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## Character

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### K-2

Solheim, James. *Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist*. Philomel Books, 2010. A newborn baby chronicles her experiences, beginning from her birth. By the end of her first year, her best friends are her older sister and her dog Foofy. She also knows what she wants to do with her life—if only she can figure out how to climb out of her crib!

Stead, Philip C. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010. A gentle tale of the loving zookeeper and the animals he cares for. When Amos is sick one day, the animals come to show him the same kindness that he has shown to them. (Caldecott Award, 2010)

### 3-4

Karas, G. Brian. *Young Zeus*. Scholastic Press, 2010. Unaware of his family history, young Zeus has been raised by an enchanted she-goat. As he grows older however he discovers that his father, the powerful Cronos, has swallowed his brothers and sisters. He sets off to rescue his siblings and to bring about peace.

Spratt, R.A. *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*. Little, Brown, 2010. Mr. Green doesn't want to spend any more time with his children than he has to. When he hires Nanny Piggins to be their nanny, he doesn't at first realize that she is a pig. However the children quickly fall in love with her. As a former circus performer she has many unique skills. And she lets the children eat all the chocolate they want, skip school, and seek out adventures.

### 5-6

Erskine, Kathryn. *Mockingbird*. Philomel, 2010. Caitlin's world falls apart when her beloved older brother Devon is killed in a school shooting. Caitlin has Asperger's Syndrome, and only Devon was able to explain the many things she doesn't understand. But Caitlin is resilient, and with the help of her school counselor she is able to figure out how to bring closure for herself, her father, and the entire community after this terrible event. [National Book Award—Young People's Literature, 2010]

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*. Amistad, 2010. Delphine and her two younger sisters travel to California to stay with the mother they barely know. Their mother is not pleased to see them. Instead she sends the girls to a summer camp sponsored by the Black Panthers, where they learn to stand up for themselves.