

EeeeeeeeeeYaYaYaYaYa

(The leadership lessons we learn from children's literature)



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A few months ago, I attended a training at Deloitte University. While there I was able to meet and work with some amazing principals from across the great state of Utah, as well as from other parts of the U.S. During my time there I was asked if I would be willing to write an article for the next issue of the *Leader Magazine*. Much to my own surprise I eventually said yes.

I have been a principal now for 20 plus years, and in that time, I have been able to attend some amazing conferences and trainings in many places within the U.S. I have been able to read and study the likes of Robert Marzano, John Hattie, and many others; all of whom I have learned a great deal from, essentials that help make me the principal I am today. I am so grateful to both the Davis School District and UAESP for providing me with such wonderful opportunities to learn from the best.

What I'd like to write about in this article is the opportunity each of us has to learn some of life's lessons right from resources we have within each of our own school's libraries. Some of the most profound lessons I have learned have come to me while enjoying a wonderful picture book. Let me tell you about one of my all-time favorites. The title of this book is *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm*. In this story, the main character is a fellow by the name of Harvey Potter. Harvey is a farmer and the thing about him is that he grows balloons on his farm. This book is a must read, and I encourage anyone who reads this article to give it a look-see.

As I rub shoulders with other fantastic principals, I see the same thing going on within our schools. Each of us is different and unique. We run our schools in many ways. However, the students at each of our schools are happy and successful. How can this be? The answer is that

our differences are also our strengths. As principals we adapt and grow with the communities we serve. We are always striving to move our schools in a positive direction.

This year I have decided to share my love of good stories with some of the other principals that I associate with. Each month I share these stories by sending a book to these principal friends and writing them a small message about what I learned from the book. I hope it has been beneficial to my colleagues and that they have enjoyed the stories as much as I have.

Let me end this article with a quote from *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm*. "These days I farm. And I am not one to brag, but I have harvested my thirty-second crop of balloons. Now I don't grow mine the exact same way as Harvey Potter does on account of I am not Harvey Potter. I have my own methods. Maybe I'll show you someday."

What kind of harvest will you have at the end of the school year? "EeeeeeeYaYaYaYaYa"
Don't be afraid to pass things along to your colleagues. I know they will appreciate it!