

## Boys and Active Literacy!

Active Literacy is more than just reading. Active Literacy means forming a relationship with a book so that you can form your own opinions in response to the text. Reading can be neutral and passive; “Active Literacy” is dynamic and stimulates thought.

Engaging boys in “Active Literacy” can sometimes be a difficult task; but it doesn’t have to be. The start, there are **Ten Positive Male Archetypes**, according to Swiss psychologist Carl Jung, and engaging boys in active literacy involves exposing them to stories that depict those archetypes.<sup>1</sup> What follows is a simple explanation of each archetype. On the next page, there is a list of books that adhere to the archetypes.

### Ten Positive Male Archetypes:

1. **Pilgrim:**
  - ❖ The pilgrim is a searcher and a wanderer. He is full of hope, faith, and the need to improve his life.
2. **Patriarch:**
  - ❖ The patriarch is a person of wisdom, authority, and self-sacrifice who tries to improve the life of those he cares about.
3. **Warrior:**
  - ❖ The warrior is a man who has self-control, never acts out of anger, and who takes full responsibility for his actions. He is noble, honorable, restrained, and humble.
4. **Magician:**
  - ❖ The magician does not practice magic. Instead, he is someone who uses his intuition and knowledge to better his own life, and the lives of those around him.
5. **King:**
  - ❖ The king embodies male greatness. He is noble, generous and gets people to overcome their fears. He always brings out the best in others.
6. **Wildman:**
  - ❖ The wildman is the animal in all men/boys. The wildman is all about independence and learning to find new levels of responsibility and self-reliance. The wildman pushes himself to new limits.
7. **Healer:**
  - ❖ The healer is mystical and spiritual. He can bring completeness and happiness to people or communities that are broken, incomplete, or suffering.
8. **Prophet:**
  - ❖ The prophet is a man who always sees and tells the truth regardless of its consequences. He is more concerned about the welfare of others than about his own well-being.
9. **Trickster:**
  - ❖ The trickster always finds the humorous side of things. He humbles others by poking fun at things that are too serious. He puts life into proper perspective.
10. **Lover:**
  - ❖ The lover is caring, generous, and giving. The lover is a symbol of man’s connection to all other people.

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<sup>1</sup> Brozo, William G. To Be a Boy, To Be a Reader. Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association, 2002.

## A Guy's Book List

What follows is an abridged list of books that boys might enjoy because they adhere to one of Ten Positive Male Archetypes (see previous handout).<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lange has a more complete list; so don't hesitate to ask if you don't find anything that you like.

Most guys identify with more than one of the archetypes, so I encourage you to try books from different categories. If you dislike a book in a category, however, try another one. The important thing is that you begin to find books that make you an active reader.

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<sup>1</sup> Brozo, William G. To Be a Boy, To Be a Reader. Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association, 2002.

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### Pilgrim:

The Car – Gary Paulsen  
If Rock and Roll Were a Machine – Terry Davis  
Pacific Crossing – Gary Soto\*  
Playing Without a Ball – Rich Wallace  
Flying to the Moon: An Astronaut's Story – Michael Collins  
A Hope in the Unseen – Ron Suskind  
Columbus and the World Around Him – Milton Meltzer  
Bearskin – Howard Pyle  
Beyond the Sea of Ice: The Voyages of Henry Hudson – Joan Goodman  
Countdown – Ben Mikaelson  
Taking Sides – Gary Soto  
The Westons Go to Birmingham – Christopher Curtis  
Travels – Michael Crichton\*  
Stand Before Your God – Paul Watkins\*

### Patriarch:

California Blue – David Klass  
Canyon Winter – Walter Morey  
Hoops – Walter Dean Meyers  
The Maze – Will Hobbs  
Shadow Boxer – Chris Lynch  
The Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen Scientist – Richard Feynman  
Michael Jordan: Basketball Great – Sean Dolan  
Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation – Richard Norton  
Frederick Douglass: The Last Day of Slavery – William Miller  
The Backyard Tribe – Neil Shulman  
The Harmony Arms – Ron Koertge  
Too Long a Stranger – Janette Oke  
Across Five Aprils – Irene Hunt\*

### Warrior:

Ghost Soldier – Elaine Alphin  
The Last Mission – Harry Mazer  
No Man's Land: A Young Soldier's Story – Susan Bartoletti  
Reef of Death – Paul Zindel  
Scorpions – Walter Dean Meyers  
Colin Powell: A Man of War and Peace – Carl Senna  
Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them – Karen Magnuson  
The Life and Death of Crazy Horse – Russell Freedman  
Nelson Mandela: Voice of Freedom – Libby Hughes\*  
On My Honor – Marion Bauer  
The Heartbeat of Halftime – Stephen Wunderli  
Roughnecks – Thomas Cochran

### Magician:

Cyclops – Clive Cussler  
Dragonwings – Laurence Yep  
Golden Compass – Phillip Pullman  
Stars – Eric Walters  
The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life – Sid Fleishman  
Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare – Diane Stanley  
The Casebook of Forensic Detection – Colin Evans  
Harry Houdini – Adam Woog  
Rocket Boys: A Memoir – Homer Hickam Jr.\*  
Rocket Man: The Story of Robert Goddard – Tom Streissguth  
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone – J.K. Rowling\*  
Mutation – Robin Cook\*  
Tangerine – Edward Bloor\*

\* = Mr. Lange's Favorites

### King:

Borderlands – Peter Carter  
Last Days of Summer – Steven Kluger  
When Heroes Die – Penny Durant  
Arthur Ashe: Breaking the Color Barrier – David Wright  
Cesar Chavez – Ruth Franchere & Earl Thollander  
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali – Karen Spies  
The Sea King: Sir Francis Drake and His Times – Albert Marrin  
Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea – Gary Kinder  
Winston Churchill: Soldier, Statesman, Artist\*  
The Book of Three – Lloyd Alexander  
Ghost Canoe – Will Hobbs  
A Little Bit Dead – Chap Reaver

### Wildman:

Hatchet – Gary Paulsen\*  
Brian's Winter – Gary Paulsen\*  
Crash – Jerry Spinelli  
Far North – Will Hobbs\*  
The Last Safe Place on Earth – Richard Peck  
Never Cry Wolf – Farley Mowat\*  
Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition – Elizabeth Kimmel\*  
Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster – Jon Krakauer\*  
Pirates – David Spence  
Within Reach – Mark Pfetzer  
Captain Hawaii – Anthony Arkin  
Lewis and Clark: Explorers of the American West – Steven Kroll

### Healer:

Bud, Not Buddy – Christopher Curtis  
Holes – Louis Sachar\*  
The Moves Make the Man – Bruce Brooks  
Ghandi: Great Soul – John Severance  
Life in Prison – Stanley Williams  
Stella – Peter Wyden  
The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie – Michael Cottman  
The Chemo Kid – Robert Lipsyte  
Raptor Rescue: An Eagle Flies Free – Sylvia Johnson  
Rescue Josh McGuire – Ben Mikaelson  
A Sunburned Prayer – Marc Talbert  
Keeper of the Universe – Louis Lawrence

### Prophet:

An Eye for Color – Norman Silver  
A Fisherman of the Island Sea – Ursula LeGuin  
Maniac Magee – Jerry Spinelli  
The Postman – David Brin  
Einstein: Visionary Scientist – John Severance  
Flash! The Associated Press Covers the World – Vincent Alabisco\*  
I Have a Dream: The Life and Words of Martin Luther King Jr. – Jim Haskins  
Jacques Cousteau: Champion of the Sea – Catherine Reef\*  
Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary – Walter Dean Meyers  
Gandhi – Leonard Everett Fisher  
Gulf – Robert Westall  
The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress – Robert Heinlein

### Trickster:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain\*  
Inca Gold – Clive Cussler\*  
Oddballs – William Sleator  
In a Dark Wood – Michael Cadnum  
Boy: Tales of Childhood – Roald Dahl\*  
The Good Liar – Gregory Maguire  
Prince of Humbugs: A Life of P.T. Barnum – Catherine Andronik  
The Adventures of Reddy Fox – Thornton Burgess  
Anything Can Happen in High School (And It Usually Does) – William McCants  
Creepers – Keith Gray  
Robin Hood – Margaret Early\*  
The Shakespeare Stealer – Gary Blackwood

### Lover:

Heart of a Champion – Carl Deuker  
My Brother Stealing Second – Jim Naughton  
Nowhere to Call Home – Cunthia DeFelice  
Phoenix Rising – Karen Hesse  
Under the Blood Red Sun – Graham Salisbury  
Face Forward: Young African American Men in a Critical Age – Julian Okwu  
Modoc: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived – Ralph Helfer  
Talking Peace: A Vision for the Next Generation – Jimmy Carter  
The Cay – Theodore Taylor  
A Couple of Kooks and Other Stories About Love – Cynthia Rylant  
Lives and Legends of the Saints – Carole Armstrong  
Shiloh – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
Teammates - Peter Golenbock  
Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls