

Character Matters

By Joanne Mattern

Speak Up!

“The school board is meeting about that vacant lot behind the school, and I wish they would put in a nature walk there,” Kristin said to her friend Kate, “but I’m too scared to ask them.”

“I know you hate speaking in public, but look at Greta Thunberg,” Kate said. “She spoke out about climate change and people all over the world joined her. If she found the courage to speak and make a difference, so can you.”

That night, Kristin and her father went to the meeting. Her stomach churned when she stood up to speak, but then she saw Kate and other friends in the front row and her hesitation fled. After Kristin made her speech, everyone clapped. “Thank you for expressing your feelings,” said the board president. “We will talk more about it.” Kristin was glad she found the courage to speak, just like Greta had.



Tip Box: Seven Tips to Create a Great Fictional Character

1.	Characters can be based on real life.
2.	Create a timeline of the events in your character's life.
3.	Describe their habits and attitudes about events that happen in their life.
4.	Give your character a goal. Add good <i>and</i> challenging events along the way.
5.	Show how your character transforms throughout the story.
6.	Have your characters face real-life problems and situations.
7.	Create relationships to show your character's nature and true feelings.

Go, Go, Greta!

Greta Thunberg seemed like an ordinary schoolgirl, but she was a champion for change. Growing up in Sweden, Greta had strong feelings that people were ruining the environment, but how could one teenager make any change?

Greta had a form of autism, a condition which made it hard for her to make friends and talk to people. However, her autism also made her very focused. Although many people expressed doubt, Greta did not give up. In 2018, 15-year-old Greta stopped going to school. Instead, she sat outside a government building holding a sign that read, “School Strike for Climate.” On the first day, Greta was alone, but every day, more people joined her. In time, hundreds of thousands of students all over the world performed similar actions. Greta made statements and gave speeches, gaining attention all over the world. One girl’s persistence showed that anyone can work hard and make a change.



Neil Armstrong Dreams

A young boy with a habit of dreaming of space, stares with contemplation at the moon and the stars. He wants to fly high, to soar and to race, but those cosmic worlds are much too far.

Study hard, young Neil, and hope.
Don't lose faith or stop dreaming.
When everyone else around you says, “Nope!”
Work hard, think big, and some day rockets streaming through space will be your big reward.
And it will be YOU who travels aboard!