

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
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Since it is Father's Day weekend and the summer reading program is in full swing, I want to recommend books where fathers play important roles. These fathers are active in their child's life, rooting them on at the hardest times, or they could be the ones to give their child good advice. Here are some great books to share with dads, grandads, uncles, and children!

R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*, is a chapter book for middle graders. In this book, Auggie's father, Nate Pullman, is kind of an unsung hero. Even though he stole Auggie's astronaut helmet, it was for the right reason. He missed seeing his son's face, he wanted his son to have more self-confidence, and show the world who he really was, without something covering his face. He had Auggie's back all the time and he sympathized easily with his son. When Auggie did not want to go to school, Nate fought so he didn't have to. Finally, Nate witnessed how Auggie handled a bully realizing that part of his work was done.

In this *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson, the main character's father helps his son make "enemy pie" to get rid of enemies. Actually, it is a great pie, and it is really delicious. He tells his son that the only way for the enemy pie to work is to spend a day with your enemy and be kind to him or her. Now, this is only a way for his son and Jeremy (the enemy) to become friends. In the end, the father's way of getting rid of enemies has worked and now they are great friends.

An unforgettable, poignant novel about coming of age one sweet summer and learning to love what you have. When Opal and her preacher father move to Naomi, Florida, Opal finds a big, ugly, but charming dog at the Winn-Dixie supermarket, whom she names Winn-Dixie. Through Winn-Dixie, Opal learns ten things about her absent mother from her father. Winn-Dixie's knack for making friends leads Opal to Miss Franny Block, the local librarian; Gloria Dump, who sees with her heart; and Otis, an ex-con with a gift for music. That summer, Opal collects stories and thinks about her mother, eventually reconciling with her daddy and learning that friendship and forgiveness can surprise you, helping her to let go and appreciate what she has. *Because of Winn-Dixie* is the first novel by Kate DiCamillo.

Charles Ingalls, affectionately known as 'Pa' in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, exemplifies the wholesome virtues of a loving and resilient father. His perseverance in the face of adversity, coupled with his unwavering love and commitment to his family, provides the bedrock of the Ingalls' frontier life. Infused with

warmth, humor and wisdom, his parenting approach is brought to life in both the books and the popular TV series.

Mathew Cuthbert in *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery is an unconventional father. And, although not Anne's biological father, the dynamics between Mathew and Anne are a pleasure to read. Here is a man who has no prior experience with children, yet adores the little girl who was mistakenly adopted by him and his sister, Marilla. Mathew is a great listener and laughs with Anne's mistakes as she learns more about life. When Mathew buys Anne puffy sleeves for Christmas gift, these two definitely bond and become kindred spirits.