This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film The Principal Story.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Anfara, Vincent. *From the Desk of the Middle School Principal: Leadership Responsive to the Needs of Young Adolescents.* Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2002. Anfara examines the role of a principal and presents a working model that responds to the developmental needs of students.


Donaldson, Jr., Gordon A. *Cultivating Leadership in Schools: Connecting People, Purpose, and Practice.* New York: Teachers College Press, 2006. This is a powerful book about the characteristics of strong leaders, how to cultivate them in staff and make them sustainable. Includes graphic summaries, and illustrative examples.

Esquith, Rafe. *Teach Like your Hair's on Fire: The Method and Madness Inside Room 56.* New York: Viking, 2007. Rafe Esquith’s fifth graders inside Room 56 in a Los Angeles school are first-generation immigrants who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. They also play Vivaldi, perform Shakespeare, score in the top 1 percent on standardized tests and go on to attend Ivy League universities. Esquith reveals the techniques that have made him an acclaimed educator.

Fraser, Larry E. & William Streshly. *Top Ten Myths in Education: Fantasies Americans Love to Believe.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2000. Purposefully limiting their analysis to problems that can be fixed from within the educational system, the authors attack (from an administrator's perspective) ten presumptions of American public education and offer some advice on how to fix them.

Fuhrman, Susan and Marvin Lazerson. *The Public Schools.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005. This volume is a collection of essays by leading scholars and educators that address the major challenges facing public education.


Johnson, LouAnne. *The Queen of Education: Rules for Making School Work.* San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2004. Johnson offers an accessible assessment of what is wrong with schools in the U.S. and practical advice on how to fix them, based on her own experiences as a teacher and educational consultant, as well as letters and e-mail messages she has received from parents, teachers and students during the ten-plus years since publication of her previous book, *My Posse Don't Do Homework.*


Sunderman, Gail L. and James S. Kim. *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2005. Researchers with the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University examine how federal and state governments have worked to implement the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act’s main accountability provisions and how local districts and schools have accommodated these new requirements.

Delve Deeper into The Principal Story
A film by Tod Lending and David Mrazek


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Morris, Ann and Peter Linenthal. That’s Our Principal! Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003. K-Grade 3. This book acquaints readers with Steve Pault, an elementary school principal, describing what he does during the school day and how he interacts with other staff and students.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Calhoun, Stephanie. The Frog Principal. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2001. K-Grade 3. After the principal of P.S. 88 is turned into a frog by a bumbling magician, the frog bargains for the chance to act as principal until Mr. Bundy returns from his “family emergency.”

Creech, Sharon. A Fine, Fine School. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2001. PreS-Grade 3. When a principal loves his school so much that he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year, it’s up to his students to show him free time is a good thing, too.

Gutman, Dan. Dr. Carbles is Losing his Marbles! New York: HarperTrophy, 2007. Grades 1-3. Tired of following the strict rules of their grumpy replacement principal, second-grader A.J. and his classmates try to find a way to bring back eccentric but lovable Principal Klutz, who was fired for bringing a wild turkey to the school’s Thanksgiving Day assembly.


Johnston, Tony. The Spoon in the Bathroom Wall. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2005. Grades 3-6. Living in the boiler room of the school where her father is janitor seems normal to fourth grader Martha Snapdragon, until she has experiences with an evil principal, the class bully and a mysterious giant spoon, all reminiscent of the Arthurian legends.

Levi, Elizabeth. The Principal’s on the Roof. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2002. Grades 3-6. The principal of Jill and Gwen’s school promised to spend the morning on the roof if the kids read one thousand books during their reading marathon—and they did! Now he’s on the roof, and he’s going to read an original science fiction story Gwen wrote.


Spinelli, Jerry. Report to the Principal’s Office. New York, NY: Scholastic Paperback: 1992. Grade 4—8. This is a humorous book about a group of sixth graders on their first day of middle school.

Strasser, Todd. Help! I’m Trapped in My Principal’s Body. New York, NY: Scholastic, 1998. Grades 3-6. A bully is beating up students in Jake Sherman’s eighth grade class, and it looks as if no one can stop him, until Jake causes his buddy Josh to switch bodies with the principal.

FILMS, VIDEOS AND BROADCASTS

The Boys of Baraka. Directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. Loki Films, LLC, 2005. TRT: 84 min. Follows a group of 12-year-old boys from the most violent ghettos of Baltimore to the Baraka School, an experimental boarding school in rural Kenya, where children live by strict guidelines, yet are given the freedom to grow. www.shoppbs.org


Hard Times at Douglass High: A No Child Left Behind Report Card. Directed by Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond. HBO, 2008. TRT: 113 min. At Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore, MD, the expectations raised by NCLB have reached a critical point. Filmmakers Alan and Susan Raymond offer a yearlong look inside a storied institution at a time when its very existence is in doubt. www.amazon.com
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*The Hobart Shakespeareans.*

[www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org)

*I am a Promise: The Children of Stanton Elementary School.*
Directed by Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond.  *Video Verité,* 1994.  TRT: 90 min.  Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary, this film looks at the students of Stanton Elementary School in North Philadelphia, an inner-city neighborhood where 90% of the students live below the poverty line.

[www.docurama.com](http://www.docurama.com)


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