

## **Plan: How can I help prepare students and myself for a great day of learning?**

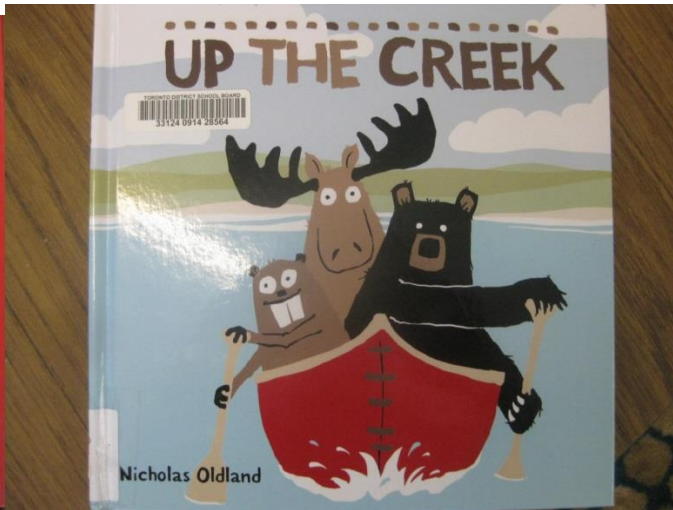
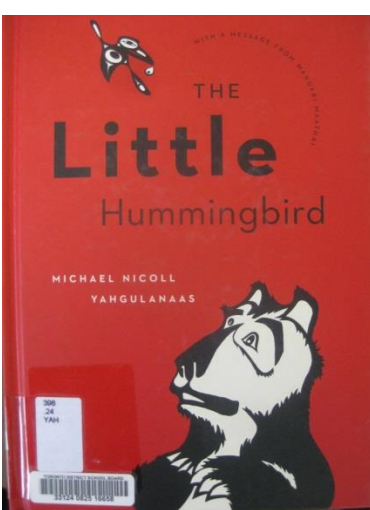
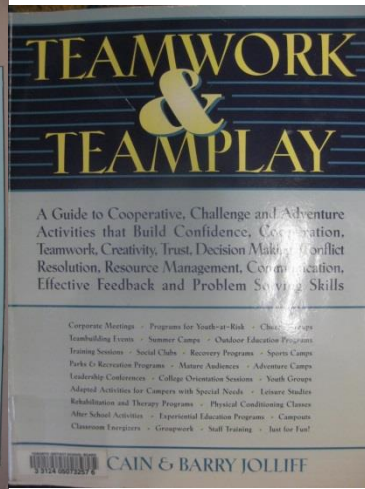
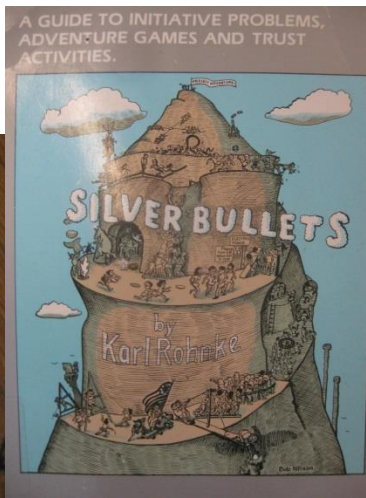
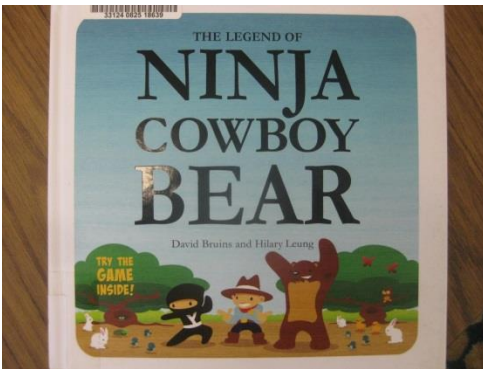
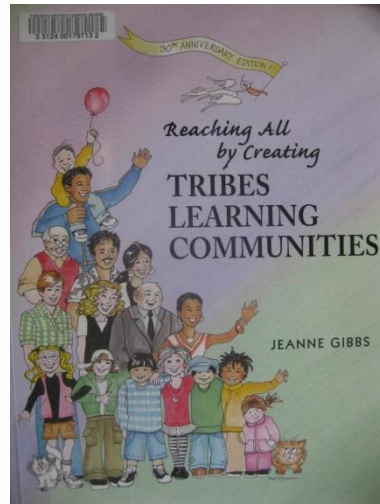
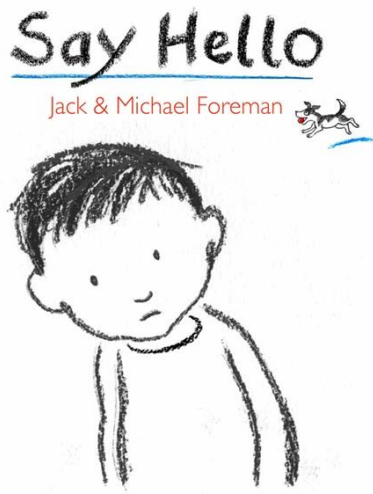
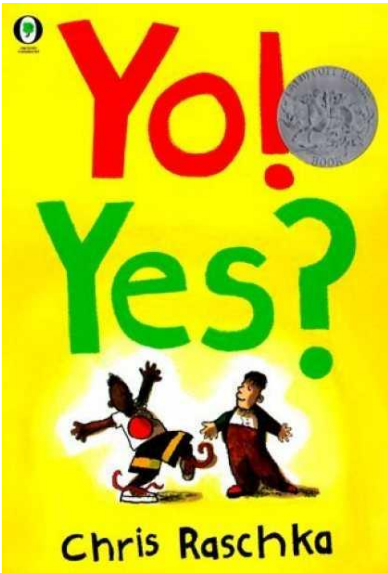
The **Learning Skills Development** mapping program is designed to enrich student understanding of the essential skills outlined in [Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010](#) (pp. 10-14) and [Finding Common Ground: Character Education in Ontario Schools K-12](#) through a hands-on, learning experience at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre.

### **Some guiding questions to support effective field trip planning:**

- What is this month's TDSB Character Trait and how can we apply it to the rest of our school work?
- How does it integrate into your classroom program?

### **Possible Pre-Trip Experiences**

- **Organize students into groups of 3 or 4's as discussed with Forest Valley program staff (required)**
- **Review '[Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre, Map Reading Courses, Mapping – a Life Skill](#)' (required)**
- Review the appropriate [site maps](#) with your class
- Review mapping features with students (see document above)
- Have students take part in various mapping activities before the trip such as mapping a desk top, a classroom, the school yard and generating their own legends for the map.
- Familiarize students with cooperative games (e.g., TRIBES, name games, line up games...etc.)
- Practice communication activities (e.g. Back-to-Back drawing: students follow each other's drawing instructions without looking and debrief what worked and how to improve)
- Participate in a TDSB Character Trait assembly, and talk about how it relates to the classroom and wider community
- Begin a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) about the TDSB character trait to bring with you to Forest Valley
- Brainstorm the types of learning skills that will support success during their day at Forest Valley (e.g. self-awareness, self-monitoring, taking responsibility for personal actions, coping with stress, teamwork, risk-taking, communication etc.)
- Have students assess their learning skills before coming (e.g. What are my strengths? What is my next step?)
- have students write a personal goal statement based on their self-assessment to bring with them to Forest Valley
- Read books related to character development (available from Forest Valley's Library or Media Net). To borrow books please contact Forest Valley OEC ([ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-395-5110)
- Engage students in reflective follow up activities after reading using oral, visual, written and/or dramatic communication



**TDSB Web Resources** (available through TDSB computers)

- [TDSB's Virtual Library](#)