

## Developing resilient, strategic literacy learners

Adapted from Johnston, P. (2012). *Opening minds: Using language to change lives*.  
Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.

Avoid	Possible Alternatives	Logic
Person-criticism like, "I'm disappointed in you."	<p>"Maybe you could find another way to do it."                      "You didn't really get a chance to fix that yet."                      "How could you do it differently?"</p>	Reduces the risk of undermining feeling of respect and viewing problem as a trait. Turns attention to solving temporary problem and building agency/resilience.
Person-praise like, "I'm proud of you," or "You're good at this."	<p>"How did you do that?"                      "You found a good way to do it. Could you think of another way?"                      "You must have worked hard at that."</p>	Person praise on success encourages child to infer person criticism on failure (even if you don't say it) which undermines resilience. Alternatives turn attention to process-strategy and effort and build resilience.
You're really smart	<p>"You worked really hard."                      "You used some great strategies. That must have been fun."</p>	Smart (as a trait) is not something you have control of, effort and process are. Unsuccessful events invite the child to attribute the trait 'not-smart'.
That's what good readers do.	"That's what readers do."	'Good reader' (as a trait) opens possibility of children 'bad-reader' when unsuccessful. 'Readers' is a more accommodating identity.
I like the way you....	"Look at how you did that, you...."	Keeps child in control, focuses on the process and doesn't shift the goal towards pleasing adults.
Good girl.	"Thanks"	Judgment offers an asymmetrical power relationship. "Thanks," not only offers a symmetrical power relationship but encourages community contributions. "Good girl," is global praise and invites its opposite when the child is not successful.

## Online Resources for a More Diverse Appendix B

Lee and Low Publishers- This page has links to various articles discussing the issue of diversity and the Common Core State Standards.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/educators/a-more-diverse-reading-list>

Perspectives for a Diverse America- This amazing resources is put out by Teaching Tolerance. The search engine allows teachers to find texts and build lesson plans around social justice topics. Registration is free. <http://perspectives.tolerance.org/>

In addition to the digital anthology, this project offers a powerful tool for teachers to screen and select engaging and appropriate literature for their classrooms

<http://www.tolerance.org/publication/project-appendix-d>

Collaborative for Equity in Literacy Learning- This collaborative has compiled a list of 150 titles that are alternatives to the text exemplars in Appendix B.

<http://cell.msmc.edu/literature/>