

## Family Resiliency Reading Guide

### "CITIZENSHIP AND LEADERSHIP" FROM THE MORAL COMPASS: STORIES FOR A LIFE'S JOURNEY

BY WILLIAM J. BENNETT

After reading "Citizenship and Leadership" from *The Moral Compass: Stories for a Life's Journey* with your child, use this reading guide to continue the conversation around resiliency at home. In this guide, you will find a description of how this book relates to Resiliency Characteristics, literacy tips, and sample conversation starters for you and your child.

## SYNOPSIS

*The Moral Compass* guides readers through the various stages of life's journey via a collection of stories and poems. Within the excerpt titled "Citizenship and Leadership," readers delve into narratives and verses that illuminate the essence of leadership and exemplary citizenship. Each story and poem offers profound lessons, inspiring readers to recognize the pivotal role of their choices in shaping the trajectory of his or her success.

## LESSONS IN RESILIENCY

- ▶ In the short story, "The Quails," the wise old quail teaches the other quails to make good choices and work together to avoid being captured. The quails follow the wise guidance to escape a hunter's net. However, two quails accused each other of not helping lift the net to escape and a hunter was able to capture the two quails while they were arguing. We can learn from this story that arguing can distract and prevent us from reaching a common goal. In the story, the quails teach us about **citizenship** and making good choices to help each other accomplish a goal.
- ▶ In the short story, "When Mr. Bluebird Won His Coat," Mr. Bluebird gave to others without expecting anything in return. This is an example of how to show respect and gratitude to others. Mr. Bluebird's only intention was to help Old Mother Nature. He was not seeking fame or recognition like the others. His actions mirrored characteristics of being a helpful **citizen**, and his humble attitude gained him the honor of being one of the most treasured birds in nature.
- ▶ In practicing **citizenship**, it is a civic responsibility to make good choices for your community and nation. In the short story, "The Stone in the Road," the wise king told his people that nothing good can come from a nation whose people complain and expect others to fix their problems.

## LITERACY TIP

Understanding the author's message or ideas can be challenging for your child to grasp. Encourage him or her to stop often while reading to ask questions and think critically about why an author included certain details in a text. You can support your child by reading aloud and modeling your thinking. Support your thoughts with details from the text and then switch roles with your child.

## RESILIENCY CHARACTERISTIC



### Citizenship

Helping my neighbor, community and nation.

## RESILIENCY CONVERSATION STARTERS:



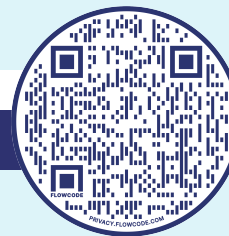
The quails acted as a team to accomplish a goal. Their actions demonstrated how making good choices helped their community. Discuss with your child how he or she can be a contributing **citizen** with the choices he or she makes.



Old Mother Nature was working to make the world a great place to live and had tasks for other birds to accomplish through the changing seasons. Mr. Bluebird, despite his doubts about himself, found courage to complete a task from Old Mother Nature. Discuss with your child how being a good **citizen** and choosing to help others, even in doubt, can make a larger impact on your community.



All the short stories have an underlying theme of working together. For a team to accomplish a goal, each of the members needs to contribute his or her skills and talents. Ask your child to identify strengths and weaknesses he or she can bring to a team.



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