



## 2025/2026 Season Resources & Reasoning



### TeenEagle 1:

**Film: Matilda: The Musical (2022)**  
**UNDP Goal: Quality Education**

The 2022 film *Matilda the Musical* highlights the transformative power of education, aligning closely with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) goal of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all. The story of Matilda, a young girl with extraordinary intelligence and telekinetic abilities, underscores the importance of fostering creativity, critical thinking, and resilience in students, especially in environments that may otherwise stifle these qualities. Matilda's journey emphasizes how a supportive and nurturing educational system can empower marginalized children to overcome adversity and unlock their full potential. The film also critiques traditional educational systems that prioritize conformity and discipline over individual learning needs, reinforcing the need for educational reform that promotes fairness, access, and equality for every student.





**Book: The Wild Robot - Peter Brown**

**UNDP Goal: Life on Land**

This engaging and moving novel shows the struggles of a humanoid robot needing to learn how to survive, and raise a duckling, on a deserted island. It works in well with our UNDP goal of life on land as it shows how all animals in the ecosystem have to work together to survive, and the impacts that external forces have on their environment. This book was recently turned into a film, and although the story is a bit different (so they should read the book) it is beautifully animated and gives life to our characters. It would be a good thing to watch after reading. This book is part of a series. We love this because we believe that it will encourage students to read the other two books to see what happens, but only book 1 (The Wild Robot - others have different titles) is in the competition for this season. The book is divided into many chapters, but each are short and it's an easy read, appropriate for TeenEagle 1.

## **TeenEagle 2:**

**Film: Akeelah and the Bee (2006)**

**UNDP Goal: Quality Education**

The 2006 film *Akeelah and the Bee* showcases the importance of quality education and the power of perseverance, aligning with the UNDP's goal of achieving inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all. The story follows Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old girl from a disadvantaged neighborhood who discovers her remarkable talent for spelling and competes in the National Spelling Bee. Akeelah's journey highlights the critical role that access to supportive educators, mentorship, and resources plays in nurturing talent and academic potential. The film emphasizes that quality education goes beyond just teaching facts; it involves recognizing individual strengths, overcoming societal barriers, and instilling the confidence to achieve personal goals. Akeelah's success illustrates how providing opportunities for growth, regardless of socio-economic background, can unlock transformative possibilities for children and communities, reinforcing the need for educational systems that encourage aspiration, inclusivity, and equity.



**Book: Out of My Mind - Sharon Draper (2010)**

**UNDP Goal: Reduced Inequalities**

In this novel we follow a young girl with cerebral palsy. She is unable to move or speak on her own but attends school with typically-abled children. They think one way of her, until they are proven wrong when she's given a machine that helps her to convey her thoughts. Her peers suddenly realise she is highly intelligent. The story is wonderful for teaching students the importance of acceptance, inclusion and not judging others. The story powerfully challenges stereotypes and discrimination against people with disabilities, advocating for **equal rights, accessibility, and inclusion**—all key aspects of the Reduced Inequalities goal. This book was also recently made into a film by Disney. This book is also part of a series, which we love as it may encourage students to read even more to see what happens (but only *Out of My Mind* is in the competition this year). The book is not too long and has a good lexical level for this age category.

## **TeenEagle 3:**

**Film: The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)**

**UNDP Goal: No Poverty**

*The Pursuit of Happyness* offers a powerful narrative that aligns with the UNDP's goal of eradicating poverty by highlighting the transformative potential of opportunity, resilience, and access to education and employment. The story follows Chris Gardner, a struggling single father who faces homelessness and financial instability while trying to build a better future for himself and his son. Through his journey, the film underscores how poverty can limit opportunities but also how hard work, determination, and access to supportive structures—such as internships and mentorship—can offer pathways out of hardship. The film illustrates that breaking the cycle of poverty requires not just individual effort, but also systemic changes in access to quality jobs, education, and social support systems, reinforcing the UNDP's goal of ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to achieve a decent standard of living.



**Book: Peak - Roland Smith (2007)**

**UNDP Goal: Quality Education**

In *PEAK*, the protagonist, Peak Marcello, learns much more than just how to climb Mount Everest. The novel emphasizes personal growth, resilience, and the value of learning through experience. Peak's journey reflects character education, moral decision-making, and self-discovery, all of which are part of holistic education beyond the classroom. This is an exciting story that is full of learning moments and mistakes turned into beautiful lessons.

