Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

2018
### About the List and Criteria for Selection

The books that appear in this annotated list were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and assembled in cooperation with the Children’s Book Council (CBC). NCSS and CBC have cooperated on this annual bibliography since 1972. Books selected for this bibliography were published in 2017 and were written for children in grades K-12. The Book Review Committee looks for books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity of groups and are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality, have a pleasing format, and, where appropriate, include illustrations that enrich the text. Each book is read by several reviewers, and books are included on the list by committee assent; the annotations do not necessarily reflect the judgment of the entire committee.

Publishers’ addresses are available in standard reference works such as Children’s Books in Print (R.R. Bowker) and Literary Market Place (R.R. Bowker), and from CBC. CBC’s Members List is available at www.cbcbooks.org/membership/member-list. Credits for permission to reproduce the cover art included in this supplement are printed on page 16.

Titles are arranged by broad subject categories. Although many are appropriate for more than one category, they have been placed where their usefulness in social studies education appears greatest. Annotators have also indicated the thematic strands (shown below) from National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, to which the book relates.

### Thematic Strands of the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

1. **CULTURE**
2. **TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE**
3. **PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS**
4. **INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY**
5. **INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS**
6. **POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE**
7. **PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION**
8. **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY**
9. **GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**
10. **CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES**

### Key to a Notable Listing

1. The titles marked with an asterisk are Selectors’ Choices—books that individual committee members responded to with particular enthusiasm.  
2. Title: Subtitle  
3. Author(s)  
4. Illustrator  
5. Publisher.  
6. Number of pages  
7. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included for all available editions (trade, library, and paperback). The symbol “F” indicates that a paperback edition is forthcoming. A publisher’s name between parentheses indicates that a different publisher will issue the paperback edition.  
8. Price as of January 2018  
9. Reading levels: P: Primary (K-2), I: Intermediate (3-5), M: Middle (6-8), H: High (9-12). They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles.  
10. Brief descriptive annotation, plus notations of the presence of additional textual materials, if any.  
11. Initials indicating the reviewer responsible for the annotation (see list at right).  
12. Thematic strands of the national curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

### 2018 Book Review Committee Members

- Craig Carson (Chair), Assistant Superintendent, Ozark R-VI Schools, Ozark, Mo. (CLC)
- Beverly Milner (Lee) Bisland, Associate Professor, Queens College of the City University of New York, Flushing, N.Y. (BMB)
- Lisa Brown, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga. (BLS)
- Eric Groce, Professor, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. (ECG)
- Wendy Harris, High School Teacher, Metro Deaf School, St. Paul, Minn. (WH)
- Kim Heckart, 3rd Grade Teacher, College Community School District, Prairie Ridge Elementary, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (KH)
- Kurt Johnson, Brigham Young University Hawaii, School of Education, Laie, Hawaii. (KJ)
- Michelle Leba, Curriculum Coordinator, Washington Technology Magnet School, St. Paul, Minn. (ML)
- Lorraine Lupinskie, Director of Social Studies K-12, Half Hollow Hills School District, Dix Hills, N.Y. (LL)
- Laura Meyers, Associate Clinical Professor, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga. (LEM)
- Ritu Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, N.Y. (RR)
- Jen Reiter, Third Grade Teacher, Gilman School, Baltimore, Md. (JR)
- Bethany L. Scullin, Assistant Professor, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga. (BLS)

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BIOGRAPHY

30 People Who Changed the World: Fascinating Bite-Size Essays from Award-Winning Writers—Intriguing People Through the Ages: From Imhotep to Malala Yousafzai. Edited by Jean Reynolds. Quarto Group / Seagrass Press. 144pp. Trade ISBN 9781633223776, $14.95. (I, M) This book highlights 30 extraordinary individuals who had an impact on the world. Readers will learn more about luminaries like Albert Einstein and will be introduced to lesser known figures like Edmonia Lewis, the first African American sculptor to achieve international recognition. Includes Find Out More (at the end of each chapter), About the Authors, Index. (LL) 3


Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History. Walter Dean Myers. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780060277093, $17.99. (I) From the youngest age, Frederick Douglass fed his insatiable desire to become literate, viewing it as his passport to freedom. After securing his own independence, he became a leading voice in the abolitionist and suffragist movements. Includes Timeline, Bibliography, Document of Freedom. (ECG) 333

Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Revealed. Mary Losure. Candlewick Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9780763670634, $19.99. (M) This engaging non-fiction narrative of the life of Sir Isaac Newton features extensive primary source images, quotations, and samples from his own notebooks. They provide insight into the father of physics and one of the greatest scientists to have ever lived. Includes Resources, Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. (KJ) 333


The Magician and the Spirits: Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead. Deborah Noyes. Penguin Young Readers / Viking Books for Young Readers. 160pp. Trade ISBN 9780803740181, $18.99. (M) This fascinating biography of Harry Houdini is centered on his quest to debunk fake spiritualism and find true psychic mediums who could communicate with the dead. Images of primary sources are found throughout the text. Includes Notes, Bibliography, Index. (WH) 333
Miguel's Brave Knight: Young Cervantes and His Dream of Don Quixote. Margarita Engle. Illustrated by Raúl Colón. Peachtree Publishers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781561458561, $17.95. (I) This fictionalized, first-person biography combines free verse with detailed pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations to convey the early life of the father of the modern novel and one of the greatest writers in the Spanish language, Miguel de Cervantes. Includes Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Historical Note, Biographical Note, A Cultural Icon. (KJ) ⭐⭐⭐


The Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & the Invention of the Piano. Elizabeth Rusch. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. Simon & Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781481444482, $17.99. (P, I) Readers will learn about the invention of the piano, one of the world’s most popular instruments. This book tells the story of Bartolomeo Cristofori and his quest to create an instrument that can play both soft and loud songs. Includes Timeline, Notes on the Piano, Music List, Author’s Note on Sources, Bibliography. (RR) ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Red Cloud: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender. Written and illustrated by S.D. Nelson. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 64pp. Trade ISBN 9781419723131, $19.95. (I, M) Authentic illustrations, period photographs, and primary source documents accompany the narrative of Red Cloud, the Oglala chief, as he navigates war, westward expansion, treaties, and, eventually, moving to a reservation to preserve his people. Includes Timeline, Author’s Note, Bibliography, Index. (ECG) ⭐⭐⭐⭐


CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS


Amina’s Voice. Hena Khan. Simon & Schuster BYR / Salaam Reads. 208pp. Trade ISBN 9781481492065, $16.99. (I, M) This book illustrates the struggle many American-born children of immigrant parents have as they try to understand who they are and where they belong. Amina was born in the United States to Pakistani/Muslim parents. (RR) ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐


The Bone Sparrow. Zana Fraillon. Disney-Hyperion. 240pp. Trade ISBN 9781484781517, $16.99. (M) This fictional account of life in an Australian permanent detention center explores the issues facing refugees in a powerful but accessible fashion. This is the kind of book that spurs people to fight for change. Includes Foreword, Afterword. (JR) ⭐⭐⭐⭐
A Different Pond. Bao Phi. Illustrated by Thi Bui. Capstone Young Readers / Picture Window Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781623708030, $23.32. (P) A son accompanies his father on an early morning fishing trip to catch the family’s dinner. Originating from the childhood memories of both author and illustrator, this evocative picture book provides a powerful glimpse into the value of relationship, tradition, and hope in one Vietnamese American immigrant family. Includes Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note. (KJ)  

Far from the Tree: How Children and Their Parents Learn to Accept One Another…Our Differences Unite Us (Young Adult Edition). Andrew Solomon adapted by Laurie Calkhoven. Simon & Schuster BYR. 464pp. Trade ISBN 9781481440905, $18.99. (H) In this young adult edition, the author explores how parents and families who have children with differences, such as Down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, deafness, transgenderism, and much more can love and accept each other when facing extraordinary challenges. Includes Notes, Further Reading, Index. (BLS)  


Halfway Normal. Barbara Dec. Simon & Schuster / Aladdin. 256pp. Trade ISBN 9781481478519, $16.99. (P, M) Norah Levy is starting seventh grade. She has not been to school in two years; she has been fighting leukemia and now is trying to adjust to “normal” middle school life. The book tells of her struggles as The Girl Who Had Cancer and is powerful in its message of strength and acceptance. Includes About the Author. (LL)  

The Hate U Give. Angie Thomas. HarperCollins / Balzer + Bray. 464pp. Trade ISBN 9780062498533, $17.99. (H) Thomas’s sure-to-be classic pushes the reader to ponder the importance of one’s voice through a coming-of-age story involving institutional racism, police violence, activism, family dynamics, interracial dating, and more. (LEM)  

How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child. Sandra Uwiringiyimana and Abigail Pesta. HarperCollins /Katherine Tegen Books. 304pp. Trade ISBN 9780062470140, $19.99. (H) As a child, Sandra watched her family gunned down in a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This powerful memoir details the author’s struggles as a genocide survivor, her inspiring journey to a new country, the challenges faced as an immigrant, and the powerful path that has led to healing. Includes Author’s Note, Resource List. (KJ)  

I Like, I Don’t Like. Anna Baccelliere. Illustrated by Ale + Ale. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 28pp. Trade ISBN 9780802854803, $16.00. (P) Facing pages of this picture book show privileged children at play with objects, while other children are shown working with the same objects. The illustrations and text inspire meaningful discussions about privilege and poverty. Includes notes on Poverty and Child Labor, Convention on the Rights of the Child, How to Help. (BMB)  

In the Shadow of the Sun. Anne Sibley O’Brien. Scholastic / Arthur A. Levine Books. 336pp. Trade ISBN 9780545905749, $17.99. (M) On a tour of North Korea, Mia and Simon’s father is arrested for taking unauthorized pictures. Navigating through dangerous lands, the siblings see firsthand the complexities of North Korea’s political and social systems. Includes Background Information, Author’s Note, About the Author. (ML)  

The Lines We Cross. Randa Abdel-Fattah. Scholastic Press. 400pp. Trade ISBN 9781338118667, $18.99. (H) Michael’s family members are leaders in an anti-immigration group. Mina, a Muslim refugee, has experienced unspeakable tragedy. They meet at an anti-immigration rally and eventually realize they have more in common than they thought. Includes About the Author. (RR)  


Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask about Having a Disability. Shane Burcaw. Photographs by Matt Carr. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781626727717, $17.99. (P, I) Not So Different provides able-bodied readers with an up-close glimpse into the world of those living with disabilities. The humorous presentation portrays a powerful message: Inside, we are all very much alike. Includes Author’s Note. (CLC)

One Good Thing about America. Ruth Freeman. Holiday House. 160pp. Trade ISBN 9780823436958, $16.95. (M) Told from the perspective of a middle school refugee, this novel allows readers to see the challenges immigrants face as well as accentuating the similarities and differences between cultures. Includes For More Information, Author’s Note, English Words Anaïs is Learning. (ML)

The Pants Project. Cat Clarke. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky. 272pp. Trade ISBN 9781492638094, $16.99. (M) Liv’s story, told with humor, is about his efforts to change his middle school’s dress code while at the same time struggling to find the best way to come out as transgender. This LGBTQ novel reinforces the importance of accepting and treating all with fairness and compassion. Includes About the Author. (LI)

Pedal Power: How One Community Became the Bicycle Capital of the World. Written and illustrated by Allan Drummond. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780374305277, $17.99. (P, I) Fifty years ago, the people of Amsterdam took a stand against their city, crowded with motor vehicles, as they led protests against the unsafe streets to promote the inclusion of bicycles. A true story of the people that paved the way for safe biking around the world. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography. (BLS)


ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY

Bees: A Honeyed History. Written and illustrated by Piotr Socha. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 80pp. Trade ISBN 9781419726156, $24.95. (I) Between “How the Bee Came to Be” and “Bees in the Big City” this wonderfully illustrated informative text celebrates the essential role that these small creatures have played historically and their continued importance to our ecosystem. Includes The Daily Buzz. (LI)

Forest World. Margarita Engle. Simon & Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 208pp. Trade ISBN 9781481490573, $16.99. (M) A novel told in alternating verse. Narrators Edver, a Cuban American boy visiting his family in Cuba for the first time, and Luza, the Cuban sister Edver never knew he had, share unique perspectives on their lives, until they are forced to overcome their differences to protect something they both love—the Cuban jungle. Includes Glossary. (LL) 🟢🟦


How to Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild. Written and illustrated by Katherine Roy. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press / David Macaulay Studio. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781626721784, $18.99. (I, M) This beautifully illustrated informational picture book portrays the life and development of a newborn elephant. Packed with fascinating information, readers will explore how a baby elephant learns to survive and thrive with protective support from her family herd. Includes Author’s Note, Selected Sources, Scientific Articles, Further Reading and Resources. (BLS) 🟢


The Tree: An Environmental Fable. Written and illustrated by Neal Layton. Candlewick Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780763693950, $16.99. (P) This picture book tells the tale of different animal families happily sharing a tree until “new arrivals” show up with a “wonderful” plan for the tree’s future. Can the tree be a home for all? (LL) 🟢

FOLKTALES

Pattan’s Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India. Chitra Soundar. Illustrated by Fran Lessac. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763693745, $1799. (P) Pattan and his gigantic pumpkin manage to hold the local animals and plants as they float in the floodwaters. Colorful illustrations bring to life the people and village life of the Sahyadri foothills. (WH) 🟢🟦

GEOGRAPHY/PEOPLES/PLACES


Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story. Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace. Boyds Mills Press / Calkins Creek. 192pp. Trade ISBN 9781629794280, $1795. (M) This gripping informational text is an introduction to polar exploration in general, and the ship U.S.S Jeannette in particular. Captain Long’s journal helps tell the adventure of attempting to reach the North Pole and ending up locked in ice for two years. Includes Epilogue, Author’s Note, Bibliography, Source Notes, Index. (JR) 🟢

Everybody’s Somewhere. Cornelia Maude Spelman. Illustrated by Alex Marley. Quarto Group / Seagrass Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781633223844, $16.95. (P, I) Readers will contemplate the concept of place through poetic text and whimsical illustrations that provide multiple perspectives about people’s homes, loved ones, and interactions. Even when you can’t see them—everybody’s somewhere! (LEM) 🟢

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Grand Canyon. Written and illustrated by Jason Chin. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. 56pp. Trade ISBN 9781596439504, $19.99. (P) As a father and daughter take a magical journey together they explore the Grand Canyon’s past, using artifacts and fossils, while at the same time examining the current ecological community. Includes Notes on the Grand Canyon, Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Selected Sources, For Further Reading. (ML) 


Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers’ Edition). Saroo Brierley. Penguin Young Readers / Puffin Books. 272pp. Trade ISBN 9780425291764, $8.99. (M) Lost at a train station in India at the age of five, Saroo was adopted and moved to Australia. Twenty-five years later, he uses Google Earth to identify his birthplace and reunite with his birth family. Includes Prologue, Epilogue Map, Behind the Scenes of the Movie, Photographs. (ML) 

Manjhi Moves a Mountain. Nancy Churnin. Illustrated by Danny Popovici. Creston Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781939547347, $17.99. (P, I) Dashrath Manjhi used a chisel and hammer to cut a road through a mountain in India (from 1960 to 1982), so his village could have easier access to water, medical care, jobs, and schools. Based on a true story. Includes Author’s Note, Move Your Own Mountain. (LEM) 

The Map of Good Memories / El Mapa de los Buenos Momentos. Fran Nuño. Illustrated by Zuzanna Celej. Cuento de Luz. 24pp. English Trade ISBN 9788416147823 / Spanish Trade ISBN 9788416147786, $16.95. (I) A young girl is forced to flee her war-torn city; but before she goes, she draws a map of the city, marks her favorite places, and reminisces about the happy memories at each location. Available in Spanish and English. Includes Author’s Note. (ML) 


Transportation! Written and illustrated by Gail Gibbons. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780823434251, $17.95. (P) Exploring how people get around, readers will learn about different transportation methods while introducing concepts such as carpooling and commuting. Includes Important Signs and Symbols. (ML) 

HISTORY/LIFE & CULTURE

IN THE AMERICAS

Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix. Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee. Illustrated by Man One. Readers to Eaters. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780983661597, $18.95. (I, M) For Chef Roy Choi, food means love of culture, not only in Korea, but throughout the streets of L.A. Remixing foods from many ethnicities creates an L.A. food culture. Graffiti illustrations complement Choi’s story. Includes Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Notes, Bibliography, Resources, Biographies. (KH) 

Daddy Played the Blues. Written and illustrated by Michael Garland. Tilbury House Publishers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9780884485889, $17.95. (I, M) This fictional text about the Great Migration (1930s) is a tribute to the rich, yearning strain of American music born in the South. Includes About the Author, Further Information About the Blues. (CLC) 

The Enemy. Sara Holbrook. Boyds Mills Press / Calkins Creek. 244pp. Trade ISBN 9781629794983, $17.95. (M, H) Holbrook’s fictional tale captures the angst and fear of the Cold War, McCarthyism, and coming of age. The author’s craft transports the reader to the Detroit suburbs in 1954. Includes Author’s Notes, Bibliography. (CLC) 

The Great American Foot Race: Ballyhoo for the Bunion Derby! Andrew Speno. Boyds Mills Press / Calkins Creek. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9781629796024, $17.95. (M, H) The 1920s were an age of extravagance, exuberance, and excessive athletic stunts, including the Transcontinental Foot Race. The engaging narrative of the competitors’ cross-country journey is supported with photos and documents from the event. Includes The Bunion Derby Map, Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. (ECG)
How the Cookie Crumbled: The True (and Not-So-True) Stories of the Invention of the Chocolate Chip Cookie. Written and illustrated by Gilbert Ford. Simon & Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781481450676, $17.99. (P) This fun story presents three theories for the creation of the chocolate chip cookie. The text is written in a way that naturally invites the readers to weigh in on which theory seems most plausible. Kids will love learning about their favorite treat! Includes Author’s Note, Recipe, Bibliography. (JR) 🍪🍪🍪

I Love You, Michael Collins. Lauren Baratz-Logsted. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR / Margaret Ferguson Books. 224pp. Trade ISBN 9780374303853, $16.99. (M, H) In 1969, the United States is preparing to send men to the moon. At the same time, Mamie experiences significant turmoil in her household and she uses Michael Collins and the moon landing as her touchstone. Includes Author’s Note, Suggested Reading. (RR) 🎈🚀👩‍🚀👨‍🚀


Locked Up for Freedom: Civil Rights Protesters at the Leesburg Stockade. Heather E. Schwarz. Lerner Publishing Group / Millbrook Press. 64pp. Trade ISBN 9781467785976, $33.32. (I, M, H) This informational text about the civil rights movement of 1963 captures the inhumane treatment of African American girls who were prisoners in the Leesburg Stockade. The stories of these brave girls will inspire social responsibility. Includes Author’s Note, Timeline, Source Notes, Glossary, Bibliography, Further Information, Index. (CLC) 🧵💔📸


Now or Never: 54th Massachusetts Infantry’s War to End Slavery. Ray Anthony Shepard. Boyds Mills Press/Calkins Creek. 148pp. Trade ISBN 9781629793405, $17.95. (M) The harsh realities faced by the all-black Massachusetts 54th Infantry are told through the lives of two enlisted soldiers who also served as the first black correspondents during the Civil War. Includes Slavery and Civil War, Timeline, Source Notes, Bibliography. For More Information, Index. (KJ) 🗺️。


The Quilts of Gee’s Bend. Susan Goldman Rubin. Various illustrators. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 56pp. Trade ISBN 9781419721311, $21.95. (M, H) Gee’s Bend, in southern Alabama, is home to a fascinating group of multi-generational African American women who have created original vibrant quilts since the early nineteenth century. A photo-essay carries readers through the origins of Gee’s Bend quilt making through to a traveling exhibit that featured Gee’s Bend quilts at New York’s Whitney Museum. Includes Map, Epilogue, Making a Quilt Square, Bibliography, Index. (BLS) 🧵✂️🌟

* The Red Bandanna (Young Readers Adaptation). Tom Rinaldi. Penguin Young Readers / Viking BYR. 175pp. Trade ISBN 9780425287620, $17.99. (M, H) This nonfiction account about the man in “The Red Bandanna” recounts the heroism of everyday people like Welles Crowther during the September 11, 2001 attacks. ESPN Correspondent Tom Rinaldi chronicles Crowther’s life, death, and legacy, and challenges readers to imagine a world where we all choose to be helpers. Includes Prologue, A Note on Sources. (CLC) 🎧❤️📸

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Remembering Vera. Written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco. Simon & Schuster / Paula Wiseman Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781481442275, $17.99. (P) Discovered as a puppy, Vera quickly becomes the new mascot on the US Coast Guard base in Alameda, California. This heart-warming tale shows the courage, devotion, and friendship shared between a very special dog and everyone who comes in contact with her. Includes A Note about This Story, Author’s Note. (KH) ☂


The Secret Project. Jonah Winter. Illustrated by Jeannette Winter. Simon & Schuster / Beach Lane Books. 34pp. Trade ISBN 9781481469135, $17.99. (I, M) The clock is ticking on the secret project called “the gadget.” This intriguing account of shadowy figures building the first atomic bomb captures the culture and context of the times. Includes Author’s Note, Further Reading. (CLC) ☂

Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero. Patricia McCormick. Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. HarperCollins / Balzer+Bray. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780062292599, $17.99. (P) A great story to introduce young readers to the Korean War. Sergeant Reckless is the tale of a young mare adopted by U.S. Marines to help carry ammunition. She proved her bravery and devotion, marching into battle time and again, and became the only animal to ever hold a military rank. Includes Author’s Note, Selected Biography. (LL) ☂

Soldier Song: A True Story of the Civil War. Debbie Levy. Illustrated by Gilbert Ford. Disney-Hyperion. 80pp. Trade ISBN 9781484725986, $18.99. (P, M) This true Civil War tale of the winter after the Battle of Fredericksburg explains how enemies were brought together for a single night. As the two sides waited out the winter, music was ever present with songs to wake them up, announce breakfast and to get to work around the camp. Dixie was sung on both sides, with the Union using different words than the Confederate soldiers, until one evening all joined in singing “Home, Sweet Home.” Includes Civil War Note, The Song, Timeline, Bibliography, Quotation Source. (LL) ☂


SOCIAL INTERACTIONS/RELATIONSHIPS

Happy Dreamer. Written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. Scholastic / Orchard Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780545865012, $17.99. (P, I) A young person offers specific and thoughtful examples of what it’s like to be a dreamer. Even though the world often tosses obstacles in front of creative efforts, we’re reminded to be persistent and to value being ourselves. Includes Gatefold. (LEM) • • •


It Takes a Village. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Illustrated by Marla Frazee / Paula Wiseman Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781481430876, $19.99. (P, I) Young readers are prompted to explore creative, thoughtful answers to: What do I hope for the world? What gifts can I offer? Who’s in my village? How can we collaborate to make a positive difference? Includes Author’s Note. (LEM) • • •


A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices. Sally Derby. Illustrated by Mika Song. Charlesbridge. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781580897303, $16.99. (I) Six children begin a new school year with varied emotions and concerns. The children are diverse in culture, circumstances, and grade level. Their stories before, during, and after the first day are sensitively told through poetry. (BMB) • •


Sparrow. Sarah Moon. Scholastic / Arthur A. Levine Book. 272pp. Trade ISBN 9781338032581, $18.99. (H) A painfully shy teenager faces the traumas she has experienced in her life and the social anxiety that makes it difficult for her to make friends. (ML) •

Walking with Miss Millie. Tamara Bundy. Penguin Young Readers / Nancy Paulsen Books. 240pp. Trade ISBN 9780399544569, $16.99. (I, M) When her family moves to a new town, Alice is devastated. However, by walking the town with Miss Millie, Alice gains a powerful new friendship and learns about the town's history of segregation and the work left to be done. (JR) • • •

The Way to Bea. Kat Yeh. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 352pp. Trade ISBN 9780316236676, $16.99. (I) Bea’s plans for seventh grade are in trouble: her friends are ignoring her and she’s about to be a big sister. Feeling invisible, she turns to writing, which brings her a way to find herself and an unexpected friend. Includes Songs. (JR)


WORLD HISTORY & CULTURE


Flowers for Sarajevo. John McCutcheon. Illustrated by Kristy Caldwell. Peachtree Publishers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781561459438, $19.95. (P) A young boy is selling flowers when a Sarajevo square is bombed. The next day, and for 22 consecutive days, cellist Vedran Smailovic plays music in the square to honor the 22 victims. Based on a true story of a 1992 bombing and the effects of Smailovic’s music on the people who gathered to listen. Includes Historical Note, Further Reading, Author’s Note, CD with extras, Music Sheet by Smailovic and McCutcheon. (WH) 🌟🌟🌟


Leather Shoe Charlie. Gyeong-hwa Kim. Edited by Joy Cowley. Illustrated by Anna Balbusso & Elena Balbusso. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 36pp. Trade ISBN 9780802854759, $10.00. (I) This international narrative reveals a son’s sacrificial love for his mother while introducing the reader to Britain’s Industrial Revolution. Students can see how this mirrors the working and environmental conditions of the United States during the same time period. Includes Notes on History, Key Terms, Timeline. (RR) 🌟🌟🌟🌟

Lion, King, and Coin. Jeong-hee Nam. Edited by Joy Cowley. Illustrated by Lucia Sforza. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 36 pp. Trade ISBN 9780802854759, $10.00. (P, I, M) A wonderful introduction to economics and the invention of the coin. Laos is living in ancient Turkey and helps his father and grandfather at the market where people barter for food and livestock. Includes Notes on History, Key Terms, Timeline. (RR) 🌟🌟🌟🌟

My Brigadista Year. Katherine Paterson. Candlewick Press. 160pp. Trade ISBN 9780763695088, $15.99. (I) It’s 1961 Cuba and Fidel Castro calls for volunteers to bring literacy to all of the country’s people within a year. Thirteen-year-old Castro calls for volunteers to bring literacy to all of the country’s people within a year. Thirteen-year-old Lora takes up the challenge in this coming-of-age novel, showing readers how young people can change the world. Includes Epilogue, Author’s Note, Timeline. (JR) 🌟🌟🌟🌟

Renato and the Lion. Written and illustrated by Barbara DiLorenzo. Penguin Young Readers / Viking BYR. 44pp. Trade ISBN 9780451476418. $17.99. (P, I, M, H) During World War II, Renato is forced to leave Florence and he wonders who will keep his favorite stone lion safe? This is a beautifully illustrated book about the horrors of war and the salience of art. Includes Author’s Note. (RR) 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟
Suspect Red. L.M. Elliott. Disney-Hyperion. 304pp. Trade ISBN 9781423157540, $16.99. (M) Primary source documents introduce each chapter of our fictional characters’ struggles with patriotism during the Cold War, when suspicion and paranoia were at an all-time high. Teachable moments and discussion prompts abound (e.g., coach uses derogatory term “retard” as well as displaying other prejudices in Ch. 5). Includes Afterword, Bibliography. (LEM)  

Traveling the Blue Road: Poems of the Sea. Collected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illustrated by Bob Hansman and Jovan Hansman. Quarto Group / Seagrass Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781633222762, $17.95. (I, M) A vividly illustrated collection of poems about pilgrims coming to the New World; a slave ship; the voyage of the St. Louis; Vietnamese boat people; the Mariel boatlift; and the current migration situation in the Mediterranean. Includes Notes, About the Poets, About this Book. (KH)  

Tutti’s Promise: A Novel Based on a Family’s True Story of Courage and Hope during the Holocaust. K. Heidi Fishman. MB Publishing. 232pp. Trade ISBN 9780990843016, $9.99. (M, H) The poignant Holocaust story of Tutti Lichtenstern, her struggle to survive, and the family that was lost along the way while imprisoned at Westerbork and Theresienstadt. Includes The Lichtenstern Family Tree, Prologue, Words of Wisdom, Author’s Note, Glossary, Historical Notes, About the Author. (KH)  


The War I Finally Won. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Penguin Young Readers / Dial Books for Young Readers. 400pp. Trade ISBN 9780525429203, $16.99. (I, M) A sequel to The War that Saved My Life, Ada’s life becomes even more complicated as World War II intensifies. With strict food rations, tight living quarters, and friends leaving to help with the war effort, Ada contemplates the meaning of friends, family, and happiness. Includes Author’s Note. (BLS)  

WOMEN’S HISTORY—  

Before She Was Harriet. Lesa Cline-Ransome. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780823420476, $17.95. (P, I) A lyrical biography beginning at the end of Harriet Tubman’s life and traveling back to her childhood, this book offers a glimpse into a woman who should be known for her many accomplishments and by her different names. (LL)  

Bold Women of Medicine: 21 Stories of Astounding Discoveries, Daring Surgeries, and Healing Breakthroughs. Susan M. Latta. Chicago Review Press. 240pp. Trade ISBN 9781613734377, $19.99. (M) These biographies of women from several cultures and countries span from the early eighteenth century to today, highlighting women’s rights and medical advances. Each chapter includes resources to learn more about the spotted women. Includes Foreword, Learn More (at the end of every chapter), Bibliography, Index. (WH)  

Caroline’s Comets: A True Story. Written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Holiday House. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780823436644, $16.95. (P) This biography of the first professional woman scientist, Caroline Herschel, includes excerpts from her autobiography woven into the text showing her childhood challenges and giving a glimpse of her personality. Includes Note, Bibliography, Glossary, Timeline. (WH)  

Dangerous Jane. Suzanne Slade. Illustrated by Alice Ratterree. Peachtree Publishers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781561459131, $17.95. (I) Jane Addams was inspired as a young child to make the world a better place. She persevered through numerous obstacles toward her goals (e.g., Hull House, Women’s Peace Party, WILPF), earning the title, Nobel Laureate. Includes More About Dangerous Jane, Timeline, Bibliography, Sources for Quotes. (LEM)  

www.socialstudies.org/notable
Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México. Written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 33pp. Trade ISBN 9781419725326, $18.95. (P, I, M, H) A beautifully illustrated depiction of Amalia Hernández and the dance company she founded in 1952 that integrated folkloric dances from all over Mexico and became the most famous dance company in the country. Includes Author’s Note, Glossary, Bibliography, Index. (RR) 

Kate Warne, Pinkerton Detective. Marissa Moss. Illustrated by April Chu. Creston Books. 44pp. Trade ISBN 9781939954730, $18.99. (I) Kate Warne walked into the Pinkerton Agency in answer to a job ad and became America’s first female detective by the following day. The adventures of the cunning and courageous detective’s first case are chronicled. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography, About the Authors. (ECG) 


Lighter than Air: Sophie Blanchard, the First Woman Pilot. Matthew Clark Smith. Illustrated by Matt Tavares. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763677329, $16.99. (P) In eighteenth-century France, all the great ballooning aeronauts are men. This beautifully illustrated biography tells the inspiring story of Sophie Blanchard’s rise from a shy, rural village girl to an extraordinary woman who was appointed Chief Air Minister of Ballooning by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Includes Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Bibliography. (KJ) 

Long May She Wave: The True Story of Caroline Pickersgill and Her Star-Spangled Creation. Kristen Fulton. Illustrated by Holly Berry. Simon & Schuster/ Margaret K. McElderry Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781481460965, $17.99. (P) Strong women—Caroline’s relatives and an African American indentured servant—are central to this story of making the flag that flew over Fort McHenry. Provides historical context and weaves in lyrics from the “Star Spangled Banner.” Includes Author’s Note, Sources, Lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner. (WH) 


Maya Lin: Thinking with Her Hands. Susan Goldman Rubin. Chronicle Books. 100pp. Trade ISBN 9781452108377, $17.99. (I) An exploration of the revolutionary work of artist/architect Maya Lin, including her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as well as her unique approach to other projects and the materials used. Includes Bibliography, Source Notes, Index. (ML)
Motor Girls: How Women Took the Wheel and Drove Boldly into the Twentieth Century. Sue Macy. National Geographic Children’s Books. 96pp. Trade ISBN 9781426326974, $18.99. (M, H) A timely tribute to the “Motor Girls” of the turn of the century, who paved the way for change when many questioned whether females should be behind the wheel of a car at all. Intriguing historical photographs, artifacts, and art highlight the difficult journey of these progressive women motorists. Includes Epilogue, Appendix, Resources, Sources of Quotes, Index. (BLS)

Pocket Full of Colors: The Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney Artist Extraordinaire. Amy Guglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville. Illustrated by Brigitte Bar- rager. Simon & Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781481461313, $17.99. (P) As a child, Mary Blair noticed colors everywhere. One of the first women to be hired by Walt Disney Studios, she worked with men who mainly saw things in black and white and disliked her bright style. After leaving Disney, she was hired back for her “vivid” and “wild” imagination to create It’s a Small World. Includes Author’s Note. (LL)


Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song. Gary Golio. Illustrated by Charlotte Riley-Webb. Lerner Publishing Group / Millbrook Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781467751230, $19.99. (I, M) Billie Holiday was tired of the discrimination that plagued her career as a singer. “Strange Fruit” provided her with a platform to protest the pervasive racism of the era and became her personal anthem for resistance. Includes Billie Holiday Biography, Source Notes, Selected Bibliography. (ECG)

Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World. Laurie Lawlor. Holiday House. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9780823436651, $16.95. (I) Readers will be inspired by these six female scientists who had to overcome gender and, in some cases, racial discrimination in fields such as astronomy, archaeology, and oceanography before rising to the top. Includes Glossary, Sources, Index. (JR)

Trudy’s Big Swim: How Gertrude Ederle Swam the English Channel and Took the World by Storm. Sue Macy. Illustrated by Matt Collins. Holiday House. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780823436651, $16.95. (I) The book describes Gertrude Ederle’s swim across the English Channel in 1926, the first woman to accomplish this difficult feat. Readers learn about the courage necessary for this defining moment in sports history. Includes Afterword, Author’s Note, Sources and Resources, Source Notes, Timeline. (BMB)

Women Who Dared: 52 Stories of Fearless Daredevils, Adventurers, and Rebels. Linda Skeers. Illustrated by Livi Gosling. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky. 128pp. Trade ISBN 9781492653271, $16.99. (M, H) Women: adventurers, daredevils, and rebels! This new compilation of brief biographies features women throughout history (some are known and some not) who have risked their lives for adventure. Includes Bibliography, Index, About the Author, About the Illustrator. (KH)


The Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council is the nonprofit trade association of children's book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children's publishers the opportunity to work together on issues important to the industry at large, including educational programming, literacy advocacy, and collaborations with other national organizations including NCSS. The Children’s Book Council helps instill a life-long love of reading in children as a major donor to Every Child a Reader, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which administers Children’s Book Week, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Program, and the Children's and Teen Choice Book Awards. Learn more at cbcbooks.org.

Other bibliographies on which the CBC cooperates:

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students

Reprinted in the June issues of Science and Children, Science Scope, and The Science Teacher, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. For information on how to obtain a copy of this booklet, contact the Children's Book Council at cbc.info@cbcbooks.org. This list can also be found at www.cbcbooks.org/cbc-book-lists/outstanding-science.

Best STEM Books for K-12 Students

Published in the March issues of NSTA’s K-12 Journals and online, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. For information contact cbc.info@cbcbooks.org.

Children’s Choices

Reprinted in the June issue of The Reading Teacher, a joint project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the CBC. Annotated lists are available online at www.cbcbooks.org/childrens-choices.

National Council for the Social Studies

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) is a professional, non-profit association for social studies teachers and educators at all levels from early childhood through college. It engages and supports teachers in strengthening and advancing social studies.

NCSS publishes two major journals. Social Education addresses all levels of the profession, offering articles whose subjects range from the latest research to practical classroom ideas. Social Studies and the Young Learner is devoted to K-6 social studies education, meeting teachers' needs for new information and effective teaching activities. Middle Level Learning, which provides ideas and activities for the middle grades, is an online supplement to NCSS periodicals published three times a year.

As part of membership benefits, NCSS members receive a subscription to Social Education or Social Studies and the Young Learner. All members can access the online NCSS newsletter, The Social Studies Professional, with professional news, opportunities for teachers, workshops, travel and study programs and NCSS activities.

NCSS developed and published the national social studies standards, which are used nationally as a basis for curriculum planning and student performance assessment. The annotations of books in this list include references to the thematic strands of the social studies standards to which the book relates (see page 2).

This list of Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People is an NCSS member benefit, published in the May/June issue of Social Education, which is sent to all members who subscribe to Social Studies and the Young Learner, as well as to the regular subscribers of Social Education. The list is also available online to NCSS members at members.ncss.org; prior year lists are available free at www.socialstudies.org/notable.

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