Abusive Parents: Though not common in the early books, some later protagonists have these or abusive guardians. The Davises, from Patsy's book, are more difficult to get along with than actively abusive.

Academic Athlete: The book With The Might of Angels has Dawnie who has the highest grades in the elementary division of her school but more than anything she wants to be part of the All-American Girls Baseball League. Max, Julie Weiss's brother from One Eye Laughing, the Other Weeping, skipped a grade, reads Rilke, attended Vienna University, takes fencing lessons, and plays on a Zionist soccer team.