

Reading, Writing & History

Bringing Great Historical Literature into the Classroom:



An Annotated Bibliography for Elementary and Middle Grades

Editors

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The books listed in this bibliography have content related to the following eras in United States History according to the National History Standards:

Era 2: *Colonization and Settlement (1585 – 1763); Era 3:* *Revolution and the New Nation (1754 – 1820s); Era 4:* *Expansion and Reform (1801 – 1861); Era 5:* *Civil War and Reconstruction (1850 – 1877); Era 6:* *The Development of the Industrial United States (1870 – 1900); Era 7:* *The Emergence of Modern America (1890 – 1930); Era 8:* *The Great Depression and World War II (1929 – 1945); Era 9:* *Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s); Era 10:* *Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)*

This bibliography was created for *Reading, Writing, and History: Bringing Great Historical Literature into the Classroom*, a one-day conference for teachers of grades 3 – 8 and school librarians presented by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the John F. Kennedy National Historic Site on March 17, 2008.

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Introduction

This bibliography was created for teachers and school librarians as a resource for selecting high quality children's books related to American history – especially for those who wish to integrate the social studies and language arts curriculum in upper elementary and middle grades.

In identifying titles for the bibliography, we looked for books that would engage and inspire children – books that provide opportunities for children to identify with events and people in history, and to imagine being history makers themselves. We sought books that represent the highest standards in children's literature – books with attractive formats, exciting and compelling texts, and vivid illustrations. We included books that exemplify great writing, insight, perspective, wisdom and high standards of scholarship. The criteria for two children's book awards, the Orbis Pictus Award and the Jane Addams Award, helped establish standards for excellence, as did author James Cross Giblin's thoughts in *Writing Books for Young People* on writing lively informational narratives for children.

Because of the abundance of outstanding historical literature for children, we limited our selections to books about American history published after the year 2000, with some exceptional titles published before that date. We also decided to spotlight specific historical periods, political movements and notable individuals. There are many picture books included because students of all ages enjoy them and they are excellent for reading aloud. These books serve as accessible introductions to the subject matter and invite further exploration.

The bibliography has two parts. *Part I* focuses on historical figures whose vision and creativity helped to form a new nation and develop its potentials. *Part II* focuses on the quest for social justice and human rights in America. We have also included an appendix with additional resources for teachers and librarians, including professional journals and information about book awards.

Contents

Part I focuses on people in American history whose vision, creativity and determination spurred them to look beyond the prevailing circumstances and attitudes of their own time, and to imagine other possibilities. Each section is arranged by historical figure or topic (more or less chronologically) and then alphabetically by author.

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Part II focuses on the quest for social justice and equal rights in America. Topics of books in this section include the experiences of people in various racial and ethnic groups, as well as issues such as the displacement of American Indians, slavery, immigration, labor, civil rights, children’s rights, women’s rights, and gay rights. The books are organized by theme and genre, and then alphabetically by author. The appendix provides additional children’s literature resources.

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Creating and Strengthening the New Nation

Founding Fathers and the Constitution

Fleming, Thomas. Everybody's Revolution: A New Look at the People Who Won America's Freedom

New York: Scholastic, 2006; 96 pages.

A portrait of the diversity that existed at the time of the American Revolution, and of the people who played leading roles in the struggle for independence. Illustrations, side bars with biographical sketches, quotes from participants, and primary documents contribute to this story.

Fradin, Dennis. The Founders: The 39 Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution

Illustrated by Michael McCurdy.

New York: Walker & Company, 2005; 162 pages.

Each founder profiled in three pages with woodcut portraits, maps, and representative scenes.

Freedman, Russell. In Defense of Liberty: the Story of America's Bill of Rights

New York: Holiday House, 2003, 196 pages.

Proficient readers and teacher resource. The large font, photographs, primary documents and clear writing tell the story of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.

Fritz, Jean. Shh! We're Writing the Constitution

Illustrated by Tomie de Paola.

New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1987; 64 pages.

A well-researched and lively account of the debates that occurred during the writing and ratification of the Constitution. Includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Smith, Lane. John, Paul, George & Ben

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006; 32 pages.

A humorous picture book about five of our country's founding fathers. (Jefferson is included too.) Great for reading aloud. The endnotes set the record straight about which parts are fact and which are fiction.

The First Four Presidents

George Washington

Giblin, James Cross. George Washington: A Picture Book Biography

Illustrated by Michael Dooling.

New York: Scholastic, 1992; 47 pages.

Well-written and researched account of George Washington's personal life, interests and accomplishments. Handsomely illustrated in full-page oil paintings. Back matter includes important dates, the myth of the cherry tree, a map, Mount Vernon, tributes and monuments.

Jurmain, Suzanne Tripp. George Did It

Illustrated by Larry Day.

New York: Dutton Children's Books. 2006; 32 pages.

"But George did it." provides a refrain for to describe how Washington stepped in to get the job done in the American Revolution and beyond, despite his nerves and initial reluctance to get involved. A humorous approach with illustrations to match.

St. George, Judith. Take the Lead, George Washington

Illustrated by Danielle Powers.

New York: Philomel Books. 2005: 48 pages.

The humorous picture book is arranged in chapters. The chatty narrative describes a turning point in George Washington's young adulthood. The back pages contain a short bibliography of the main events in Washington's life.

John Adams

St. George, Judith. John & Abigail Adams: An American Love Story

New York: Holiday House, 2001; 136 pages.

Using many illustrations, portraits, and primary documents, this book focuses on the lifelong partnership of John and Abigail Adams.

Thomas Jefferson

Blumberg, Rhoda. What's the Deal? Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 1998; 144 pages.

This book for proficient readers features generous illustrations and clear organization. The narrative discusses the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and the political maneuverings of Napoleon and Jefferson that made it possible.

Giblin, James Cross. Thomas Jefferson: A Picture Book Biography

Illustrated by Michael Dooling.

New York: Scholastic, 1994; 47 pages.

Picture book format with realistic, full-page illustrations. The narrative deals candidly with issues such as the ownership of slaves in the context of the times. The narrative reveals Jefferson as the complicated person he was.

Harness, Cheryl. Thomas Jefferson

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2004; 43 pages.

Picture book format with relatively informal narrative. Illustrations and maps interpret the events and provide information about the era. Back matter includes a summary of the "world of Thomas Jefferson."

Venezia, Mike. Thomas Jefferson: Third President 1801-1809

New York: Scholastic, 2004; 32 pages.

Series: Getting to Know the U.S. Presidents

An introduction to the life of Thomas Jefferson, a man whose ideas helped create a new kind of government and who became the nation's third president. The narratives in this series are lively. Humorous cartoon drawings are interspersed with more conventional illustrations.

James Madison

Santella, Andrew. James Madison

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Compass Point Books, 2003; 64 pages.

Series: Profiles of Presidents

Contemporary book design including photographs, paintings and drawings, sidebars, maps, a glossary and timeline increase the accessibility of the clear text.

Venezia, Mike. James Madison: Fourth President

New York: Children's Press, division of Scholastic, 2004; 32 pages.

Series: Getting to Know the U.S. Presidents

The basic facts of Madison's accomplishments as president, printed in a primary-sized font. The narratives in this series are lively. Humorous cartoon drawings are interspersed with more conventional illustrations.

Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Cohn, Amy L. Abraham Lincoln

Illustrated by David A. Johnson.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2002; 40 pages.

A charming and sensitive portrait of Lincoln that includes examples of his sense of humor as well as his intelligence, compassion, and leadership abilities. The illustrations are soft, somewhat old-fashioned, but wonderfully expressive. An excellent read-aloud.

Freedman, Russell. Lincoln: a Photobiography

Illustrated with photographs from the era.

New York, N.Y.: Clarion Books, 1987; 150 pages.

An excellent and highly recommended biography for older students. It is well-written, thorough, and makes extensive use of Lincoln's own words.

Harness, Cheryl. Abe Lincoln Goes to Washington, 1837-1865

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society; 42 pages.

A picture book biography about Lincoln's adult life and his presidency. There is a fair amount of text supported by colorful and powerful illustrations that provide many interesting historical details. Includes maps and some of Lincoln's own words. An excellent introduction to Lincoln and the Civil War.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Abraham Lincoln: Letters from a Slave Girl

New York: Winslow Press, 2001; 136 pages. Dear Mr. President series.

Although somewhat implausible, this exchange of letters between the fictional Lettie Tucker and Abraham Lincoln is based on careful research. Reveals the experience of plantation life for slaves and Lincoln's thoughts on emancipation and the Civil War.

St. George, Judith. Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln

Illustrated by Matt Faulkner.

New York: Philomel Books. 2008; 42 pages.

This vividly illustrated biography captures Lincoln's early years as a child and young man. The lively text and illustrations make this an excellent read aloud introduction to Lincoln's childhood.

Sullivan, George. Picturing Lincoln: Famous Photographs that Popularized the President

New York: Clarion Books. 2000; 82 pages.

This well written book examines some of the famous photographs taken of President Lincoln, including the circumstances under which they were taken and how they were used.

Turner, Ann Warren. Abe Lincoln Remembers

Illustrated by Wendell Minor.

New York: HarperCollins, 2001; 32 pages.

A fictionalized picture book biography told in Lincoln's own voice using spare and poetic language. In this picture book, Lincoln, on the last night of his life, looks back on his life. The illustrations are strong and colorful. Includes an historical note.

Winters, Kay. Abe Lincoln: the Boy Who Loved Books

Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; 2003.

A simple and poetic story of Lincoln's childhood in a picture book with charming and colorful illustrations.

Searching the Unknown: Explorers, Adventurers, Astronauts

The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Fox, Michael D. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark: the Corps of Discovery and the Exploration of the American Frontier

New York: PowerPlus Books, 2005; 112 pages.

Series: Library of American Lives and Times.

A thorough and engaging account of Lewis and Clark's expedition. The illustrations include drawings done by American Indians and many images of artifacts and other primary sources.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1997; 44 pages.

The text is comprised of primary sources – excerpts from letters, notebooks, and journals. The full-color illustrations are large, action-packed and humorous.

Blumberg, Rhoda. York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark: an African-American's Part in the Great Expedition

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2004; 88 pages.

Relates the adventures of York, a slave and "body servant" to William Clark, who journeyed west with the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806.

Pringle, Laurence P. American Slave, American Hero: York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.

Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek Books, 2006; 40 pages.

A biography of William Clark's personal slave, who provided invaluable assistance to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Fully illustrated.

Erdrich, Lise. Sacagawea

Illustrated by Julie Buffalohead.

Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2003; 40 pages.

This is a slightly fictionalized picture book biography of Sacagawea, the Shoshone woman who helped guide Lewis and Clark. Told from Sacagawea's perspective. The author is Ojibway and the illustrator Ponca.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. Bad River Boys: A Meeting of the Lakota Sioux with Lewis and Clark

Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth.

New York: Holiday House, 2005; 32 pages.

Describes an encounter between the Sicangu Lakota and the Lewis and Clark Expedition from the perspective of three boys from the tribe. Full-page illustrations extend the narrative.

Lasky, Kathryn. The Journal of Augustus Pelletier/The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804

New York: Scholastic, 2000; 170 pages.

Dear America series.

A fictional journal kept by a twelve-year-old boy, the youngest member to accompany the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Includes a map of the route and extensive historical notes.

Pringle, Laurence. Dog of Discovery: A Newfoundland's Adventures with Lewis and Clark

Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2002; 148 pages.

Story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition presented from the viewpoint of Lewis's dog Seaman. Includes quotes from the journals of Lewis and Clark, sidebars and drawings.

Edwards, Judith. The Great Expedition of Lewis and Clark by Private Reubin Field, Member of the Corps of Discovery

Illustrated by Sally W. Comport.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003; 32 pages.

Fictionalized account, told in the voice of a participant, of the difficulties and wonders that were part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Matthew Henson and Polar Exploration

Johnson, Dolores. Onward: a Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2006; 64 pages.

One in an excellent series. Henson (1866-1955), was an African-American explorer of the Arctic. His expedition with Robert Peary is generally credited with discovering the North Pole in 1909. A large format book with many photographs and maps.

Revkin, Andrew C. The North Pole Was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006; 128 pages.

Provides a general history of Arctic exploration, current activity, and scientific and geographical information about the North Pole. Generally accessible for proficient readers. Generously illustrated with photographs, drawings, and charts.

Weatherford, Carole. I, Mathew Henson: Polar Explorer

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.

New York: Walker & Co., 2008; 40 pages

A fully illustrated picture book account of this explorer's life and accomplishments. Henson accompanied Robert Peary on seven trips to the Arctic between the years 1891 and 1909. This book is an excellent choice for studying explorers or African-Americans, and for reading aloud.

Amelia Earhart and Other Female Adventurers

Atkins, Jeannine. How High Can We Climb: the Story of Women Explorers

Illustrated by Dusan Petricic.

New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2005; 208 pages.

Short chapters, graced by Petricic's lively drawings, profile twelve women explorers of the land and sea.

Burleigh, Robert. Free in the Skies

Illustrations by Bill Wylie.

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2003; 48 pages.

Earhart's story told in graphic comic book format.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride

Illustrations by Brian Selznick.

New York: Scholastic Press, 1999; 40 pages.

Highly recommended. This picture book tells about an actual episode from Earhart's friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt. The drawings were extensively researched, lending authenticity to the story despite some fictionalized details.

Szabo, Corinne. Sky Pioneer: A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 1997; 64 pages.

Highly recommended. A beautifully designed presentation with many photographs, maps and quotes complementing a well-written narrative.

Astronauts and the Race to the Moon

Aldrin, Buzz. Reaching for the Moon

Illustrations by Wendell Minor.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005; 40 pages.

A picture book autobiography by the author tracing his aspirations to excel in all that he took on, his years as a pilot, and his flight to the moon. Very accessible narrative, handsomely illustrated. The character building messages are a bit heavy handed.

Brown, Don. One Giant Leap: The Story of Neil Armstrong

Illustrations by the author.

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1998; 32 pages.

A picture book introduction to Armstrong and his walk on the moon. Particularly well-suited as a read aloud introduction.

Burns, Khephra and William Miles. Black Stars in Orbit: NASA's African American Astronauts

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1995; 72 pages.

This history of African-American astronauts profiles the men and women who participated in the NASA program and their flights into space. Illustrated with photographs. Quotes by individual astronauts are interspersed with the text.

Schyffert, Bea. The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins

San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 1999; 77 pages.

High interest. This scrapbook-style biography won the Batchelder Honor for science writing. It contains fascinating information about the first mission to the moon from the perspective of Michael Collins. Translated from German.

Thimmesh, C. Team Moon: how 400,000 people landed Apollo 11 on the moon

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006; 80 pages.

Behind-the-scenes story of the flight directors, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers and navigators.

Imagining New Possibilities: Scientists, Inventors, Innovators

Benjamin Franklin

Adler, David A. B. Franklin, Printer

New York: Holiday House, 2001; 126 pages.

Excellent book design that captures the era in which Franklin lived and worked. The narrative is particularly engaging, including details that highlight Franklin's personality and accomplishments.

Dash, Joan. A Dangerous Engine: Benjamin Franklin from Scientist to Diplomat

Illustrated by Dusan Petricic.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

Middle school and above. This highly engaging new biography explores Franklin's scientific experiments, with a particular focus on electricity. Using the metaphor of the lightning rod, or "dangerous engine," the second half of the book explores Franklin's role in the American Revolution. The humorous black-and-white illustrations and lively narrative capture the spirit of Franklin's life and character. Quotes from Franklin's writing are incorporated throughout.

Fleming, Candace. Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life

New York: Athenaeum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 120 pages.

The book design of this biography encourages the reader to sample aspects of Franklin's life and accomplishments, offering an alternative to reading a chronological narrative. The design is particularly well suited for the complexities of Franklin's life. The writing is often lively. Humorous anecdotes appear throughout.

Fritz, Jean. What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?

Illustrated by Margot Tomes.

New York: Coward-McCann, Inc. 1976; 47 pages.

The story of Franklin's life and accomplishments, written and illustrated with humor and with an eye for interesting anecdotes. No references are listed in the back, although there are several end notes.

Giblin, James. The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin

Illustrated by Michael Dooling.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2000; 48 pages.

The book design echoes Franklin's newspaper. Includes information on important dates, Franklin's inventions, sayings from Poor Richard's Almanac, historic sites, and an author's note. Addresses Benjamin Franklin's opposition to slavery.

Benjamin Banneker

Blue, Rose. Benjamin Banneker: Mathematician and Stargazer

Brookfield, Conn.: Millbrook Press, 2001: 48 pages.

Series: Gateway biography.

An excellent biography. The author acknowledges that there are incomplete records and there are some things we can't know for sure. Attention is given to Banneker's correspondence with Thomas Jefferson and other primary source material.

Maupin, Melissa. Benjamin Banneker

Chanhassen, MN: The Child's World, 2000; 40 pages. Journey to Freedom series.

Describes the life and accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker in the fields of science and architecture, and his role as one of the pioneers in promoting equality among all Americans.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Dear Benjamin Banneker

Illustrated by Brian Pinkney.

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1994; 32 pages.

An exceptionally beautiful picture book and wonderful read-aloud. Covers the main points of Banneker's life and includes quotes from primary sources.

Sequoyah

Dennis, Yvonne Wakim. Sequoyah, 1770?-1843

Mankato, Minn.: Blue Earth Books, 2004; 32 pages.

Series: American Indian Biographies.

One in a series about American Indians. The format is very attractive and colorful with many illustrations. The captions indicate when the various images were created. The text is clear and engaging, and a useful timeline is included.

Rumford, James. Sequoyah: the Man Who Gave his People Writing

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004; 32 pages.

A picture book biography about the man who invented a system for writing the Cherokee language. The text is poetic and fairly brief, and the illustrations are bold and colorful. Excellent for reading aloud.

Levi Strauss

Ford, Carin T. Levi Strauss: the Man Behind Blue Jeans

Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2004; 32 pages.

Series: Famous Inventors.

Attractive and colorful format and straightforward text. Includes many photos and maps. The story of Strauss's achievements will help students make connections between the Industrial Revolution and immigration. The California Gold Rush is also part of the story behind the familiar blue jeans.

Margaret Knight

Brill, Marlene Targ. Margaret Knight: Girl Inventor

Illustrated by Joanne Friar.

Brookfield, Conn.: Millbrook Press, 2001; 32 pages.

A slightly fictionalized picture book biography about a little-known woman who made her first invention when she was 12. Her life story could also be used in any study of the Industrial Revolution and the history of the textile mills. With charming, colorful illustrations. Very good for reading aloud.

McCully, Emily Arnold. Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor

New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006; 32 pages.

A slightly fictionalized picture book biography. The lively, colorful illustrations and the accessible text provide a lot of information about the Industrial Revolution and women's roles in the society of the time. Diagrams of Knight's inventions are included and the author's note gives important historical background and sources. Very good for reading aloud.

Elijah McCoy

Towle, Wendy. The Real McCoy: the Life of an African-American Inventor

Paintings by W. Clay.

New York: Scholastic, 1993; 32 pages.

An excellent biography in picture book format. The parents of this important inventor were former slaves who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. The painted illustrations are bold, colorful and exciting. Very good for reading aloud.

Alexander Graham Bell

Fisher, Leonard Everett. Alexander Graham Bell

New York, N.Y.: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999; 32 pages.

In picture book format with a lot of text and powerful painted illustrations in black and white. A very moving story of this remarkable man who was as much a humanitarian as he was an inventor. Among other great deeds, he introduced Helen Keller to Annie Sullivan. Very good for reading aloud.

Matthews, Tom. Always Inventing: a Photobiography of Alexander Graham Bell

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1999; 64 pages.

One of a wonderful series of books by this publisher. An excellent biography that includes valuable scientific information. In an exciting, large format and illustrated with large photos and diagrams of Bell's life and his inventions. A timeline is included.

Thomas Alva Edison

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. Inventing the Future: a Photobiography of Thomas Alva Edison

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2002; 64 pages.

An excellent biography that includes valuable scientific information. In an exciting, large format and illustrated with large photos and diagrams of Edison's life and his inventions. A timeline is included.

Dooling, Michael. Young Thomas Edison

New York: Holiday House, 2005; 32 pages.

This beautifully illustrated picture book explores the origins of Edison's scientific genius: his interest in mixing chemicals – sometimes with explosive results – and his difficulty paying attention in school. With illustrations and explanations of some of his inventions.

Fandel, Jennifer. The Light Bulb

Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2005; 48 pages.

Series: What in the World?

This beautifully designed book describes the work of Thomas Alva Edison in creating the incandescent light bulb. The story of Edison's invention is situated in a larger historical context.

Wallace, Joseph. The Lightbulb

New York: Atheneum Books for Young People, 1999; 80 pages.

Another highly recommended book that profiles Thomas Edison's quest for safe indoor lighting within a larger historical context. Illustrated with photographs, drawings and paintings.

George Washington Carver

Bolden, Tonya. George Washington Carver

New York: Abrams Books for Young People, 2008; 40 pages.

Highly recommended. This beautifully-designed and well-written biography of Carver features photographs from the period, primary documents, botanical drawings and many quotes by Carver.

Carey, Charles. George Washington Carver

Mankato, MN: The Child's World, 1999; 40 pages.

Series: Journey to Freedom.

Another volume in the distinguished and well-designed African-American Library series. The illustrations, large font and book design make this book accessible to young readers.

Nelson, Marilyn. Carver, a Life in Poems

Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2001; 103 pages.

A collection of poems that provides a portrait of Carver's devout life, his achievements as a botanist and inventor, and his gifts as an artist and teacher.

Wilson Bentley

Martin, Jacqueline. Snowflake Bentley

Illustrations by Mary Azarian.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998; 32 pages.

This picture book biography was awarded the Caldecott Medal. The illustrations combine Azarian's wood cuts and Bentley's snow crystal photography.

Madam C. J. Walker

Lasky, Kathryn. Vision of Beauty: the Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker

Illustrated by Nneka Bennett.

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2000; 48 pages.

An excellent biography in picture book format about this remarkable woman. There is a lot of text, and the writing is very engaging. The illustrations are striking, bold and colorful. Includes an author's note and epilogue. Excellent for reading aloud.

Wilbur and Orville Wright

Collins, Mary. Airborne: a Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2003; 63 pages.

One in an excellent series that combines an engaging text with a dynamic layout and many photos.

Jenner, Caryn. First Flight: the Story of the Wright Brothers

New York: DK Publishing, 2003; 48 pages.

Series: DK Readers.

Part of a series for beginning readers. The text is accessible and the layout is engaging with many sidebars, photos, and other illustrations.

Maurer, Richard. The Wright Sister: Katherine Wright and her Famous Brothers

Brookfield, CN: Roaring Brook Press, 2003; 127 pages.

For proficient readers. An excellent biography of the Wright Brothers' sister, Katherine, who managed their affairs and traveled with them. Very accomplished in her own right, she was also better educated than her siblings. Much of our information about the brothers comes from her writings. With many quotes from letters and illustrated with family photographs.

Old, Wendie C. To Fly: the Story of the Wright Brothers

Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker.

New York: Clarion Books, 2002; 48 pages.

A beautiful book – the text, illustrations and book design make this an exceptionally fine biography. The watercolor illustrations are lively and colorful. Captures the excitement

of the story of these two self-taught bicycle mechanics whose scientific achievement is one of the most remarkable of the 20th century.

Yolen, Jane. My Brothers' Flying Machine: Wilbur, Orville, and Me

Illustrated by Jim Burke.

New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2003; 32 pages.

This fictionalized account of Katherine Wright's role in her brothers' accomplishments is told in the first person. Handsome full-page oil and pencil illustrations add to this book's value as read-aloud introduction to the story of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Albert Einstein

Brown, Don. Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein

Boston, MA; Houghton Mifflin, 2004; 32 pages.

This lively picture storybook has relatively little text, but the vocabulary is sophisticated. An excellent introduction to Einstein's early life and achievements, especially suited for reading aloud.

Delano, Marie Ferguson. Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2005. 64 pages.

This photobiography of Einstein puts particular emphasis on his scientific contributions. Connections are drawn between Einstein's ideas and modern technology. As is the case with other biographies published by National Geographic, excellent writing and handsome book design reveal Einstein's life and accomplishments in an engaging way.

MacLeod, Elizabeth. Albert Einstein: A Life of Genius

Toronto, Canada: Kids Can Press, 2003; 32 pages.

A great deal is packed into this book of just 32 pages. Photographs, primary documents, quotes, a timeline, and sidebars accompany the somewhat sophisticated narrative.

Preserving the Web of Life: Naturalists, Environmentalists

John James Audubon

Armstrong, Jennifer. Audubon: Painter of Birds in the Wild Frontier

Illustrated by Jos. A. Smith.

New York: Abrams, 2003; 40 pages.

A beautiful picture book with a fair amount of text. Captures Audubon's fascination with birds, other wild animals and exploration of the frontier. The illustrations are large, bold and colorful. There are lengthy end notes by both author and illustrator that provide important background information and examples of Audubon's own work. Excellent for reading aloud.

Burleigh, Robert. Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream

Paintings by Wendell Minor.

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 32 pages.

A beautiful picture book. The text is fairly short and consists of poetry by the author and quotations from Audubon's journals. The vivid and colorful illustrations include many close-ups of birds and several examples of Audubon's own artwork. Excellent for reading aloud.

Davies, Jacqueline. The Boy Who Drew Birds: a Story of John James Audubon

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 2004; 30 pages.

A third wonderful picture book about Audubon. This one has a fair amount of text that tells about Audubon's scientific interests as a young man. The writing and illustrations are charming and lively. Excellent for reading aloud.

John Muir

McCully, Emily Arnold. Squirrel and John Muir

New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2004; 32 pages.

A fictionalized account of Muir's time in Yosemite Valley enhanced by full-color paintings. An accessible introduction to the famous naturalist whose work led to the establishment of the National Park system.

Rachel Carson

Erlich, Amy. Rachel. The Story of Rachel Carson

Illustrations by Wendell Minor.

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, Inc., 2003; 32 pages.

This biography chronicles Carson's life-long interest in the natural world. Illustrated with full-page paintings of Carson in natural settings with chapter headings of individual woodland and ocean species.

Locker, Thomas and Joseph Bruchac. Rachel Carson. Preserving a Sense of Wonder

Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004; 32 pages.

This accessible picture book biography is beautifully illustrated with full-color paintings. The narrative is interspersed with Carson's memorable quotes.

Of additional interest

Burns, Lorree Griffin. Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007; 58 pages.

Beginning with Ben Franklin's study of the Gulf Stream, this book profiles the work of Curt Ebbesmeyer on how the things that people throw away are carried by ocean currents, and the impact of this debris on our environment.

Social Justice and Human Rights - Nonfiction

Andryszewski, Tricia. Gay Rights

Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 2000; 110 pages.

Traces the history of the gay rights movement in America, from the Stonewall riots to the legal and societal status of gay rights in 2000.

**Armstrong, Jennifer. The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History
Illustrated by Roger Roth.**

New York, NY: A. A. Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 2006; 358 pages.

One hundred brief and exciting stories about significant people and events in American history, arranged in order by year from 1565 to 2000.

Aronson, Marc. Race: A History Beyond Black and White

New York: Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007; 322 pages.

For mature readers. The author explores the different forms racial prejudice has taken and the way it has manifested itself in the politics, philosophies, and beliefs of individuals and civilizations.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Kids on Strike!

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999; 208 pages.

Describes the conditions and treatment that drove workers, including many children, to various strikes, from the mill workers strikes in 1828 and 1836 and the coal strikes at the turn of the century. Illustrated with many photos.

Bausum, Ann. Muckrakers: How Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens Helped Expose Scandal, Inspire Reform, and Invent Investigative Journalism

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2007; 111 pages.

Describes how, in the early 20th century, when investigative journalism was just getting started, brave men and women exposed scandal and urged reform. Includes many quotes and period photographs and images.

Bausum, Ann. With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2004; 110 pages.

Presents the story of the women's suffrage movement, with emphasis on the events of 1906 to 1920, when a new group of young women emerged who were willing to truly suffer for suffrage.

Bial, Raymond. Tenement: Immigrant Life on the Lower East Side

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002; 48 pages.

Presents a view of New York City's tenements during the peak years of foreign immigration, discussing living conditions, laws pertaining to tenements, and the occupations of their residents. With many photos.

Bolden, Tonya. Cause: Reconstruction America, 1863-1877

New York: Knopf, 2005; 138 pages.

After the Civil War, the United States faced the immense challenge of rebuilding the South and incorporating millions of freed slaves into the life of the nation. With many illustrations and period documents.

Bolden, Tonya. Tell All the Children Our Story: Memories and Mementos of Being Young and Black in America

New York: Abrams, 2001; 128 pages.

From Jamestown to the Civil Rights Movement, this book explores what it has meant to be young and black in America. Well-known and unknown people are discussed and many primary sources and illustrations are included.

Brown, Don. Kid Blink Beats The World

Illustrated by the author.

Brookfield, CT: Roaring Book Press, 2004; 32 pages.

A story of the newsboys (and girls) who took on the world's most powerful press barons--and won. Lightly fictionalized and in picture book format.

Buckley, Susan Washburn. Journeys for Freedom: a New Look at America's Story

Illustrated by Rodica Prato.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006; 48 pages.

Each two page spread maps out the story and journey of real people pursuing freedom in America.

Cole, Sheila. To Be Young in America: Growing Up With the Country, 1776-1940

New York: Little, Brown, 2005; 146 pages.

Examines how children experienced events in U.S. history. With many personal narratives and more than one hundred photographs and illustrations.

Cooper, Michael. Fighting for Honor: Japanese Americans and World War II

New York: Clarion Books, 2000; 118 pages.

Examines the history of Japanese Americans in the United States, focusing on their treatment during World War II, including the mass relocation to internment camps and the distinguished service of Japanese Americans in the American military.

Dennis, Yvonne Wakim. Children of Native America Today

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Pub., 2003; 64 pages.

Text and photographs introduce current traditions, activities, and lifestyles of children from various North American nations.

Fleming, Maria, editor. A Place at the Table: Struggles for Equality in America

Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press in association with the Southern Poverty Law Center, 2001; 151 pages

Examines the efforts of many different people in American history, starting in the Colonial era, to secure equal treatment in such areas as religion, voting rights, education, housing, and employment, including young labor strikers, suffragettes, and advocates for rights for American Indians, gays, and the handicapped.

Fradin, Dennis B. Bound for the North Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves

New York: Clarion Books, 2000; 206 pages.

Discusses the hardships of slavery and the challenges faced by runaway slaves through the accounts of twelve fugitive slaves.

Freedman, Russell. Children of the Great Depression

New York: Clarion Books, 2005; 128 pages

Using primary sources, this book features individual voices and includes the causes of the Depression, schooling, work life, migrant work, the lives of children who rode the rails, and the economic resurgence of the '40s. With black-and-white photos.

Freedman, Russell. Freedom Walkers: the Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

New York: Holiday House, 2006; 114 pages.

Covers the events surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the end of segregation on buses. Illustrated with many photos.

Freedman, Russell. Immigrant Kids

New York: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1995; 72 pages.

Photographs from the era enhance the story of children who arrived with their families from Europe in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and settled in New York City.

Freedman, Russell. Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas

New York: Clarion Books, 2007; 88 pages.

This book offers evidence that explorers, traders, and nomads from many parts of the world explored America and that the American Indians were already here long before 1492. Includes information about how historians and mapmakers gathered, evaluated, and recorded information through the ages.

Grace, Catherine O'Neill and Margaret M. Bruchac with Plimoth Plantation. 1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001; 47 pages.

Explores the myth of the first Thanksgiving and gives historical perspective to the interactions between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags.

Halpern, Monica. Moving North: African Americans and the Great Migration 1915 – 1930

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2006; 40 pages.

The story of African-Americans moving north during the Jim Crow era to find better lives. Period photographs, quotes, brief profiles of significant leaders, and Jacob Lawrence paintings support the narrative.

Hansen, Joyce. Freedom Roads: Searching for the Underground Railroad

Chicago: Cricket Books, 2003; 164 pages.

Explores the ways historians use all kinds of evidence in unearthing the history of the Underground Railroad, including artifacts from archaeological digs and various written documents.

Haskins, James and Kathleen Benson. Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America, illustrated by James E. Ransome

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001; 44 pages.

Discusses the changing roles, rights, and contributions of African-Americans in the United States during the colonial period from 1607 to 1763.

Hoobler, Dorothy. We Are Americans: Voices of the Immigrant Experience

New York: Scholastic, 2003; 194 pages.

A history of immigration to America, told in the immigrants' own words from letters, diaries, oral histories, and biographies. Starts with the first American Indians, through colonial days to the present. With many illustrations and photographs.

Hoose, Phillip M. We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History

New York: Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001; 264 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. Biographies of dozens of young people who made a mark in American history, including explorers, planters, spies, cowpunchers, sweatshop workers, and civil rights workers.

Hopkinson, Deborah. Shutting out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924

New York: Orchard Books, 2003; 134 pages.

Photographs and text document the experiences of five people who came to live in the Lower East Side of New York City as children or young adults from Belarus, Italy, Lithuania, and Romania at the turn of the twentieth century.

Hopkinson, Deborah. Up before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America

New York: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2006; 120 pages.

The author weaves together the stories of slaves, sharecroppers, and mill workers, illuminating the history of cotton in America. Illustrated with period photos.

Hunter, Miranda. The Story of Latino Civil Rights: Fighting for Justice

Philadelphia: Mason Crest Publishers, 2006; 112 pages. Hispanic Heritage Series.

Explains the history and the current reality of the Latino civil rights movement. One of sixteen books in the Hispanic Heritage series.

Landau, Elaine. Fleeing to Freedom on the Underground Railroad: The Courageous Slaves, Agents, and Conductors

Minneapolis, Minn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 2006; 88 pages.
People's History series.

The story of the escape route used by fugitive slaves is told with letters, newspaper articles, and short biographies of many of those who were involved.

**Lange, Karen E. 1607: A New Look at Jamestown
Photography by Ira Block.**

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2007; 48 pages.

Incorporates analysis of the latest archeological discoveries from the Jamestown site with photography, detailing newly discovered artifacts.

Lauber, Patricia. Who Came First: New Clues to Prehistoric Americans

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2003; 64 pages.

Presents recent archaeological findings about the first people to settle the Americas, how they got here, and from what continent they came.

Lucey, Donna M. I Dwell in Possibility: Women Build a Nation, 1600-1920

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001; 256 pages.

Presents women who helped to shape America's ideals and character. Includes a selection of 160 paintings, photographs, and artifacts.

Marrin, Albert. Empires Lost and Won: The Spanish Heritage in the Southwest

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997; 216 pages.

Discusses the history of the southwestern region of the United States from the sixteenth century to the Mexican War, examining the interactions between the Spanish, Indians, and American pioneers.

McGrath Barbara Barbieri (compiler). The Storm: Students of Biloxi, Mississippi Remember Hurricane Katrina

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2006; 64 pages.

A compilation of stories and artwork by 91 children in grades K-12. Teachers and administrators also offer brief reflections. The book is divided into four sections that parallel the disaster's timeline and effects.

McKissack, Pat. Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States

New York: Scholastic Press, 2003; 134 pages.

Uses slave narratives, letters, diaries, military orders, and other documents to chronicle the various stages leading to the emancipation of slaves in the United States.

McKissack, Patricia & Frederick. Hard Labor: The First African Americans, 1619

New York: Aladdin, 2004; 68 pages.

Presents an overview of the history of slavery, the presence of free, indentured, and enslaved people of African descent in the colonies, the relatively recent intersection of racism and slavery, and the detailed story of one free black family in the colonial era.

McPherson, James M. Fields of Fury: the American Civil War

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002; 96 pages.

In many short chapters and with photographs and other illustrations, this book highlights the events and effects of the American Civil War.

McPherson, James M. Into the West: From Reconstruction to the Final Days of the American Frontier

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006; 96 pages.

A companion to Fields of Fury, this book explores the civil war's political aftermath and the westward expansion. The narrative is divided into many short chapters with many illustrations, each covering a specific topic.

McWhorter, Diane. A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968

New York: Scholastic, 2004; 160 pages.

In this history of the modern Civil Rights Movement, the author focuses on the monumental events that occurred between 1954 and 1968. Many significant people are profiled, and many historical photos are included.

Meltzer, Milton. Hear That Train Whistle Blow!: How the Railroad Changed the World

New York: Random House, 2004. 157 pages.

Examines how the railroad grew to become one of the most influential forces in American history, and includes the role of Chinese immigrants and the effect of the railroad on American Indian communities across the West.

Meltzer, Milton. Bound for America: The Story of the European Immigrants

New York: Benchmark Books, 2002; 112 pages.

The story of the great migration out of Europe to America. Quotes from immigrants and period photographs lend authenticity to the narrative.

Miller, Brandon Marie. Good Women of a Well-Blessed Land: Women's Lives in Colonial America

Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2003; 96 pages. People's History Series.

A social history of the American colonial period with a focus on the daily lives of women, including European immigrants, American Indians, and slaves.

Morrison, Toni. Remember: The Journey to School Integration

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co, 2004; 78 pages.

Actual photographs of the events surrounding school integration accompany fictional text that reflects the thoughts and emotions of students who lived during the era.

Nelson, Scott Reynolds with Marc Aronson. Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2008; 64 pages.

A historian recounts how he came to discover the real John Henry, a black railroad worker who became a legend in the famous song.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. The Buffalo and the Indians: a Shared Destiny

New York: Clarion Books, 2006; 85 pages.

Provides a review of the significance of the bison or buffaloes to American Indians and buffaloes throughout history and examines how European settlers disrupted nature's balance and nearly caused the extinction of an animal so highly respected by the native tribes.

Philip, Neil. The Great Circle: A History of the First Nations

New York: Clarion Books, 2006; 153 pages.

Using a range of documentary sources, this book explores the human consequences of the clash between Indian and white values in the Americas. Illustrated with many photographs and engravings.

Rappaport, Doreen. Free at Last!: Stories and Songs of Emancipation, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004; 60 pages.

Describes the experiences of Africans and people of African descent in the South, from the Emancipation in 1863 to the 1954 Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal. Illustrated with dramatic paintings.

Rappaport, Doreen. No More!: Stories and Songs of Slave Resistance, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002; 60 pages

Documents the many forms of slave resistance: subversion, uprisings, escape, poetry, religion, and song through the lives of eleven extraordinary individuals. Illustrated with dramatic paintings.

Rappaport, Doreen. Nobody Gonna Turn me 'Round: Stories and Songs of the Civil Rights Movement

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.

Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2006; 63 pages.

The third book in the trilogy, this is a look at both famous and lesser-known forces in the ongoing struggle for civil rights, and pays tribute to the crusaders for equality and peace in America.

Reef, Catherine. Alone in the World: Orphans and Orphanages in America

New York: Clarion Books, 2005; 135 pages.

Provides a history of the almshouses of the 1800s to the foster home programs of the present, including the country's evolving attitudes toward its neediest children.

Robb, Don. This is America: the American Spirit in Places and People

Illustrated by Christine Joy Pratt.

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2005; 32 pages.

The author identifies shared ideals and beliefs and then offers brief and varied examples from history when people worked toward them.

Shetterly, Robert. Americans Who Tell the Truth

New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005; 46 pages.

Presents fifty portraits of truth tellers, combined with thought-provoking quotes and brief biographies. This book gives a powerful message about what it means to be an American and part of a democratic society.

Shore, Diane Z. and Alexander, Jessica. This is the Dream

Illustrated by James Ransome.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006; 36 pages.

With simple, powerful verse and rich illustrations, this book outlines the American experience before, during, and after the modern Civil Rights Movement. In picture book format.

St. George, Judith, The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence

Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand.

New York: Philomel Books, 2005; 48 pages.

Starting in 1776, this book follows the Declaration's journey over the next two centuries, surviving eight wars and traveling through five states to its current home in the National Archives. In picture book format with a lot of text.

Steffoff, Rebecca. A Century of Immigration: 1820-1924

New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2007; 114 pages.

Describes the diverse peoples who came to the United States from 1820, the first year records were kept, to 1924, when the gates were nearly closed to immigrants. The reactions of Americans to the new arrivals, laws that were passed, and the experiences of the immigrants themselves are covered through the use of primary sources.

Thimmesh, Catherine. Madam President: The Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics

Illustrated by Douglas B. Jones.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004; 80 pages.

With an engaging narrative, interesting quotes, and many illustrations, this book shows how far women have come and also reveals the many unsung roles women have played in political history.

Thomas, Joyce Carol. Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone: The Brown v. Board of Education Decision

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books, 2003; 114 pages.

A collection of memoirs, stories and poems of 10 well-known children's authors, who were themselves young people in 1954 when the Supreme Court handed down the decision to desegregate public schools.

Walker, Paul Robert. Remember Little Bighorn: Indians, Soldiers, and Scouts Tell Their Stories

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2006; 61 pages.

Drawing on scores of eyewitness accounts of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, this book illuminates a controversial period in American history with extensive use of primary sources. Some 50 archival images are included.

Wisler, G. Clifton. When Johnny Went Marching: Young Americans Fight the Civil War

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2001; 116 pages.

Presents the stories and photographs of underage boys who enlisted in the Civil War as drummers, hospital orderlies, drivers, musicians, and often full-fledged fighting men.

Wolf, Bernard. Coming to America: a Muslim Family's Story

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2003; 36 pages.

Depicts the joys and hardships experienced by a Muslim family that immigrates to New York City from Alexandria, Egypt, in the hope of a better life. Illustrated with many photographs.

Social Justice and Human Rights – Biography and Collective Biography

Adiletta, Dawn C. Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Women's Suffrage and the First Vote

New York: Rosen/PowerPlus Books, 2005; 112 pages. Library of American Lives and Times.

A thorough and well-documented biography that also includes information about women's rights advocates with whom Stanton worked.

Adler, David. Enemies of Slavery

Illustrated by Donald A. Smith.

New York: Holiday House, 2004; 32 pages.

A group biography with short introductory profiles of fourteen people, including lesser-known individuals, who represent but a few of the many who fought for emancipation.

Adler, David A. Heroes for Civil Rights

Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth.

New York: Holiday House, 2008; 32 pages.

In brief portraits, this book pays tribute to individuals—white and black, celebrated and lesser known—who played crucial roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Each spread includes a page of text and a painting of the subject.

Allen, Thomas B. Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War

Illustrated by Carla Bauer.

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2006; 191 pages.

In 1863, Tubman served as a spy for the Union Army. Includes information about her connection to abolitionist John Brown.

Bausum, Ann. Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement

Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2006; 79 pages.

Examines the lives of two young men from Nashville, one white and one black, and how a common interest in justice enabled them to meet as Freedom Riders on a bus journey south. Illustrated with many photos.

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. César: Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!

Illustrated by David Diaz.

New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2004; 48 pages.

A fictionalized biography in the form of poems and illustrations about César Chávez and his legacy – helping migrant workers improve their lives by advocating for themselves.

Bolden, Tonya. Maritcha: a Nineteenth-Century American Girl

New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2005; 48 pages.

About a woman who was born to a free black family in New York City. After fleeing the Draft Riots of 1863, Maritcha Remond Lyons became the first black person to graduate from Providence High School in Rhode Island. She later became a distinguished educator and writer.

Bolden, Tonya. Portraits of African-American Heroes

Paintings by Ansel Pitcairn.

New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2003; 88 pages.

Includes short portraits, in words and pictures, of twenty great African-Americans from the 19th century to the present.

Brimner, Larry Dane. We Are One: the Story of Bayard Rustin

Honesdale, Pa.: Calkins Creek, 2007; 48 pages.

The story of the man who dedicated his life to fighting injustice and discrimination and who inspired and worked alongside many African-American leaders. Includes Bayard's own words and large, archival photographs.

Brown, Monica. My Name is Celia: the Life of Celia Cruz; Me llamo Celia: la Vida de Celia Cruz

Illustrated by Rafael López.

Flagstaff, Ariz: Rising Moon, 2004; 32 pages.

A picture book biography of the salsa singer. The first-person narrative includes how she dealt with racial prejudice in Havana and how the coming of the communist regime forced her to leave Cuba for the United States as a refugee. In Spanish and English.

Burchard, Peter. Frederick Douglass: For the Great Family of Man

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 226 pages.

A thorough biography that makes extensive use of Douglass's own words. With black and white drawings and photos and extensive notes on sources.

Butler, Mary G. Sojourner Truth: From Slave to Activist for Freedom

New York: Rosen/PowerPlus Books, 2003; 112 pages. Library of American Lives and Times.

A thorough and well-documented biography that includes information about other abolitionists and women's rights advocates.

Christensen, Bonnie. The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter

New York: Knopf, 2003; 32 pages.

Introduces the life of Nellie Bly, reporter for the New York World newspaper in the late 1880s, who championed the rights of women and working class people.

Clinton, Catherine. When Harriet Met Sojourner

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.

New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2007; 32 pages.

The stories of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth are told on alternating double-page spreads. The author imagines what might have been said during a meeting between the two who met in Boston one day in October 1864. In picture book format.

Corey, Shana. You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer: a Very Improper Story

Illustrated by Chesly McLaren.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2000, 32 pages.

Amelia Bloomer, who does not behave the way nineteenth-century society says she should, introduces pantaloons to American women to save them from the discomfort of their heavy dresses. A humorous story in picture book format.

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. American Heroes

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2005; 191 pages.

An anthology of 50 biographical portraits of key American figures - people whose heroism has in some way shaped American society.

Fradin, Dennis B. Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration

New York: Clarion Books, 2003; 181 pages.

Profiles the first black Washington, D.C. Board of Education member, who helped to found the NAACP and organized the pickets and boycotts that led to the 1953 Supreme Court decision to integrate D.C. area restaurants.

Fradin, Judith and Dennis. The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine

New York: Clarion Books, 2004; 178 pages.

Born in rural Arkansas, Daisy Bates was a journalist and activist who became one of the foremost civil rights leaders in America. In 1957 she mentored the nine black students who were integrated into Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Fradin, Judith Bloom. 5000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2006; 96 pages.

Using many primary sources, this book describes Ellen and William Craft's 1848 flight from Georgia slavery and their rise to worldwide fame as heroes of the Abolitionist Movement.

Fradin, Dennis B. Ida B. Wells: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

New York: Clarion Books, 2000; 178 pages.

About the American journalist and reformer known for her campaign against the lynching of African-Americans. Born a slave, Wells helped found the NAACP, and she took part in the campaign to give women the right to vote.

Giblin, James. The Many Rides of Paul Revere

New York: Scholastic Press, 2007; 85 pages.

Follows Paul Revere's life from his humble beginnings as a French immigrants son to his work as a silversmith and a horse messenger amid the mounting pressures of the American Revolution. With many historical illustrations and documents.

Giovanni, Nikki. Rosa

Illustrated by Bryan Collier.

New York: Henry Holt, 2005; 40 pages.

A fresh version of the familiar story set in the larger context of the Women's Political Council, which helped to organize the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. In picture book format.

Harness, Cheryl. *Rabble Rousers: 20 Women Who Made a Difference*

Illustrated by the author.

New York, N.Y.: Dutton Children's Books, 2003; 64 pages.

Profiles twenty women who dared to change the world by speaking out against injustice and for re-education and reform. Includes many illustrations and timelines.

Haskins, James, *Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights*

Illustrated by Benny Andrews.

Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2005; 32 pages.

Law, a mail carrier and a courageous activist, led his community in the peaceful integration of public facilities in Savannah, Georgia in the 1940s. In picture book format.

Haskins, James. *John Lewis in the Lead: A Story of the Civil Rights Movement*

Illustrated by Benny Andrews.

New York: Lee & Low, 2006; 32 pages.

About the Georgia congressman, a the civil rights leader of the 1960s, focusing on his youth and the voter registration drives that sparked 'Bloody Sunday,' as hundreds of people walked across the bridge in Selma, Alabama. In picture book format.

Jurmain, Suzanne. *The Forbidden Schoolhouse: the True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students*

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005; 150 pages.

About the woman who opened one of the first schools for African-American girls. The book describes how Crandall was imprisoned and put on trial in Connecticut for breaking the law.

Jimenez, Francisco. *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997; 116 pages.

*A collection of autobiographical short stories that tell about the life of the author who was born in Mexico, entered California illegally as a very young child, and spent his boyhood alternating between migrant farm work and the classroom. See also the sequel, *Breaking Through*.*

Krakow, Kari. *The Harvey Milk Story, illustrated by David Gardner*

Ridley Park, PA: Two Lives Pub., 2001; 32 pages.

Relates the story of San Francisco's first openly gay city official, including his courage in making history and his tragic death while in office. In picture book format.

Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*

Illustrated by Yumi Morales.

San Diego: Harcourt, 2003, 48 pages.

The story of Chavez's life from age ten when his family lived on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against migrant workers' miserable working conditions. In picture book format.

Krull, Kathleen. *A Woman for President: the Story of Victoria Woodhull, illustrated by Jane Dyer*

New York: Walker & Co., 2004; 32 pages.

About the first woman to run for president of the United States, as a candidate of the new Equal Rights Party in 1872. A picture book with a fair amount of text.

Lawlor, Laurie. *Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit*

New York: Holiday House, 2001; 168 pages.

Recounts the life and achievements of Helen Keller, who overcame the handicaps of being deaf and blind, and also reveals a woman who was a defiant rebel.

Medicine Crow, Joseph. Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2006; 128 pages.

The memoirs of Joseph Medicine Crow, a man raised in two worlds: according to the Crow Indian traditions and according to the White man's rules.

Monceaux, Morgan. My Heroes, My People: African Americans and Native Americans in the West

New York: Frances Foster Books, 1999; 63 pages.

Presents brief biographies of an assortment of African-Americans, Native peoples, and people of mixed heritage who played roles in the history of the American West.

Myers, Walter Dean. I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Illustrated by Leonard Jenkins.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2004; 32 pages.

The text is a moving account of King's adult life and accomplishments. In picture book format.

Nikola-Lisa, W. How We Are Smart

Illustrated by Sean Qualls.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006; 32 pages.

Through direct quotations, verse, and prose, this book presents the achievements of a diverse group of people who illustrate Dr. Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters

Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.

San Diego: Harcourt, 2000; 107 pages.

A collective biography that tells the stories of well-known as well as lesser-known African-American women who fought against racism and sexism.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. Haym Salomon: American patriot

Illustrated by David Slonim.

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007; 32 pages.

About a Jewish patriot who risked his life and his business in making significant contributions to the American Revolution. In picture book format.

Thompson, E.L. César Chávez, with Profiles of Terence V. Powderly and Dolores Huerta

Chicago: World Book, Inc., 2007; 112 pages. Biographical Connections Series.

About the social activist, union organizer, and spokesperson for the poor. Also profiled are two others, Powderly and Huerta, who influenced and were influenced by Chávez.

White, Linda Arms. I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote

Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005; 32 pages.

A fictionalized biography about the woman who helped Wyoming become the first state to allow women to vote in 1869, and then became the first woman to hold public office in the United States. Humorous story in picture book format.

Social Justice and Human Rights - Historical Fiction

Altman, Linda Jacobs. The Legend of Freedom Hill

Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2000, 32 pages.

During the California Gold Rush, two girls, one black and the other Jewish, team up and search for gold to buy Rosabel's mother her freedom from a slave catcher.

Alvarez, Julia. How Tía Lola Came to (Visit) Stay.

New York: Knopf, 2001; 147 pages.

Ten-year-old Miguel has conflicting emotions about the recent arrival of his aunt from the Dominican Republic.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Fever, 1793

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000; 251 pages.

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Atkins, Jeannine. Anne Hutchinson's Way

Illustrated by Michael Dooling.

New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007; 32 pages.

A fictionalized episode about Anne Hutchinson who arrived in Massachusetts in 1634 but was banished for teaching ideas with which Puritan ministers disagreed. In picture book format.

Broyles, Anne, Priscilla and the Hollyhocks

Illustrated by Anna Alter.

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2008; 32 pages.

Based on the true story of a young slave girl who was sold to a Cherokee family with whom she was forced to march on the Trail of Tears. She keeps hope alive by planting hollyhocks, and a chance encounter with a white man leads to her freedom. In picture book format.

Bruchac, Joseph. Code Talker: a Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two

New York: Dial Books, 2005; 231 pages.

After being taught in a boarding school that Navajo is a useless language, Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending secret messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Bruchac, Joseph. Sacajawea; the Story of Bird Woman and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

San Diego, CA: Silver Whistle, 2000; 199 pages.

Sacajawea, a Shoshoni Indian interpreter, peacemaker, and guide, and William Clark alternate in describing their experiences of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Northwest.

Bruchac, Joseph. The Winter People

New York: Dial Books, 2002; 168 pages.

As the French and Indian War rages in October of 1759, Saxso, a fourteen-year-old Abenaki boy, pursues the English rangers who have attacked his village and taken his mother and sisters hostage.

Bunting, Eve. So Far From the Sea

Illustrated by Chris Soentpiet.

New York: Clarion Books, 1998; 32 pages.

When seven-year-old Laura and her family visit Grandfather's grave at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, the Japanese-American child leaves behind a special gift. In picture book format.

Carbone, Elisa Lynn. Blood on the River: James Town 1607

New York: Viking, 2006; 237 pages.

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

Carbone, Elisa Lynn. Night Running: How James Escaped with the Help of his Faithful Dog

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 2008; 32 pages.

A runaway slave makes a daring escape to freedom with the help of his faithful hunting dog, Zeus. Based on the true story of James Smith's journey from Virginia to Ohio in the mid-1800s. In picture book format.

Carvell, Marlene. Sweetgrass Basket

New York: Dutton Childrens Books, 2005; 243 pages.

In alternating passages, two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate American Indians, as they try to assimilate into white culture and one of them is accused of stealing.

Clinton, Catherine. Hold the Flag High

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.

New York: Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, 2005; 32 pages.

In picture book format, this book describes the Civil War battle of Morris Island, South Carolina, during which Sergeant William H. Carney of Massachusetts' 54th Regiment became the first African-American to earn a Congressional Medal of Honor.

Cohn, Diana. ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can: Janitor Strike in L.A

Illustrated by Francisco Delgado.

El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2002; 32 pages.

Based on the true story of the successful "Justice for Janitors Campaign" in 2000 and told through the eyes of a young boy. In Spanish and in English. Includes historical notes, biographical sketches and an essay by Luis J. Rodriguez. In picture book format.

Coleman, Evelyn. White Socks Only

Illustrated by Tyrone Geter.

Morton Grove, Ill.: A. Whitman, 1996, 32 pages

Grandma tells the story about her first trip alone into town during the days when segregation still existed in Mississippi. A portrayal of a child's innocence and her awakening to racism. In picture book format.

Currier, Katrina Saltonstall. Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story

Illustrated by Gabhor Utomo.

Tiburon, CA: Angel Island Association, 2005; 39 pages.

In 1934, twelve-year-old Kai leaves China to join his father in America, but first he must take a long sea voyage, then endure weeks of crowded conditions and harsh examinations on Angel Island. In picture book format.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton

New York: Scholastic, 2007; 341 pages.

For mature readers. In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman is the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south. He sets off for America to recover the stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963

New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1995; 210 pages.

The Watson family heads to Birmingham, Alabama, arriving shortly before the infamous bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four girls, to whom the book is dedicated, died.

Cushman, Karen. Rodzina

New York; Clarion Books, 2003; 215 pages.

A twelve-year-old Polish-American girl, with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery, is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago.

DeFelice, Cynthia C. Under the Same Sky

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005; 215 pages.

While trying to earn money for a motorbike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexican migrant workers who work on his family's farm.

Denenberg, Barry. The Journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13559, Mirror Lake Internment Camp/California, 1942

New York: Scholastic, 1999; 156 pages. My Name is America series.

A 12-year-old Japanese boy keeps a journal of his experiences as a prisoner in a Japanese internment camp in Mirror Lake, California, during World War II. Several pages of historical notes and period photographs provide background information.

Duble, Kathleen Benner. The Sacrifice

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005; 211 pages.

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

Erdrich, Louise. The Birchbark House

New York: Hyperion, 1999; 244 pages.

Omakayas, a seven-year-old American Indian girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Erdrich, Louise. The Game of Silence

New York; HarperCollins, 2005. 256 pages.

The life of Omakayas, a girl of the Ojibwa tribe, is interrupted by a surprise visit from a group of desperate people. From them, she learns that white people want her people to leave their island in Lake Superior and move farther west. A sequel to The Birchbark House.

Fletcher, Susan. Walk Across the Sea

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001; 214 pages.

In late nineteenth-century California, when Chinese immigrants are being driven out or even killed for fear they will take jobs from whites, fifteen-year-old Eliza Jane McCully defies the townspeople and her father to help a Chinese boy who has been kind to her.

Fuqua, Jonathon Scott. Darby

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002; 242 pages.

In 1926, nine-year-old Darby Carmichael stirs up trouble in Marlboro County, South Carolina, when she writes a story for the local newspaper promoting racial equality.

Glaser, Linda. Bridge to America

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005; 200 pages.

Fivel narrates the story of his family's desperate life in a shtetl in Poland in 1920, their Atlantic Ocean crossing to reunite with their father in the United States and the beginning of his identity as an American boy.

Harrell, Beatrice Orcutt and Meers, Tony. Longwalker's Journey: A Novel of the Choctaw Trail of Tears

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999; 132 pages.

When the government removes their tribe from their sacred homeland in 1831, ten-year-old Minko and his father endure terrible hardships on their journey from Mississippi to Oklahoma, where Minko receives the name Longwalker.

Hest, Amy. When Jessie Came Across the Sea

Illustrated by Patrick James Lynch.

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1997; 36 pages.

A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years to earn money to bring her grandmother to the United States. In picture book format.

Hoffman, Mary. The Color of Home

Illustrated by Karin Littlewood.

New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2002 32 pages.

Hassan, newly-arrived in the United States and feeling homesick, paints a picture at school that shows his old home in Somalia as well as the reason his family had to leave. In picture book format.

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. Virgie Goes to School With Us Boys

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000; 32 pages.

In the post-Civil War South, a young African-American girl is determined to prove that she can go to school just like her older brothers.

Hurst, Carol Otis. Torchlight

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006; 142 pages.

In 1864, Charlotte befriends girl of Irish descent at school and tries to understand the prejudices between the Irish and the Yankees in her town of Westfield, Massachusetts. Based on actual events.

Johnson, Angela, A Sweet Smell of Roses

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005; 32 pages.

An African-American child and her younger sister steal out of the house to join the Civil Rights marchers and listen to Dr. King. In picture book format.

Kadohata, Cynthia. Weedflower

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006; 260 pages.

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

Ketchum, Liza. Where the Great Hawk Flies

New York: Clarion Books, 2005; 264 pages.

Years after a violent New England raid by the British and their Indian allies, two families, one that suffered during that raid and one with a Pequot Indian mother and Patriot father, must deal with trauma and prejudice.

Krensky, Stephen. Hanukkah at Valley Forge

Illustrated by Greg Harlin.

New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2006; 32 pages.

During the Revolutionary War, a Jewish soldier from Poland lights the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah and tells General George Washington the story of the miracle of Hanukkah. Based on actual events. In picture book format.

Lasky, Kathryn. Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl

New York: Scholastic, 1998: 188 pages. Dear America Series.

Twelve year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family's life on the Lower East Side.

Lee, Milly. Landed

Illustrated by Yangsook Choi.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006; 40 pages.

After leaving his village in southeastern China, twelve-year-old Sun is held at Angel Island, San Francisco, before being released to join his father, a merchant living in the area. Includes historical notes. In picture book format.

Lee-Tai, Amy, A Place Where Sunflowers Grow

Illustrated by Felicia Hoshino.

San Francisco, Calif.: Children's Book Press, 2006; 31 pages.

While she and her family are interned at Topaz Relocation Center during World War II, Mari finds some hope from her loving family and teacher. In picture book format.

Lerangis, Peter. Smiler's Bones

New York: Scholastic Press, 2005; 147 pages.

Based on the true story of Minik, an Inuit boy who was seized from his tribe in 1897 Greenland by famed explorer Robert Peary, along with five other Inuits, to be "presented" to the American Museum of Natural History.

Lester, Julius. Black Cowboy, Wild Horses: A True Story

Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.

New York: Dial Books, 1998; 32 pages.

Based on the true story of Bob Lemmons, a black cowboy and former slave, who was so in tune with wild mustangs that they accepted him into the herd, thus enabling him single-handedly to take them to the corral. In picture book format.

Lester, Julius. Day of Tears; A Novel in Dialogue

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2005; 177 pages.

For mature readers. Based on an actual event - the biggest slave auction in American history, which took place in Savannah, Georgia, in 1859. The story is told in the voices of many who were there, children and adults, slaves and masters.

Levine, Ellen. Henry's Freedom Box

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2007; 32 pages.

A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave escaped to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia. In picture book format.

Littlesugar, Amy. Freedom School, Yes!

Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

New York: Philomel, 2001; 40 pages.

A fictionalized version of a event that took place during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom School Summer Project. A family's house is attacked because they take in the white woman who has come to teach black children. In picture book format.

Lowery, Linda. Truth and Salsa

Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2006; 176 pages.

Having moved temporarily from Michigan to live with her grandmother in Mexico, twelve-year-old Hayley learns about the poverty that forces men from the village to work as migrant laborers in the U.S.

Lyons, Mary E. Letters From a Slave Boy: The Story of Joseph Jacobs

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007; 197 pages.

A fictionalized look at the life of Joseph Jacobs, son of a slave, told in the form of letters that he might have written during his life in pre-Civil War North Carolina, on a whaling expedition, in New York, New England, and finally in California during the Gold Rush.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy No More

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004; 136 pages.

After his father is killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adam, his mother, and sister are evacuated from Hawaii to California, where he must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, and his own identity.

McCully, Emily Arnold. The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom

Illustrated by the author.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007; 32 pages.

Young Oney Judge risks everything to escape a life of slavery in the household of George and Martha Washington. A carefully researched, fictionalized account of Oney Judge's journey to freedom. In picture book format with a lot of text.

McKissack, Patricia, Abby Takes a Stand

Illustrated by Gordon C. James.

New York: Viking, 2005; 104 pages. Series: Scraps of Time.

Gee recalls for her grandchildren what happened in 1960 in Nashville, Tennessee, when she, aged ten, passed out flyers while her cousin and other adults held sit-ins at restaurants and lunch counters to protest segregation.

McKissack, Patricia C. A Friendship for Today

New York: Scholastic Press, 2007; 171 pages.

In 1954 Missouri, 12-year-old Rosemary is one of the first African-American students to enter the all-white school in her town. She learns important truths about the power of friendship to overcome prejudice. Based on events in the author's life.

Mora, Pat. Tomás and the Library Lady

Illustrated by Raul Colón.

New York: Knopf, 1997; 32 pages.

A fictionalized event based on the real life story of Tomás Rivera, who became chancellor of the University of California. The story highlights the boy's relationship with his grandfather and the welcoming librarian in an Iowa farm town.

Moss, Marissa. Hannah's Journal: the Story of an Immigrant Girl.

New York: Harcourt, 2000; 40 pages. Series: American Voices

In the Russian shtetl where she and her family live, Hannah is given a diary for her tenth birthday, and in it she records the dramatic story of her journey to America. Based on the story of the author's grandmother and in diary format.

Myers, Walter Dean. The Journal of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy

New York: Scholastic, 1999; 156 pages. Dear America Series.

An account in diary form of the experiences of a sixteen-year-old black cowboy on the Chisolm Trail in 1871.

Osborne, Mary Pope. Adaline Falling Star

New York: Scholastic Signature, 2000; 170 pages.

After her mother dies, eleven-year-old Adaline is sent to live in St. Louis with her father, Kit Carson. Because of her mixed white and American Indian heritage, she is shunned by her relatives, and she sets out to make her way to her mother's people.

Paterson, Katherine. Bread and Roses, Too

New York: Clarion Books, 2006; 275 pages.

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Pearsall, Shelley. Crooked River

New York: Knopf, 2005; 248 pages.

When twelve-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a young Ojibwe man accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, she learns about crude frontier justice.

Pearsall, Shelley. Trouble Don't Last

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; 237 pages.

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Peck, Richard. The River Between Us

New York: Dial Books, 2003; 164 pages.

In 1861 in Illinois, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois. Are they spies for the South or could one of them be a runaway slave?

Rappaport, Doreen. Freedom Ship

Illustrated by Curtis James.

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006; 32 pages.

Based on a true story reconstructed from newspaper accounts, about a family that escapes to a Union ship in the Charleston, South Carolina harbor. In picture book format.

Raven, Margot Theis. Circle Unbroken: The Story of a Basket and Its People

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004; 40 pages.

A grandmother tells her granddaughter the tale of Gullahs and their beautiful sweetgrass baskets that keep their African heritage alive. In picture book format.

Raven, Margot Theis. Night Boat to Freedom

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006; 38 pages.

At the request of a fellow slave, Christmas John risks his life taking runaway slaves across the Ohio River. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s. In picture book format.

Robinet, Harriette. Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000; 146 pages.

Twelve-year-old Alfa Merryfield, his older sister, and their grandmother struggle for rent money, food, and their dignity as they participate in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in the summer of 1956.

Rodman, Mary Ann. Yankee Girl

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004; 219 pages.

When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, eleven-year-old Alice wants to be popular but also wants to reach out to the one black girl in her class in a newly-integrated school.

Rosen, Michael J. A School for Pompey Walker

Illustrated by Aminah Robinson.

San Diego: Harcourt Brace Children's Books, 1995 32 pages.

At the dedication of a school named after him, a former slave tells the story of his life and how his white friend helped him earn the money for the school by repeatedly selling him into slavery, after which he always escaped. A picture book inspired by a true story.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Esperanza Rising

New York: Scholastic Press, 2000; 262 pages.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Schmidt, Gary D. Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

New York: Clarion Books, 2004; 219 pages.

In 1911, Turner hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves, which the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot.

Scillian, Devin. Pappy's Handkerchief

Illustrated by Chris Ellison.

Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2007; 36 pages.

In 1889, a black family sells everything they own and leaves their Baltimore home to join other settlers--black and white--in a race to claim land in the newly-opened territory of Oklahoma. A lot of text in picture book format.

Smith, Patricia Clark. Weetamoo, Heart of the Pocasset

New York: Scholastic, 2003; 203 pages. Royal Diaries series.

The 1653-1654 diary of a Pocasset Indian girl, destined to become a leader of her tribe, describes how her life changes after her tribe's interaction with the English.

Taylor, Mildred D. The Land

New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2001; 375 pages.

After the Civil War, the son of a white father and a black mother finds himself caught between the two worlds of black and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own. Prequel to Newbery Medal Winner Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

Tingle, Tim and Bridges, Jeanne Rorex. Crossing Bok Chitto

El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2006; 40 pages.

In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom. In picture book format.

Turner, Ann Warren. Sitting Bull Remembers

Illustrated by Wendell Minor.

New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2007, 32 pages.

A fictionalized portrait of the American Indian leader that evokes the spirit, prophetic vision and tremendous resolve for which he is remembered. In picture book format.

Walvoord, Linda. Rosetta, Rosetta, Sit By Me!

Illustrations by Eric Velasquez.

New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2004; 96 pages.

In 1848, Rosetta, the nine-year-old daughter of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, becomes the only black student at Miss Tracy's Female Seminary in Rochester, New York. Includes facts about Frederick and Rosetta's lives.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Freedom on the Menu: the Greensboro Sit-ins

Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue.

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005; 32 pages.

The 1960 sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young Southern black girl. In picture book format.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006; 42 pages.

This fictional story, lyrically told, is based on the spiritual journey of Harriet Tubman, as a slave in Maryland, a free woman in Philadelphia, and a famous conductor on the Underground Railroad. In picture book format.

Wells, Rosemary. Red Moon at Sharpsburg

New York: Viking, 2007; 236 pages.

As the Civil War breaks out, a young Southern girl summons her sharp intelligence and the courage to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home and the only life she has ever known.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. Counting on Grace

New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2006; 232 pages.

In 1910 Vermont, twelve-year-old Grace leaves school to work in the mill. Her life changes when she and a friend write a letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in the mill, and famous reformer Lewis Hines arrives to photograph them.

Wiles, Deborah. Freedom Summer

Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue.

New York: Atheneum, 2001; 32 pages.

After the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, best friends, one white and the other black, discover that racial prejudice still exists when they try to swim at a city pool. In picture book format.

Wilson, Diane L. Black Storm Comin'

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005; 295 pages.

After his father abandons the family twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

Woodruff, Elvira. The Memory Coat

Illustrated by Michael Dooling.

New York: Scholastic Press, 1999; 32 pages.

An account of a Jewish family's journey from Russia to Ellis Island, with extensive author's notes explaining the background history on which the story is based. In picture book format.

Woodruff, Elvira. Small Beauties: the Journey of Darcy Heart O'Hara

Illustrated by Adam Rex.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006; 32 pages.

Darcy Heart O'Hara, a young Irish girl, shares "family memories" with her homesick parents and siblings after the O'Haras are forced to immigrate to America in the 1840s.

Woods, Brenda. My Name is Sally Little Song

New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006; 182 pages.

When their owner plans to sell one of them in 1802, twelve-year-old Sally and her family run away from their Georgia plantation to look for both freedom from slavery and a home in Florida with the Seminole Indians.

Woodson, Jacqueline. The Other Side

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Putnam, 2001; 32 pages.

Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town. In picture book format.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Show Way

Illustrated by Hudson Talbott.

New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005; 32 pages.

The making of "Show ways," or quilts which once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter in the author's family. In picture book format.

Yep, Laurence. The Traitor: Golden Mountain Chronicles, 1885

New York: HarperCollins, 2003; 310 pages.

In 1885, a lonely illegitimate white boy and a lonely Chinese-American boy develop an unlikely friendship in the midst of prejudices and racial tension in the coal mining town of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Yin. Coolies

Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet.

New York: Philomel Books, 2001; 32 pages.

A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother, who came from China to the United States to make a better life for themselves and helped to build the transcontinental railroad. In picture book format.

Yin. Brothers

Illustrated by Chris Soentpiet.

New York: Philomel Books, 2006; 32 pages.

Having arrived in San Francisco from China to work in his brother's store, Ming is lonely until an Irish boy befriends him. The afterword provides information about Irish and Chinese immigration in the mid-1800s. A sequel to Coolies; in picture book format.

Social Justice and Human Rights - Poetry

Alarcón, Francisco X. Poems to Dream Together; Poemas Para Soñar Juntos

Illustrated by Paula Barragán.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005; 32 pages.

Nineteen short poems in Spanish and English encourage and inspire us to dream and work together, as families and communities, in order to make our hopes for a better world come true. In picture book format.

Alexander, Elizabeth and Marilyn Nelson. Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color: Poems

Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

Honesdale, Pa.: Wordsong, 2007; 47 pages.

Using the sonnet form of verse, two poets tell the story of Prudence Crandall and her black students, who endured the cruelty of prejudice and hateful actions for the sake of their education, in Connecticut in the 1830s.

Cheng, Andrea. Shanghai Messenger

Illustrated by Ed Young.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005; 32 pages.

A collection of poems about eleven-year-old Xiao Mei's visit with her extended family in China, where the Chinese-American girl finds many differences but also the similarities that bind a family together. With many illustrations.

Walker, Alice. Why War is Never a Good Idea

Illustrated by Stefano Vitale.

New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2007; 32 pages.

Simple, rhythmic text explores the destructiveness of war, which has grown old but not wise, as it demolishes people and beautiful things with no consideration for the consequences. In picture book format.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Birmingham, 1963

Honesdale, Pa.: Wordsong, 2007; 39 pages.

A series of poems describe the feelings of a fictional character who witnesses the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Remember the Bridge: Poems of a People

Designed by Semadar Megged.

New York: Philomel Books, 2002; 53 pages.

Archival engravings and photographs accompany these 29 poems about African Americans' 400-year journey to freedom.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Dear Mr. Rosenwald

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2006, 32 pages.

Young Ovella rejoices as her community comes together to raise money and build a much-needed school in the 1920s, with matching funds from the president of Sears, Roebuck. Written in poetry form.

Quest for Equity in Sports in America

This section gives special attention to books about sports and athletes in the history of the United States, a topic of great interest to many children. This is also a powerful lens through which we can examine issues of equity as well as perseverance, determination, hard work, social acceptance, fairness, teamwork, community, and the contributions of individuals.

Equity and Sports - Nonfiction

Blumenthal, Karen. Let Me Play: the Story of Title IX: The Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005; 152 pages.

In 1972, Congress passed Title IX ensuring that girls have the same opportunities as boys to participate in school sports and classes. Includes political coverage of the 1971 law, short biographies of women athletes, and illustrated with photos and comic strips.

Curlee, Lynn. Ballpark: the Story of America's Baseball Fields

Illustrated by the author.

New York, N.Y.: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005; 44 pages.

The history of baseball through its ballparks - their various architectural forms helped shape the game we know today. With an extensive amount of text and full page illustrations.

Lewin, Ted. At Gleason's Gym

Illustrated by the author.

New Milford, Conn.: Roaring Brook Press, 2007; 40 pages.

Describes the visitors and activities that go on at Gleason's gym in Brooklyn, where many world champion boxers, such as Muhammad Ali, trained and where families come together to train also. In picture book format.

Macy, Sue and and Jane Gottesman (editors). Play Like a Girl: A Celebration of Women in Sports

New York: Henry Holt, 1999; 32 pages.

Photographs and text portray the joy and dedication of women participating in a variety of sports. With contributions written by many accomplished women.

Miller, Debbie and Van Zyle, Jon. The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail

New York: Walker & Co, 2002; 32 pages.

The story of the heroic role played by sled dogs, including the Siberian husky Togo, in the delivery of antitoxin serum to those stricken with diphtheria in 1925 Nome, Alaska. The Iditarod race commemorates this historic event.

Nelson, Kadir. We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

Illustrated by the author.

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2008; 88 pages.

Presents the story of the Negro Baseball League from its beginnings in the 1920s through its decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Includes extensive informative text with full-page illustrations.

Weatherford, Carole Boston, A Negro League Scrapbook

Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2005; 48 pages.

A survey of the Negro Leagues from 1887 to 1947, this scrapbook-style book includes sidebars, quotes, statistics, and information about individual players with many photographs and images on each page.

Equity and Sports – Biography and Collective Biography

Adler, David A. America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle

Illustrated by Terry Widener.

San Diego: Harcourt, 2000; 32 pages.

Describes the life and accomplishments of the first woman to swim the English Channel. In picture book format.

Adler, David A. Campy: The Story of Roy Campanella

Illustrated by Gordon C. James.

New York: Viking, 2006; 32 pages.

About the first African-American catcher to integrate major league baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. A fair amount of text in a picture book format.

Adler, David A. Joe Louis: America's Fighter

Illustrated by Terry Widener.

Orlando: Gulliver Books: Harcourt, 2005; 32 pages.

A straightforward text outlines Joe Louis's boxing career and includes the racism he fought outside the ring. A lot of text in picture book format.

Adler, David A. Lou Gehrig: the Luckiest Man

Illustrated by Terry Widener.

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997; 32 pages.

Traces the life of the Yankees' star ballplayer, focusing on his character and his struggle with the terminal disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. In picture book format.

Bolden, Tonya. The Champ: the Story of Muhammad Ali

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.

New York: A.A. Knopf, 2004; 32 pages.

A story told with lyrical and powerful language and strong, colorful illustrations in picture book format.

Bruchac, Joseph. Jim Thorpe: Original All-American

New York, NY: Dial Books/Walden Media, 2006; 277 pages.

About the American Indian athlete, focusing on his early athletic career. Told in Thorpe's voice and illustrated with photos.

Bruchac, Joseph. Jim Thorpe's Bright Path

Illustrated by S.D. Nelson.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004; 32 pages.

About the American Indian athlete, focusing on how his boyhood education set the stage for the athletic achievements that gained him international fame and Olympic gold medals. In picture book format.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Satchel Paige

Illustrated by James E. Ransome.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000; 40 pages.

A picture book biography of the legendary baseball player who was the first African-American to pitch in a Major League World Series.

Cooper, Floyd. Jump! From the Life of Michael Jordan

Illustrated by the author.

New York: Philomel Books, 2004; 40 pages.

Based on actual events, this story is about friendly sibling rivalry and how losing can be a great motivator. In picture book format.

Deans, Karen. Playing to Win: The Story of Althea Gibson

Illustrated by Elbrite Brown.

New York: Holiday House, 2007; 32 pages.

As a child in Harlem in the 1930s, Althea Gibson discovered she was a natural at tennis. But it was a sport played mostly by wealthy white people in clubs that excluded blacks. She became the first African-American to be ranked as the number one woman tennis player in the world. In picture book format.

Golenbock, Peter. Teammates

Illustrated by Paul Bacon.

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1990; 32 pages.

An inspiring introduction to Jackie Robinson's perseverance in the face of bias with the support of Pee Wee Reese, fellow Brooklyn Dodger. In picture book format.

Green, Michelle Y. A Strong Right Arm: the Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson

New York: Puffin Books, Penguin Putnam, 2002; 111 pages.

Biography of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, one of only three women (so far) to play professional baseball. Johnson was a pitcher with the Negro Leagues' Indianapolis Clowns from 1953 to 1955.

Haskins, Jim. Champion: The Story of Muhammad Ali

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.

New York: Walker & Co., 2002; 32 pages.

A biography of Muhammad Ali, from his childhood in Kentucky, his boxing career, and his conversion to Islam and opposition to the war in Vietnam, to his appearance at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta. In picture book format with a lot of text.

Hubbard, Crystal. Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream

Illustrated by Randy Duburke.

New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc, 2005; 32 pages.

A fictionalized biography highlighting a pivotal event in the childhood of Marcenia Lyle Alberga, who became the first female roster member of a professional Negro League team. In picture book format.

Jordan, Deloris and Roslyn M. Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000; 32 pages.

Young Michael Jordan, who is smaller than the other players, learns that determination and hard work are more important than size when playing the game of basketball. In picture book format.

Krull, Kathleen. Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman

Illustrated by David Diaz.

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1996; 32 pages.

About the African-American woman who overcame crippling polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympics. In picture book format.

Krull, Kathleen. Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt.

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997; 91 pages.

Presents twenty true stories of athletes--mostly admirable, occasionally quirky--whose physical accomplishments create a world of thrills and spills.

McCarthy, Meghan, The Story of Charles Atlas

Illustrated by Sally Wern.

New York: A.A. Knopf, 2007, 32 pages.

A humorous biography of the man whose fitness campaign, inspired the entire nation to

get in shape, eat right, and take charge of their lives. In picture book format.

Mochizuki, Ken. Be Water, My Friend: The Early Years of Bruce Lee

Illustrated by Dom Lee.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006; 32 pages.

A biography that focuses on Lee's early years in Hong Kong, where he discovered martial arts and began developing the skills that led to his career as a legendary martial artist and film star in the United States and the world. In picture book format.

Moss, Marissa, Mighty Jackie: the Strike Out Queen

Illustrated by C.F. Payne.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004; 32 pages.

In 1931, seventeen-year-old Jackie Mitchell pitches against Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game, becoming the first professional female pitcher in baseball history. In picture book format.

Myers, Walter Dean. The Greatest: Muhammad Ali

New York: Scholastic Press, 2001; 172 pages.

A portrait of Ali's character and cultural impact that focuses on how Ali dealt with the social turbulence of his times and with many challenges from strong boxing contenders.

Robinson, Sharon. Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America

New York: Scholastic Press, 2004; 64 pages.

A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter. Illustrated with many photos.

Smith, Charles R. Hoop Queens: Poems

Cambridge, Mass: Candlewick Press, 2003; 36 pages.

A collection of twelve poems that celebrate contemporary women basketball stars of the WNBA. Illustrated with large, dynamic photographs.

Weatherford, Carole Boston, Jesse Owens: the Fastest Man Alive

Illustrations by Eric Velasquez.

New York: Walker & Company, 2006; 32 pages.

A biography in poetic format about Owens who grew up under segregation but never let it slow him down while setting world records and winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. In picture book format.

Winter, Jonah. iBéisbol! Latino Baseball Pioneers and Legends

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2001; 32 pages.

Presents profiles of fourteen Latino baseball players who, from 1900 through the 1960s, were pioneers of the sport in their home countries and the United States.

Winter, Jonah. Muhammad Ali: Champion of the World

Illustrated by François Roca.

New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007; 32 pages.

A profile of the legendary boxer and the complicated life he led, from changing his religion and his name to dodging the draft during the Vietnam Era and fighting his way to regain a title. In picture book format.

Winter, Jonah. Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates

Illustrated by Raúl Colón.

New York: Atheneum Books for Young People, 2005; 32 pages.

A profile of the Puerto Rican baseball star who gave much of his money to charities, and built a sports complex for poor children in Puerto Rico. In picture book format.

Wise, Bill. Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer

Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2007; 32 pages.

Louis, who is Penobscot, pursued his childhood love of baseball and eventually joined the Major Leagues, where he faced racism and discrimination with humility and courage as the first American Indian to play professional baseball.

Yoo, Paula. Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story

Illustrated by Dom Lee.

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005; 40 pages.

About the Korean-American diving champion, focusing on how his childhood determination and his father's dreams led to a medical career as well as his athletic achievements, which earned him Olympic gold medals in 1948 and 1952. In picture book format.

Equity and Sports - Historical Fiction

Corey, Shana. Players in Pigtaails

Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2003; 32 pages.

Katie Casey, a fictional character, helps start the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League during World War II. Inspired by the original lyrics of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". In picture book format.

Hopkinson, Deborah. Girl Wonder: a Baseball Story in Nine Innings

Illustrated by Terry Widener.

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 32 pages.

In the early 1900s, Alta Weiss, a young woman who knows from an early age that she loves baseball, finds a way to show that she can play, even though she is a girl. In picture book format.

Johnson, Angela. Just Like Josh Gibson

Illustrated by Beth Peck.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004; 32 pages.

A picture book about an African-American girl growing up in the 1940s who wants to play baseball like her hero, Negro League player Josh Gibson.

Jordan, Deloris. Michael's Golden Rules

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007; 32 pages.

A picture book that tells the story of teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendship as a little boy learns the golden rules of baseball.

Michelson, Richard. Across the Alley

Illustrated by E. B. Lewis.

New York: Putnam, 2006; 32 pages.

Abe's grandfather wants him to be a violinist while Willie's father plans for him to be a great baseball pitcher, but it turns out that the Jewish boy and the African-American boy have talents in other directions. In picture book format.

Rappaport, Doreen. Dirt on Their Skirts: the Story of the Young Women Who Won the World Championship

Illustrated by Earl B. Lewis.

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000, 32 pages.

A young girl experiences the excitement of watching the 1946 championship game of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. In picture book format.

Rodriguez, Alex. Out of the Ballpark

Illustrated by Frank Morrison.

New York: HarperCollins, 2007; 32 pages.

The New York Yankees third baseman tells of a boy who puts his whole heart into baseball. This story celebrates effort, teamwork, and family. In picture book format.

Sturm, James. Satchel Paige: Striking out Jim Crow

New York: Hyperion, 2007; 90 pages.

A graphic novel about the fictional black farmer, Emmet Wilson, whose moment of glory as a player in the Negro Leagues comes when he scores a run off pitcher Satchel Paige. His brief encounter with Paige, a powerful force against Jim Crow laws, provides lifelong inspiration.

Uhlberg, Myron. Dad, Jackie, and Me

Illustrated by Colin Bootman.

Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2005; 32 pages.

In Brooklyn, New York, in 1947, a boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his deaf father share their enthusiasm over baseball and the Dodgers' first baseman, Jackie Robinson. In picture book format.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Champions on the Bench: The Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars

Illustrated by Leonard Jenkins.

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2007; 32 pages.

Story based on the discrimination faced by the 1955 Cannon Street YMCA Little League All-Stars when the white teams refused to play them in the series tournament. In picture book format.

Resources for Selecting High-Quality Children's Literature

Professional Journals

The following journals have excellent websites that provide articles and book recommendations. The annotations are from the journals' own description of their content and mission.

Book Links

A publication of the American Library Association, *Book Links* provides reviews of the latest recommended children's books; in-depth articles tied to national standards on using books in the classroom; strategies and information for library media specialist/teacher collaboration; tips for making reading fun for children. www.ala.org/BookLinks

Booklist

Published by the American Library Association, *Booklist* magazine delivers reviews of books, audiobooks, reference sources, and DVD titles. Spotlight issues provide coverage on popular genres and specific topics and themes. There is full coverage of the ALA award winners, the annual Editor's Choice, and other "best" lists. www.ala.org/booklist

Horn Book Magazine

Published bimonthly, *The Horn Book Magazine* features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature. *The Horn Book Guide*, appears twice a year and contains only reviews, which are rated and extensively indexed. *The Horn Book Guide Online*, a subscription-based site, contains all reviews from the print *Guide* from 1989 to the present. www.hbook.com

Language Arts

Language Arts, published by the National Council of Teachers of English, is for teachers of pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade and teacher educators. Published bimonthly, it includes themed issues on topics relating to the teaching of English and language arts, as well as reviews of children's books, and reviews of professional resources. <http://www.ncte.org/pubs/journals/la>

Multicultural Review

Multicultural Review is dedicated to reviews of materials that deal with diversity. The focus is on differences in ethnicity, race, spirituality, religion, disability, and language. It helps educators find materials to add to library collections or that assist in classroom instruction. www.mcreview.com

The Reading Teacher

The Reading Teacher, published by the International Reading Association, focuses on the theory and practice of teaching reading skills to elementary-age children. Features include children's and professional book reviews, research reports, and practical teaching ideas. Published eight times a year. <http://www.reading.org/publications/journals/rt>

School Library Journal

School Library Journal serves librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries. It provides information needed to integrate libraries into the school curriculum in the areas of technology, reading, and information literacy, and provides reviews of materials to create high-quality collections for children and young adults. www.schoollibraryjournal.com

Teaching Tolerance Magazine

Published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, *Teaching Tolerance* provides educators with free educational materials that promote respect for differences and appreciation of diversity in the classroom and beyond. Published twice a year, *Teaching Tolerance* magazine showcases innovative tolerance initiatives in schools across the country and the best tolerance-related resources, recommended and reviewed by its staff. <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/>

Children's Book Awards for Nonfiction

APALA Award given by the Asian/Pacific Librarians Association (APALA) to honor and recognize individual work about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritage, based on literary and artistic merit. www.apalaweb.org/awards/awards.htm

Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards given by *The Boston Globe & Horn Book Magazine* for outstanding fiction or poetry, outstanding nonfiction, outstanding illustration. www.hbook.com

Carter G. Woodson Book Award given by the National Council for Social Studies for the most distinguished social science books for young readers that depict ethnicity in the United States. This award is intended to "encourage the writing, publishing, and dissemination of outstanding social studies books for young readers that treat topics related to ethnic minorities and race relations sensitively and accurately." www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson

Coretta Scott King Award presented annually by the American Library Association to a black author and a black illustrator whose works "encourage and promote" world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people. www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookaward/corettascott.cfm

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given annually to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence. <http://www.janeaddamspeace.org>

Native American Youth Services Award given by the American Indian Library Association to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Includes a list of criteria for selecting books about American Indians. www.aila.library.sd.gov/activities/youthlitaward.htm

Notable Trade Books for Young People provides annotated lists of books that were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for Social Studies in cooperation with the Children's Book Council. www.ncss.org/resources/notable

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children given by the National Council of Teachers of English. www.ncte.org/about/awards/sect/elem/106877.htm

Pura Belpre Award given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience...for children and youth. www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, established by the Association for Library Service to Children in 2001 with support from Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc., is awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in English during the preceding year. <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/sibertmedal>

The Washington Post-Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award honors an author or author-illustrator whose total work has contributed significantly to the quality of nonfiction for children. Nonfiction is written or illustrated work which arranges and interprets facts intended to illuminate, without imaginative invention, the following fields of knowledge: science, technology, social science, history, biography, and the arts. www.childrensbookguild.org/awardnonfiction.htm

Official Guidelines for the Jane Addams Book Awards

Adopted by the Jane Addams Peace Association, January 1994
www.janeaddamspeace.org

Books considered for the awards should invite answers to one or more of the following questions:

- How can people peaceably settle disputes but with a special emphasis on diverse make-up and outlook?
- How can we begin to think more creatively and humanely about injustice and conflict, past or present, real or fictionalized?
- How can young people participate in creative solutions to the problems of war, social injustice, racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, and the concerns of the physically challenged?
- How can people of all races, cultures, nations and economic systems live peacefully together?
- Does the book promote an understanding of the role of women in society, gender roles, the need to overcome gender stereotypes, e.g. role models of both genders?

Book themes may include:

- Solving problems courageously and non-violently
- Overcoming prejudice
- Breaking cycles of fear
- Approaching life with self-confidence and strength
- Understanding human needs with compassion
- Broadening outlook to appreciate a variety of cultures
- Accepting responsibility for the future of all peoples

Books eligible for this award may be fiction, poetry or nonfiction.

Entries should be suitable for ages two through twelve.

Entries may be books of any length.

Entries should be well-written and well-illustrated. (However, illustrations are not required.)

The Orbis Pictus Award

Given by the National Council of Teachers of English
<http://www.ncte.org/elem/awards/orbispictus>

The Orbis Pictus Award is an annual award recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. The name Orbis Pictus commemorates the work of Johannes Amos Comenius, *Orbis Pictus – The World in Pictures* (1657), considered to be the first book actually planned for children.

Selection Criteria

Accuracy

- Facts are current and complete
- Balance of fact and theory
- Text offers varying points of view
- Stereotypes avoided
- Author's qualifications adequate
- Appropriate scope
- Authenticity of detail

Organization

- Logical development of topic
- Clear sequencing
- Interrelationships indicated
- Patterns provided (general-to-specific, simple-to-complex, etc.)

Design

- Attractive
- Readable
- Illustrations complement text
- Placement of illustrative material appropriate and complementary
- Appropriate media, format, and type

Style

- Writing is interesting and stimulating
- Reveals author's enthusiasm for subject
- Curiosity and wonder encouraged
- Appropriate terminology
- Rich language

Usefulness for classroom teaching

- Encourages thinking and reading
- Models exemplary expository writing and research skills
- Shares interesting and timely subject matter
- Appeals to a wide range of ages