

Building Grit Kit

Smack Dab

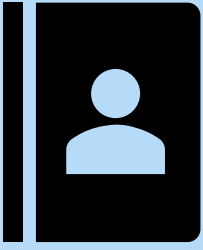
in the middle of
Becoming a Hero in
Your Own Story



Based upon Smack
Dab in the Middle
of Maybe

By Jo Watson Hackl

Random House Children's Books/Yearling Adventure



A Welcome for Students, Educators, Parents, Caregivers and Group Leaders

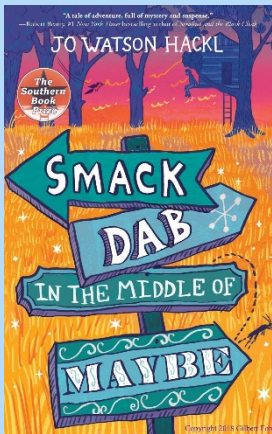
About this Workbook

This workbook can be used in classroom, community, and family settings and with distance learning. It contains a variety of activities designed to use *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* as a launching point to help students become the hero in their own story by setting personal goals, brainstorming potential obstacles to those goals, and developing strategies to help them navigate around those obstacles. This project is also designed to help students identify their strengths and things they would like to work on. Through the activities, students can identify positive adult role models such as teachers, parents, guardians, coaches, community leaders and others who can help them achieve their goals. They can explore positive habits that they can build into their daily lives to help them become the best version of themselves. This workbook is designed to support social and emotional learning and is not intended to be or take the place of professional mental health services. If you would like to add more of an academic component, you may wish to ask that students include cites to page numbers in *Smack Dab* to support their conclusions.

The workbook isn't just for children. You may want to start a class, family or group tradition around some of the activities included in this workbook. You can customize the activities to your setting and schedule and omit any activities that don't resonate with you. To help reinforce the project's message of positivity and to inspire a "can do" spirit, you may wish to create a launch party at the beginning of the project and a celebration at the end. Ideas for book-themed recipes can be found at <https://johackl.com/activities/bookclubs/>. The only supplies you need for this workbook are paper, pens or pencils, a container for items that you bring in from nature, scissors, and old magazines that students can use to create their vision boards.

You can also find a version of the building Grit Kit designed for teens and young adults at www.JoHackl.com/activities.

[Activities begin after the following page]



About the Book

Eleven days, thirteen clues and one kid who won't give up *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* takes readers on an adventure with 12-year-old Cricket and her companion, a field cricket named Charlene, through an overgrown ghost town in Electric City, Mississippi, to solve a thirty-year-old clue trail in search of a secret room that may or may not exist, all to try to win back Cricket's run-away mother. Cricket must use her wits and just a smidgen of luck to live off the land during a Mississippi winter and work to solve an increasingly complex clue trail left by an eccentric artist with a logic all his own. Along the way, Cricket meets the reclusive last resident of the ghost town, enlists the help of a poetry-loving dog, and takes up a touch of grave-robbing. These experiences awaken Cricket to the possibility of finding strength in the most unlikely of places—within herself.

❖ *Winner of the Southern Book Prize, a Publisher's Weekly National Bestseller, an Amazon Teacher's Pick, an Indie Next Pick, an Okra Pick and winner of the Mississippi Library Association Author of the Year Award*

Praise for *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe*

- "Told in the easy, laconic tone of good, Southern storytelling, Hackl's debut rolls off the tongue and into the heart easy as warm butter on a biscuit. Lyrical and endearing, this debut is a genuine adventure tale, poignant and as fresh as a spring garden."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
- "Cricket is an intriguing and complex protagonist, and the plot, full of adventure, treasure hunts, and mystery, will keep young readers hooked."—*School Library Journal*
- "A masterful debut. Cricket is my new hero, brave and funny and full of heart. Jo Watson Hackl's new middle- grade novel has art, poetry, and adventure—and I couldn't put it down."—Augusta Scattergood, award-winning author of *Glory Be*
- "*Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* is part treasure hunt, part wilderness adventure, and all heart." —Alan Gatz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Refugee*



Warm Up Activity: Let's Brainstorm

Cricket had to use her wits and just a smidgen of luck to survive on her own in the woods. She used duct tape to make a pine branch blanket. Let's see how many other uses for duct tape you and your group can think of in five minutes.

The set-up:

- ❖ Divide into teams or complete individually.
- ❖ You will have five minutes to think of as many uses for duct tape (no matter how silly) as possible. Write each idea on a sheet of paper.
- ❖ One by one, ask each group member to read off one idea. Once an idea has been said aloud, it cannot be used by another.
- ❖ A group member who is out of ideas must sit down.
- ❖ The last group member standing wins.

Optional Reflection:

Did coming up with ideas become easier once you gave yourself permission to include silly ideas?

Warm-Up Activity: Take Control of Your Space



You may wish to take a fresh look at the space where you will be working on this project. Think of three adjectives that you'd like the overall space to communicate (for example, creative, fun, and inspiring).

My key adjectives:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Examine each element of your setting. Does each element reinforce or detract from the three key adjectives that you'd like the space to communicate? Can bringing in natural elements such as wildflowers, soft sounds from nature or natural scents enhance the setting? Is there anything that detracts from the message you want your space to communicate? If you decide to change anything, you may wish to talk to your teacher, parent, guardian or group leader about what changes you'd like to make and why. Together, you can create an environment that does even more to support your success.

Any changes I want to make in my environment:

Let's Get Resourceful



Cricket had to survive on her own in an overgrown ghost town. When the raccoons stole her supplies, she had to improvise and live off the land. Are you ready to take on a Cricket Challenge?

Make a list of the items you would use to survive on your own in Electric City. They are limited to:

- ❖ the items in your backpack
- ❖ two items from the place where you sleep
- ❖ three items from your kitchen or pantry
- ❖ one “wild card” item from anywhere in your home, classroom, or community space

Now come up with a plan on how you'd use those items to survive in Electric City for eleven days as you solve the clue trail. Write your plan below.

Optional Reflection:

Did you come up with any unexpected ideas? If so, what were they? _____

Group Activity: Bringing in Woods Time and Creating Your Own Discovery Center



Cricket's family has a tradition of "Woods Time" where people in her family spend time in the woods before making an important decision. You don't have to spend days in the woods to get some of the benefit of Woods Time. You can bring Woods Time into your school, home or community setting.

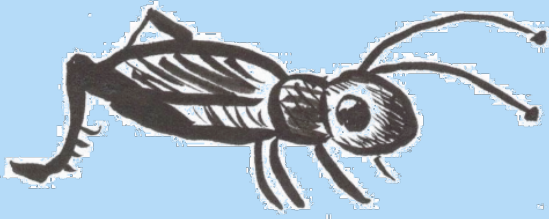
The Set-Up:

- ❖ Select at least five objects from nature and bring them into your space. If it's not safe for you to go outside, find five objects already in your space.
- ❖ Keep all Woods Time objects in a central place such as a tray, box, or clear container. This is your new Discovery Center. You can add to the Discovery Center as you go along.

The Activity:

- ❖ As a group, try to identify each object in your Discovery Center and learn more about it.
- ❖ As a group, brainstorm about the obstacles each object faced before it came into your space. What strategies or events helped the object from nature overcome those obstacles? Did anything or anyone help along the way?

Group Activity: How Did She Do?



Let's analyze Cricket

In *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe*, Cricket has several goals about the Bird Room, her mother, and her artwork. Work with others in a group who have read the book to answer the following questions:

What are three of Cricket's goals? How did each goal change over time?

- Goal One: Cricket's goal about the Bird Room:

- Goal Two: Cricket's goal about her mother:

- Goal 3: Cricket's goal about her artwork:



Next, you be the judge!

Identify obstacles that Cricket faced and list the strategies she used to overcome them. Please give your opinion about whether or not her strategies were successful. Why or why not?

Goal One:

What obstacles did Cricket face in her pursuit of her goal for the Bird Room?

- Obstacle 1:

- Obstacle 2:

- Obstacle 3:

What strategies did she use to try to overcome these obstacles?

- Strategy 1:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 2:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 3:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?



You decide!

What other strategies could she have used? Write them below and list the pros and cons of each.

Alternative strategy #1	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #2	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #3	
Pros	Cons

Goal Two:

What obstacles did Cricket face when pursuing her goal about her mother?

- Obstacle 1:

- Obstacle 2:

- Obstacle 3:

What strategies did she use to try to overcome these obstacles?

- Strategy 1:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 2:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 3:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?



You decide!

What other strategies could she have used? Write them below and list the pros and cons of each.

Alternative strategy #1	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #2	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #3	
Pros	Cons

Goal Three:

What obstacles did Cricket face in pursuit of her goal about her artwork?

- Obstacle 1:

- Obstacle 2:

- Obstacle 3:

What strategies did she use to try to overcome these obstacles?

- Strategy 1:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 2:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?

- Strategy 3:

Did this strategy work? Why or why not?



You decide!

What other strategies could she have used? Write them below and list the pros and cons of each.

Alternative strategy #1	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #2	
Pros	Cons

Alternative strategy #3	
Pros	Cons

Report out time!

Write your ideas below and share your conclusions with the group.



Group Activity: Becoming Your Awesome Best Self

"Sometimes it's time to start taking chances on yourself."

Cricket changed over the course of the book and became more like her Awesome Best Self.

What three words would you use to describe Cricket at the beginning of the book?

--	--	--

What words would you use to describe Cricket at the end of the book when she became more like her Awesome Best Self?

Please list below some things that Cricket did to become more like her Awesome Best Self.

What were some tools that Cricket used? Circle all that apply

Making healthy food choices	Setting a goal	Bouncing back from setbacks
Calming down if she lost her cool	Getting organized	Finding allies
Adjusting her course and resetting goals	Trying something new	Showing compassion
Not giving up	Looking at things a different way	Asking for help from others

What are some additional tools that Cricket could have used?

Report out time!

Write your conclusions in the space below and share your conclusions with the group.



My Awesome Best Self:

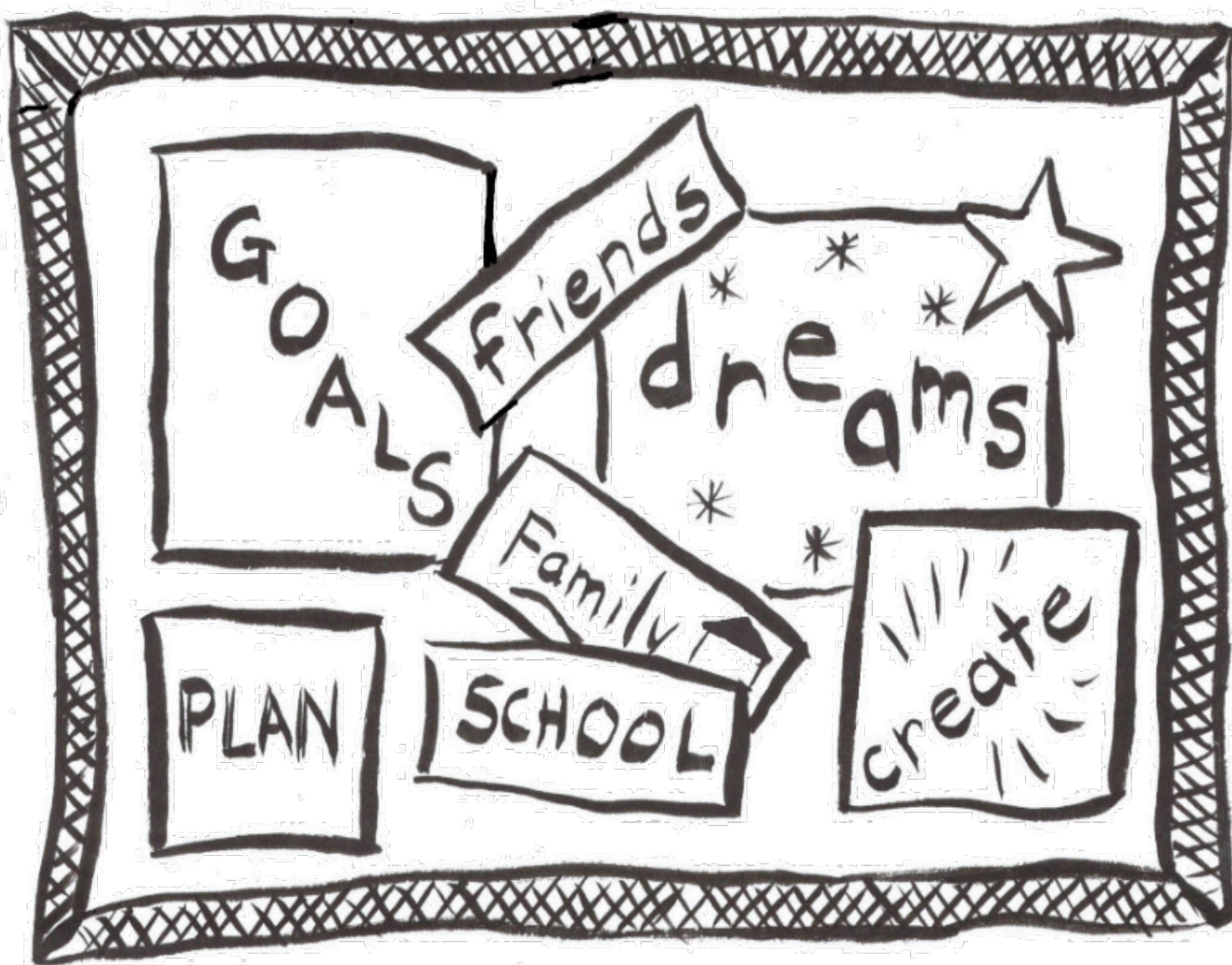
When people think of you, they often use adjectives to describe you. Please list below nine words you'd like for people to use when they describe you:

Things that interest me:

What are some things that interest you or get you excited about learning? Write them below.

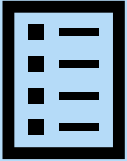
My Vision Board for My Awesome Best Self

On the next page, cut out pictures from magazines to create a vision board with images that can help remind you of the person who you'd like to be this year, for the rest of your time in school, and when you grow up. Make sure the pictures reflect your Awesome Best Self and include the things that interest you.



My Vision Board

Let's Make a Plan!



Look at the list of things that interest you that you made on page 17. Pick one thing that you'd like to explore over the next week. Now make a plan to dig deeper and learn more about it. Write your plan below. Is there anyone who can help you? If so, include that person in the plan.

Becoming Your Best Physical Self



Cricket made sure to take care of herself physically while she was in the woods of Electric City. She made sure she had enough to eat, and enough time to rest. Record your daily/nightly routine for a week. Become a detective and examine your routine to see if you can make any more

changes to become more like Your Awesome Best Self.

How many hours did you sleep each night?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

What did you eat each day?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

What type of exercise did you do each day?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

How would you rate your mood each day on a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the best?)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

What did you do for fun each day?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

What do you notice from your log?

Is there anything that you would like to change to become more like Your Awesome Best Self?



Individual Activity: Let's Check Your Progress!

In the space below, write a letter to yourself. Tell yourself what you're proud of that you have already completed and what you are proud of that you are doing right now. This can include overcoming trials that are not related to your goals – for example, how you adjusted during the global pandemic. Be as specific as possible.



Group Activity: Creating a Class, Family or Group Motto and Doogaloo

Electric City, Mississippi had its own type of money. Instead of using pennies or dollar bills, they used a different type of coin. In *Smack Dab*, this coin was called a doogaloo. Coins often have symbols that represent something important. For example, the doogaloo for Electric City has a lightbulb because the town was proud that it was one of the first towns in its area to have electricity. It also saw itself as a city of innovation and progress. If Electric City had a motto, it most likely would be “Work hard, help your neighbors and let your talents shine bright.”

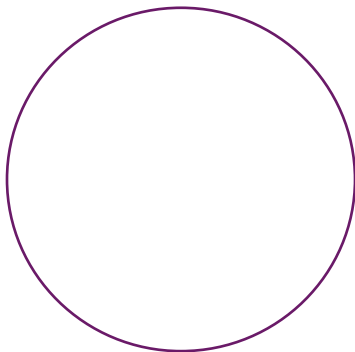
What would you like for the motto for your class, family or group to be? Brainstorm as a group to come up with a phrase that describes the type of class, family or group you are, the type of class, family or group that you’d like to be and the motto you’d like to use to remind you of that. Write your answer below:

My class, family or group motto:

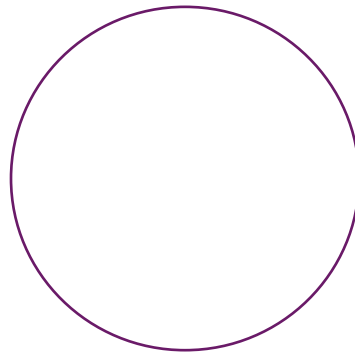
My class, family or group doogaloo design:

What symbols and images are important to your class, family or group? Is it a favorite animal, place, or person? How can they remind you of your motto? What symbols would you put on your own doogaloo? What would you put on the front and back? Design your class, family or group doogaloo below:

Front:



Back:





Group Activity: Spot the Superpowers

Everyone around you has the potential to be a superhero. Let's see how you many superpowers you can identify in your class, family or group.

The set-up:

- ❖ Provide each person with a piece of paper and a pencil or pen
- ❖ Ask each person to write the names of the other people participating

The Activity:

- ❖ List at least one positive quality (a superpower) for each person participating in the activity. You can also list one for yourself.
- ❖ Turn the form into a teacher, parent, caregiver or group leader. That person will compile the sheets and give you a list of the superpowers that the people around you see in you. Save that sheet. You can also list them below:

My superpowers:



Group Activity: Finding your Allies

You don't have to become your Awesome Best Self all on your own. There are people who can help you on your journey. People who can help you have these qualities:

- They care about you
- They want the best for you
- They are trustworthy and kind
- They are willing to listen to you and give you good advice
- They have helpful experience that they can share with you
- They want to help you achieve your goals

List below some people who might be willing to become your allies and help you become your Awesome Best Self

If you get stuck, brainstorm with your group members



Team Activity: Script it Out

Work with group members to brainstorm about how you can ask a potential ally to help you achieve your goals. Role play being the person asking and the person being asked. Write below some sample scripts for the conversation:



Individual Activity: You can be the Superhero in Your Own Story

Imagine yourself as a superhero who is your Awesome Best Self. Draw in your features. What are your strengths (superpowers)? What do you need to work on (weaknesses)? Who can help you in your superhero journey (your Allies)?

My Superpowers:

My Allies:



My Weaknesses:

You've Got This: Getting From Here to Your Awesome Best Self:

What are some habits that you can set to help you become your Awesome Best Self? Some sample habits are below. Add your own in the blank spaces. If you get stuck, ask a group member for help. Are there any traditions that you'd like to start? How can they help you to become your Awesome Best Self? If so, make a note of them below and use it for the activity on page 33.

Spend more time outdoors	Take up a new hobby	Read stories that make me happy
Make a new friend	Spend more time with friends	Spend more time with my family or caregiver
Make a plan to distract myself if I get worried about something	Give at least one compliment a day	Do at least one kind thing a day
Make healthy food choices	Get enough sleep each night	Write down three things I'm grateful for each day
Calm down if I lose my cool	Get organized	Reach out to more potential allies
Adjust my course and reset goals	Exercise every day	Begin my studies each day on time
Do my best in school	Get my homework in on time every day	Do something to help the environment
Ask a friend or family member how I can help them	Take on more responsibilities within my family	Collect an item every day for the Discovery Center



Individual Activity: Go on A Joy Scavenger Hunt

Look around your school, home or community environment and make a list of positive things that you can do or see to make you happy and bring you joy (examples might be to go for a walk, work on a hobby, or play with a pet).
If you get stuck, brainstorm with your group members.

When you feel sad or have a setback, try using an item from your list to reset.



Individual Activity: Getting from Here to Even More Awesome

Let's Start Small

Write below one small thing that you'd like to get better at **this week** to help you become your Awesome Best Self. You can repeat this as often as you wish.

This week's goal: _____

Make a Plan

What things can you do **this week** to help you get better at the thing you've listed above?

Identify Obstacles

What are some things that might stand in the way **this week** of you accomplishing your goal? For each obstacle, identify strategies that you can use to overcome it. Be sure to engage potential allies where they can help:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons



Let's do it!

Spend a week working on your goal. Then write below a letter to yourself in which you say what went the way you expected and what surprised you. How did it feel responding to challenges? What would you do differently next time?

Let's Create a New Tradition



What are some of your favorite class, family or group memories? List a few below:

Is there anything that your favorite memories have in common? Is there something you'd like to do more of together? As a group, brainstorm on ways to create a new class, family or group tradition that includes some of the elements of your favorite memories. Decide as a group how often you want to celebrate your new tradition. Make a plan to put your decisions into practice and write it below:



Individual Activity: Let's Think Bigger

Goal Time! What would you like to accomplish the rest of this year?

What about for the rest of your time in school?

What about when you grow up?



get

Next, identify obstacles that you may face to each of your goals. Please write them below. Next to each obstacle, list strategies that you can use to help overcome them. If you need more room, you can print out more copies of this page. Be sure to think of allies whom you can call on if you need help. If you stuck, ask a group member for help.

Goal One:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Two:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Three:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Four:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Five:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	

Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Six:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Seven:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Eight:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons

Goal Nine:

Obstacles and Strategies:

Obstacles:	
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons
Potential Strategy:	
Pros	Cons



Individual Activity: Overcoming Obstacles

Write a note to yourself for when you face an obstacle. What do you want your future self to know? Review the results of your joy scavenger hunt from page 30. How can you encourage yourself when you feel down?



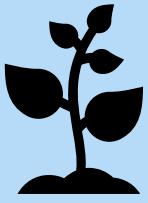
Group Activity: Create Your Own Woods Time

The set-up:

- ❖ All you need is something to write on and something to write with. This can become your nature journal.

The Activity:

- ❖ **Gather** your nature journal and a pen or pencil.
- ❖ **If it's safe for you to do so, go outside.** Look for an area where you will be surrounded by nature and can be a safe distance from other people. Your own back yard just might be perfect. If it's not safe for you to go outside, you can still experience Woods Time by imagining that you are in Cricket's treehouse.
- ❖ **Find** a relaxing spot to sit down- it may be under a favorite tree, a place with a great view, or near plants whose scents you like.
- ❖ **Relax**
 - Shut your eyes. Take six deep breaths. Breathe in the smells of nature. Let them fill your lungs. Breathe out any stress you may be feeling. Let the stress float away in the air as you breath more deeply.
 - Slowly open your eyes.
 - What colors do you see? Do you see any birds, insects or other wildlife? What is each animal doing?
 - What do you hear? Is there a rhythm to the sounds? Listen for five full breaths. Is the rhythm changing?
 - What do you smell? If it's safe for you to do so, bring your nose close to the ground. What changes do you notice in what you smell?
 - Find something from nature that's safe to touch. Slowly run your fingers along it. What textures do you feel? Lean against the tallest tree you can find and look up into its limbs. Study the pattern of the branches and observe how the sunlight affects what you see.
 - Can you feel the wind on your skin? What scents does it carry?
- ❖ **Use** your notebook to record the things in nature that appeal to you. You can make notes of your experience, take a leaf rubbing, or record details of the plants or animals around you.
- ❖ **Make** a mental note of your favorite part of what you've just experienced. If you ever feel stressed, bring that image back to your mind.



Individual Activity: Changes, changes

Over the course of the book, Cricket changed her way of thinking. She became more accepting of others around her, and this helped her become more comfortable, even when she didn't get what she wanted. Please list below at least three ways that Cricket changed.

1. First way in which Cricket changed:
2. Second way in which Cricket changed:
3. Third way in which Cricket changed:

Next, think about some ways that you'd like to change your way of thinking to help you become more comfortable, even when you don't get what you want. Please list them below. For each way you'd like to change, please list at least one action step you can take to help you make that change. If you get stuck, ask a group member for help.

1. First way you'd like to change your way of thinking:

- Action steps to help you make that change:

2. Second way you'd like to change your way of thinking:

- Action steps to help you make that change:

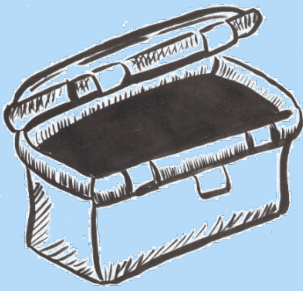
3. Third way you'd like to change your way of thinking:

- Action steps to help you make that change:



Think about your biggest obstacle. What would you tell a friend who was struggling to push past this? How should they navigate around the obstacle? How do you think that they would feel about successfully using a strategy to overcome the obstacle? Write a letter to that friend.

Now address your letter to yourself and read it. Save it and pull it out when you need a dose of encouragement.



Individual Activity: Filling Your Toolbox:

Below is a list of some tools you can use to help you become your Awesome Best Self. Circle some tools that you'd like to put in your toolbox first:

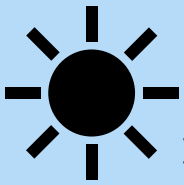
Add something that makes me happy to my home environment	Each day, decide to do something positive that makes me feel happy	Learn how to listen to someone else's point of view
Learn more ways to calm down if I lose my cool	Learn how to disagree without making someone else mad	Build my team of allies
Go for a walk in nature (either in real life or in my imagination)	Write a letter to myself every week saying what I'm proud of that week	Do at least one kind act a day

What else would you like to add to your toolbox? List some below. If you get stuck, ask a friend, group member or ally for help.

Make a Plan

Below list ways you will incorporate the tools into your week:

Be sure and share your plan with a friend, group member or ally and ask them to help you stay on track.



Individual Activity: Gratitude Daily or Weekly Log

Name three things you're grateful happened today or this week. If you'd like, you can share with a class, family or group member or friend.

1.

2.

3.

Individual Activity: Weekly Reflection



Name three things you learned about yourself this week. Did you find out anything that helps you learn better? Do you tend to have more energy at certain times of the day or night? Are there things that you'd like to do more of on a weekly basis? Share with a class, family or group member or friend and brainstorm on how you can incorporate what you've learned into your weekly schedule. You can make copies of this page and repeat each week as you learn more about yourself.

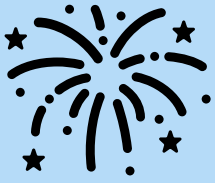


Individual Activity: Visioning Success

Write a letter to yourself where you say how proud you are of the hard work that you have put into what you've accomplished so far.

Draw a picture of yourself achieving a goal.

Group Celebration Time!



Wow! You did it! Keep going! Now it's time to celebrate!
Work together as a class, family or group to plan an activity to celebrate the work you've done so far. Divide responsibilities among each other for carrying it out.

Some ideas are below:

- ❖ Have a celebration party
- ❖ Create a playlist to inspire you as you work to achieve your goals
- ❖ Go on a group activity that everyone enjoys
- ❖ Have an awards ceremony where you share what you're most proud about accomplishing in this project and thank the people who have helped you
- ❖ Create a jar of anonymous "encouragement notes" that group members can use when they're feeling down

About the Author

Jo was born near Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where her favorite artist, Walter Anderson, painted a secret room. Jo later moved to the ghost town of Electric Mills, Mississippi. Anderson's secret room and the ghost town inspired Jo's novel, *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe*. Today Jo lives in South Carolina with her husband, children, and her dog Pupper, who just happens to closely resemble the character of Percy in the book.



Jo founded www.Outdoorosity.org as a free resource for educators and families to celebrate the treasures and curiosities of nature with stories, know-how and inspiration to get readers outside. She'd love to hear from you and about how your class, family or community group has used the Building Grit Guide. You can also find her at:

Facebook: @Jo Watson Hackl Author

Twitter: @JoHackl

Instagram: @JoHackl

Working with experienced educators, Jo has created a bounty of free resources for you to use with the book. They can be found at www.JoHackl.com and include:

- An Activity Guide with activities that can be performed in classroom, home, and community settings;
- An extensive Educator's Guide and additional lesson plans with cites to Common Core standards;
- A book trailer for readers, a book playlist, and a series of "Woods Time Adventures" to encourage engagement with the natural world, available on Jo's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbAUWJcBM1dicuK82P4d0w>;
- An interactive map with a links to the real places that inspired parts of the book;
- A "hidden objects" search featuring items from the clue trail in the book;
- Book Club discussion questions & Book Club menu featuring book-inspired recipes;
- A series of "Cricket Challenges" for readers to extend their reading experience into the real world;
- Bookmark revision tools for both academic and creative writing and writing prompts and tips;
- Bookmarks with fun, free things to do outdoors and ways to make reading more fun; and
- An interactive clue trail that readers can solve using things that they learned from the book; readers who solve the clue trail receive a printable clue solvers badge.

Jo wishes you many more fun reading and outdoor adventures!