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## Froh and Bono's "Making Grateful Kids: The Science of Building Character" (Book Review)

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**Making Grateful Kids: The Science of Building Character,**

by Jeffrey J. Froh and Giacomo Bono. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press,  
2014. 274 pp. \$15.95. ISBN: 9781599474168

*Reviewed by Carol Reid, Librarian, Welch College, Nashville, TN*

Amid a generation of entitled young people, gratitude seems to be a lost – but much missed – character quality. School psychologist Jeffrey Froh and social science professor Giacomo Bono have conducted dozens of psychological studies to identify the components which help to build gratitude into children and young adults. They encourage parents, teachers, and mentors to deliberately guide young people into the development of gratitude both for their own life satisfaction and for the positive impact that it makes on the broader community. Thirty-two strategies for doing this are detailed in the book's nine chapters, backed by quantitative and qualitative research and often illustrated with personal examples. Attachment and role models provide a basis for the character trait of gratitude. Self-control and autonomy play a major part in developing it. Connections with community and the development of intrinsic goals reinforce it. Generosity, resilience, coping skills, and concern for others demonstrate it. A chapter on consumerism and its relationship to gratitude is of particular interest.

This book would be especially useful in supplementing studies on child and adolescent development (whether in psychology or education), Christian education of children (youth and family ministry), and family studies. Though it is not written from a faith-based point of view, there are direct and scholarly connections with Christian values and disciplines that provide easy application for believers. Questionnaires, extensive notes, and a strong index continue the scholarly approach to the topic. However, the book is both readable and inspirational.

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**Making Marion: Where's Robin Hood When You Need Him?,**

by Beth Moran, Oxford: Lion Hudson PLC, 2014. 320 pp. \$14.99.  
ISBN 9781782640998

*Reviewed by Mary Ann Buhler, Director of Library Services,  
Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, KS*

As a lover of mysteries I was not disappointed by *Making Marion*. During the first half of the book, though, I wondered why *The Christian Librarian* had offered this book to be reviewed. Then the author returned Marion to her faith. It is Christian fiction, but not one of those books that hits you over the head with religion.