

Brave and Smart

• Storytime •

Grades:
PK-1

by | Rob Reid

Extra Picture Books about Bravery and Courage

- *Brave Bitsy and the Bear* by Angela McAllister. Clarion Books, 2004. Bitsy is a small toy rabbit that got separated from her owner in the middle of the woods. She tries to find her way back home. “So she set off singing a brave song.” She runs into a bear that helps her home. It snows that night and Bitsy bravely ventures back into the woods to save the bear that fell asleep before it could reach the safety of its den.
- *Brave, Brave Mouse* by Michaela Morgan. Albert Whitman, 2004. “Little Mouse was scared of all sorts of things,” including dark shadows, bright lights, and loud noises. He’s afraid when his parents leave him alone with the babysitter, but he endures it. He’s afraid of the swimming pool, but he braves it and eventually loves it. He starts learning about all sorts of new experiences and creates a personal bravery song.
- *Brave Little Raccoon* by Erica Wolf. Henry Holt & Company, 2005. Little Raccoon gets lost in the woods and must find her way back home in the dark. She hears a “Snap, Snap” noise and tries to be extra brave. She runs into a frog, a family of opossums, and an owl while fleeing from the sound. The noise turns out to be her mother who “had been following Little Raccoon’s tracks all night long.”
- *Bravery Soup* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler. Albert Whitman, 2002. Carlin the raccoon is afraid of everything. His friend Zack says he needs “a bit of bravery” and leads Carlin to Big Bear, “the bravest animal in all the land.” The bear states that he is making some Bravery Soup but it’s lacking a key ingredient. Carlin must venture through the forest up a mountain and into a cave to get this ingredient that’s in a box. He does so and finds an empty box. Carlin learns that bravery is not in the soup but inside him. “It’s called Bravery Soup because I only serve it too the brave.”
- *The Bravest of the Brave* by Shutta Crum. Knopf, 2005. A little skunk steps into the woods alone. “I thought brave thoughts to comfort me.” The skunk sees a robber (a raccoon), two ghosts (owls), three trappers (spiders), four witches (porcupines), five pirates (flying squirrels), and six arms reaching for him (his family). All of the animals gather for a party to hear seven tales of bravery, while eight lights (fireflies) circle overhead. Skunk gets nine hugs at bedtime and sleeps under ten twinkling stars.
- *Scaredy Squirrel* by Melanie Watt. Kids Can, 2006. “Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree.” He’s afraid of the unknown. He’s afraid of tarantulas, poison ivy, killer bees, sharks, and green Martians, among other things. He is well prepared in case of emergencies. One day, he falls out of his tree avoiding “a killer bee” and discovers he’s a flying squirrel. His new routine now includes jumping into the great unknown.

Editor’s Note: Rob Reid has a related story program lesson plan titled “Super Kids! Stories, Songs, and Activities about Super Heroes” in his latest book *Shake & Shout: 16 Noisy, Lively Story Programs* (Upstart Books, 2008).

