Moral Development through Literature

The second grade is an extremely important year for forming a moral conscience as children prepare to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. The Catholic Faith has a long tradition that emphasizes the importance of conscience formation. Exposure to literature with themes of moral decision-making and discernment helps children learn right from wrong and the difference between mistakes and sins.

Moral Choices Shape Character

Title	Author	Summary
Chronicles of Narnia	C.S. Lewis	7 book series-Scholars argue that each book is based on a sacrament. (The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe-Eucharist; Prince Caspian-Reconciliation)
Good Griselle	Jane Yolan	Evil gargoyles on the Cathedral bet the stone angels that the good Griselle cannot love an ugly child. A haunting story of goodness.
A Peek into My Church	Wendy Goody & Veronica Kelly	Through the eyes of Liddy, who is very happy to belong to a Catholic family, children can learn about the essential Catholic beliefs and rituals including Baptism.
Down the Road	Alice Schertie	An illustrated story about independence, making choices, experiencing the consequences of making a mistake, and the love of a family.
Lester's Dog	Karen Hesse	A young boy and his deaf playmate rescue a kitten, face a ferocious dog and then meet a neighbor who needs help.
If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks	Faith Ringgold	The bus on which Rosa Parks refuses to take a back seat describes how she broke the racial barriers in Alabama. We see the results of the choice she made.
A Picnic in October	Eve Bunting	Tony thinks it is dumb to have a picnic in October, especially on Liberty Island. But that's before he understands what the Statue of Liberty means to Grandma. It is a moment of praise and thanks.
The Quilt Maker's Gift	Jeff Brumbeau	A greedy king commands an old quilt maker to make him a quilt, but she gives quilts only to the poor. She demands that the King simplify his life. In the end, the King frees himself from materialism.
Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch	Eileen Spinelli	A special gift, a box of chocolate valentines, changes Mr. Hatch's world and brings friends into his life.
Chester's Way	Kevin Henkes	Two small mice are best friends. Then another mouse moves into the neighborhood. The two friends ignore her, but she comes to their rescue and they change their ways.