifth graders inside Room 56 in a Los Angeles school are first-generation immigrants who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. They also play Vivaldi, perform Shakespeare, score in the top 1 percent on standardized tests and go on to attend Ivy League universities. Esquith reveals the techniques that have made him an acclaimed educator.

Frase, Larry E. & William Streshly. *Top Ten Myths in Education: Fantasies Americans Love to Believe*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2000. Purposely limiting their analysis to problems that can be fixed from within the educational system, the authors attack (from an administrator's perspective) ten presumptions of American public education and offer some advice on how to fix them.

Fuhrman, Susan and Marvin Lazerson. *The Public Schools*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005. This volume is a collection of essays by leading scholars and educators that address the major challenges facing public education.

Goldberg, Mark F. *The Insider's Guide to School Leadership: Getting Things Done Without Losing Your Mind*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2006. This readable guide presents useful examples and cases on carrying out administrative responsibilities.

Gray, Susan Penny. *From Good Schools to Great Schools: What Their Principals Do Well*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2008. This insightful book offers comprehensive information including private sector examples, case studies of great principals and thoughtful questions on the effective application of leadership principles.

Greene, Ross. *Lost at School: Why our Kids with Behavioral Challenges are Falling through the Cracks and How We Can Help Them*. New York, NY: Scribner, 2008. Greene gives teachers and parents the realistic strategies and information to impact the classroom experience of every challenging kid.

Harris, Sandra K. *Best Practices of Award-Winning Elementary School Principals*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2005. Harris analyzes the practices of 35 award-winning elementary schools nationwide.

Johnson, LouAnne. *The Queen of Education: Rules for Making School Work*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2004. Johnson offers an accessible assessment of what is wrong with schools in the U.S. and practical advice on how to fix them, based on her own experiences as a teacher and educational consultant, as well as letters and e-mail messages she has received from parents, teachers and students during the ten-plus years since publication of her previous book, *My Posse Don't Do Homework*.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Letters to a Young Teacher*. New York, NY: Three Rivers Press, 2008. Renowned American education writer Kozol exchanges letters with a Francesca, a first-grade teacher at an inner-city public school in Boston.

Marzano, Robert J. et al. *School Leadership That Works: From Research to Results*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, 2005. Combining research with practical advice, this book gives school administrators guidance to provide strong leadership for better schools.

Murray, Charles A. *Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing American Schools Back to Reality*. New York, NY: Crown Publishers, 2008. The author of *The Bell Curve* returns with this book about transforming American education.

Oehlberg, Barbara. *Reaching and Teaching Stressed and Anxious Learners in Grades 4-8: Strategies for Relieving Distress and Trauma in Schools and Classrooms*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2006. Oehlberg details a wealth of activities designed to reduce anxiety in children, which will further enable them to develop important cognitive abilities.

Sunderman, Gail L. and James S. Kim. *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2005. Researchers with the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University examine how federal and state governments have worked to implement the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act's main accountability provisions and how local districts and schools have accommodated these new requirements.

Wagner, Tony, et al. *Change Leadership: A Practical Guide to Transforming Our Schools*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005. The Change Leadership Group at the Harvard School of Education's book brings the work of the Group to a broader audience, providing a framework to analyze the work of school change and exercises that guide educators through the development of their practice as agents of change.



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Weinstein, Rhona S. *Reaching Higher: The Power of Expectations in Schooling*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002. Weinstein argues that the expectations of children in schools are often far too low and can become very powerful in determining educational opportunities.

Whitaker, Todd. *What Great Principals Do Differently: Fifteen Things That Matter Most*. Larchmont, NY: Eye on Education, 2002. What are the specific qualities and practices of great principals which elevate them above the rest? This book reveals the 15 things that most successful principals do.

Whittle, Chris. *Crash Course: Imagining a Better Future for Public Education*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2005. Whittle writes about how public education is failing children of color and low-income students.

Whitley, Michael D. *Bright Minds, Poor Grades*. New York, NY: Berkeley Pub., 2001. Whitley identifies six types of under-achievers and presents a ten-step program to help kids get back on track.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Morris, Ann and Peter Linenthal. *That's Our Principal!* Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003. K-Grade 3. This book acquaints readers with Steve Plaut, an elementary school principal, describing what he does during the school day and how he interacts with other staff and students.

Myers, Anna. *Confessions from the Principal's Chair*. New York, NY: Walker & Company, 2006. Grades 5-8. After participating in a cruel prank on a classmate, fourteen-year-old Robin and her mother move to Oklahoma, where Robin is mistaken for the substitute principal and receives a new perspective on bullying.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Calmenson, Stephanie. *The Frog Principal*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2001. K-Grade 3. After the principal of P.S. 88 is turned into a frog by a bumbling magician, the frog bargains for the chance to act as principal until Mr. Bundy returns from his "family emergency."

Creech, Sharon. *A Fine, Fine School*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2001. PreS-Grade 3. When a principal loves his school so much that he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year, it's up to his students to show him free time is a good thing, too.

Gutman, Dan. *Dr. Carbles is Losing his Marbles!* New York: HarperTrophy, 2007. Grades 1-3. Tired of following the strict rules of their grumpy replacement principal, second-grader A.J. and his classmates try to find a way to bring back eccentric but lovable Principal Klutz, who was fired for bringing a wild turkey to the school's Thanksgiving Day assembly.

Gutman, Dan. *Mr. Klutz is Nuts!* New York, NY: HarperTrophy, 2004. Grades 1-3. A skateboarding principal offers unusual incentives to his students to motivate them to learn more.

Johnston, Tony. *The Spoon in the Bathroom Wall*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2005. Grades 3-6. Living in the boiler room of the school where her father is janitor seems normal to fourth grader Martha Snapdragon, until she has experiences with an evil principal, the class bully and a mysterious giant spoon, all reminiscent of the Arthurian legends.

Levi, Elizabeth. *The Principal's on the Roof*. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2002. Grades 3-6. The principal of Jill and Gwen's school promised to spend the morning on the roof if the kids read one thousand books during their reading marathon--and they did! Now he's on the roof, and he's going to read an original science fiction story Gwen wrote.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way*. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2001. Grades 1-4. When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Report to the Principal's Office*. New York, NY: Scholastic Paperbacks: 1992. Grade 4-8. This is a humorous book about a group of sixth graders on their first day of middle school.

Strasser, Todd. *Help! I'm Trapped in My Principal's Body*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 1998. Grades 3-6. A bully is beating up students in Jake Sherman's eighth grade class, and it looks as if no one can stop him, until Jake causes his buddy Josh to switch bodies with the principal.

FILMS, VIDEOS AND BROADCASTS

The Boys of Baraka. Directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. Loki Films, LLC, 2005. TRT: 84 min. Follows a group of 12-year-old boys from the most violent ghettos of Baltimore to the Baraka School, an experimental boarding school in rural Kenya, where children live by strict guidelines, yet are given the freedom to grow. www.shoppbs.org

Children in America's Schools. A broadcast by Jonathan Kozol and Bill Moyers. South Carolina ETV. 1996. TRT: 120 min. Based on Kozol's book *Savage Inequalities*, this film looks at the differences between schools in rural, suburban and urban environments. www.amazon.com

Hard Times at Douglass High: A No Child Left Behind Report Card. Directed by Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond. HBO, 2008. TRT: 113 min. At Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore, MD, the expectations raised by NCLB have reached a critical point. Filmmakers Alan and Susan Raymond offer a yearlong look inside a storied institution at a time when its very existence is in doubt. www.amazon.com



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The Hobart Shakespeareans.

Directed by Mel Stuart. POV, 2005. TRT: 52 min. A profile of one phenomenal teacher and his eager students who together touchingly demonstrate the power of education. Esquith turns the Asian-American and Latino children of a violence-stricken Los Angeles neighborhood to the wonders of Shakespeare.

www.shoppbs.org

I am a Promise: The Children of Stanton Elementary School.

Directed by Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond. Video Verité, 1994. TRT: 90 min. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary, this film looks at the students of Stanton Elementary School in North Philadelphia, an inner-city neighborhood where 90% of the students live below the poverty line.

www.docurama.com

***Lean on Me.* Directed by John G. Avildsen. Warner Home Video,**

1992. TRT: 108 min. This film tells the true story of New Jersey high school principal Joe Clark. Played by Morgan Freeman, Clark is a tough-love educator who challenges his students to do their best.

www.amazon.com

***The Principal.* Directed by Christopher Cain. Sony Pictures,**

1987. TRT: 109 min. Starring James Belushi and Louis Gossett, Jr., this film tells the story of a teacher who gets sent to become the principal of a very violent school.

www.amazon.com

