

# Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People



## 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 2012 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 may be downloaded at [www.cbcbooks.org/membership/member-list](http://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

## Parts of a Notable Listing

1. The titles marked with a honey bee icon 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 in parentheses indicates that a different publisher will issue the paperback edition. 8. Price as of January 2012 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 curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

1. 	2. <b>Buffalo Sisters.</b>	3. Jim Morrison.	4. Illustrated with various photographs.
5. Whiffman Press.	6. 56 pp.	7. Trade ISBN 0-696-67321-1, Library ISBN 0-696-64213-X, F (Wannamaker)	8. \$12.89.
9. (M, H)	10. The true story of sisters Florence and Ester Weeks's childhood on the American frontier.	11. (ABM)	12. 3, 5

# 2013 Book Review Committee Members

**Kevin M. Brown**, Sixth Grade Teacher, East Meadow School, Granby, Mass. (KMB)

**Kristy A. Brugar** (committee chair) Assistant Professor, Teacher Education, Social Studies, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. (KAB)

**Tina Buster**, Social Studies Teacher, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, Calif. (TB)

**Joann Claspill**, Teacher, Langford Elementary, Blythewood, S.C. (JC)

**Cynthia Grady**, Head Librarian, Sidwell Friends Middle School, Washington, D.C. (CG)

**Karen Hildebrand**, Library Media Specialist/Reading Consultant, Delaware City Schools, Delaware, Ohio (retired); Book reviewer: IRA Reading Today Online, Ashland University, Adjunct Instructor (KSH)

**Kathleen Kavet**, Social Studies Teacher, John F. Kennedy High School, Denver, Colo. (KK)

**Jennifer Lawless**, School Improvement Grant Facilitator, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo, Ohio (JEL)

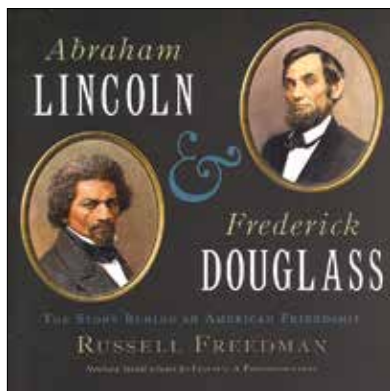
**Melinda Odom Staubs**, Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala. (MOS)

**Kim D. O'Neil**, Teacher, Liverpool CSD, Liverpool, NY (KON)

**Cynthia A. Tyson**, Professor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (CAT)

**Scott Waters**, Professor, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kans. (SW)

# Biography



## Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship

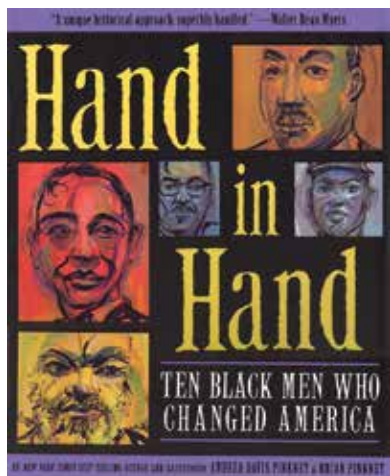
Russell Freedman. Clarion Books, an Imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-5473-8562-4 \$18.99. (M, H)

This is an entertaining and well-researched story of an unlikely friendship that influenced the course of history. Period photographs, prints, and drawings enhance this informational text. Source Notes, Bibliography, Historic Sites, Index. (TB) 10, 6, 2

## Barnum's Bones

Tracey Fern. Illustrated by Boris Kulikov. Margaret Ferguson Books, an imprint of FSG Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 36pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3743-0516-1, \$17.99. (P, I, M)

A young boy with a love of fossil hunting grows up to become a paleontologist who finds the world's first Tyrannosaurus Rex bones. Author's Note, Selected Bibliography. (CAT) 3, 8



## From the Good Mountain: How Gutenberg Changed the World

James Rumford. Flash Point, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 36pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-5964-3542-1, \$17.99. (P, I)

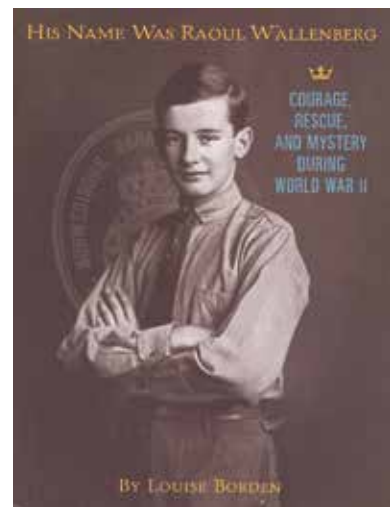
This beautifully illustrated informational picture book introduces young readers to Johannes Gutenberg and his historic printing press, and provides fascinating descriptions of each step of the book making process in the 1500s. Epilogue, Key Search Terms. (TB) 8, 2



## George Bellows: Painter with a Punch

Robert Burleigh. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4197-0166-5, \$18.95. (I, M)

This fascinating biography of turn-of-the-century artist George Bellows highlights his artwork and photographs of bustling New York City with lively, engaging text. List of "Where to See Works By George Bellows," Bibliography, Illustration Credits, Index. (KAB) 2, 3, 4



## Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America

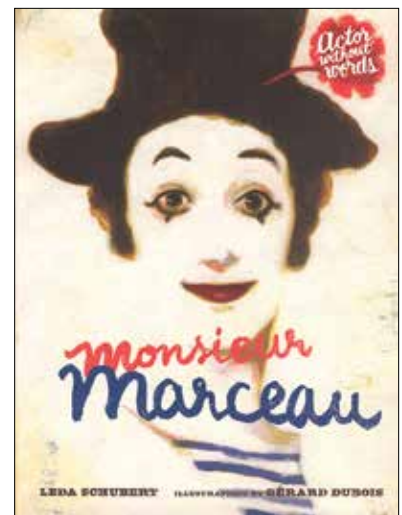
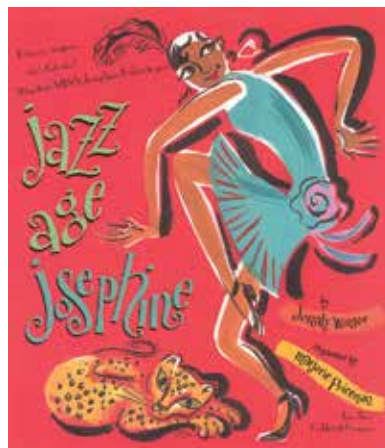
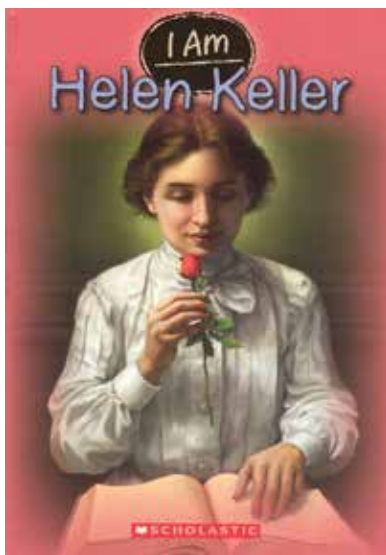
Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Disney-Jump at the Sun. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4231-4257-7, \$19.99. (M)

This book presents the stories of 10 noteworthy African American men, from the era of slavery (Benjamin Banneker) to modern day (Barack Obama). Each individual's historical context, childhood influences, accomplishments, and legacy are presented. Index, Sources and Further Reading, Timeline. (KAB) 2, 4, 10

## His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg: Courage, Rescue, and Mystery During World War II

Louise W. Borden. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group. 144pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-6185-0755-9, \$18.99. (M, H)

This informational biography of the young Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews during World War II is told through text, photos, maps and artifacts. Author's Note, Bibliography, Archive Sources, Video Recordings, Photo Credits, Index. (KSH) 3, 4, 6



## Biography

### **I Am Helen Keller.**

Grace Norwich. Scholastic Reference. 128pp. Paperback ISBN 978-0-545-44779-9, \$5.99. (I)

Helen Keller's life is depicted through a timeline, sidebars, and information that illustrate for readers the life of a young girl living in a world of darkness who grew to become a light to others. Bibliography, Glossary, Webliography, Index. (MOS) 4, 3, 2

### **Jazz Age Josephine: Dancer, singer—who's that, who? Why that's MISS Josephine Baker, to You!**

Jonah Winter. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/ Atheneum. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-6123-9, \$16.99. (P, I)

With powerful images and clever text, this biography offers a glimpse into the life and times of Josephine Baker, as readers follow Baker from St. Louis to New York, and then to Paris. Author's Note. (KAB) 1, 2, 4

### **Looking at Lincoln**

Maira Kalman. Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Young Readers Group. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3992-4039-3, \$17.99. (P, I)

Author/illustrator Maira Kalman offers a humanizing look at our 16th president, portraying his life through the eyes of an admiring young girl. Author's Note, Sources. (KSH) 2, 4

### **Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words**

Leda Schubert. Illustrated by Gérard DuBois. Flash Point, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-5964-3529-2, \$17.99. (P)

This is a beautifully illustrated, inspirational account of the life of Marcel Marceau, the world's most famous mime, from his early life in France, his work with the French Resistance against the Nazis, and his successful stage life. Source Notes, Further Reading. (KK) 4, 3

### **Mrs. Harkness and the Panda**

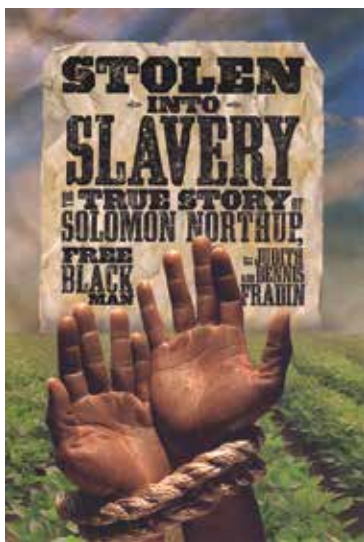
Alicia Potter. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-4448-5, \$16.99. (P, I)

This picture book, replete with beautiful illustrations, tells the story of the pioneering American woman who traveled to China to find and bring back the first baby panda to the United States in the 1930s. Author's Note, Selected Bibliography, Chronology of Events. (TB) 3, 9, 8

### **Noah Webster & His Words**

Jeri Chase Ferris. Illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-5473-9055-0, \$16.99. (P, I)

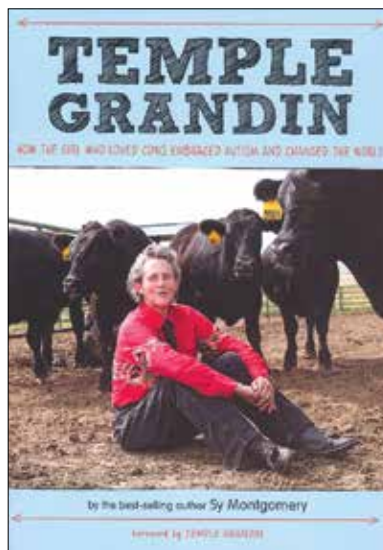
Noah Webster's *American Dictionary* played an influential role in the development of a common language in the United States. The author does an excellent job telling the story of Noah Webster and why he decided to develop the American Dictionary. Author's Note, Bibliography, Timeline. (JEL) 2, 4



### Stolen into Slavery

Judith Fradin and Dennis Fradin. National Geographic Children's Books. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0937-3, \$18.95. Library ISBN 978-1-4263-0938-0, \$27.90. (I, M)

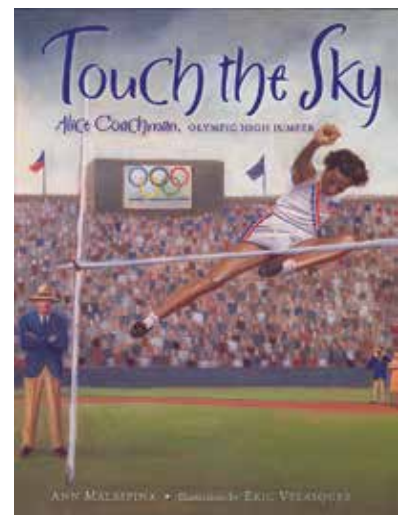
This gripping biography of a free African American from New York who was kidnapped into slavery for 12 years in the South, includes primary sources and dialogue from his memoir that provide riveting details of his experience. Author's Note, Timeline, Bibliography, Index. (JC) 5, 3, 4



### Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World

Sy Montgomery. Foreword by Temple Grandin. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group. 148pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-5474-4315-7 \$17.99. (I, M)

This inspirational and well-crafted informational text takes the reader through Temple Grandin's diagnosis of autism to her becoming a scientist and professor of animal science. Appendix, Selected Bibliography and Resources, Photo Credits, Index. (MOS) 4, 3, 6



### Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper

Ann Malaspina. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Albert Whitman & Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-8035-6, \$16.99. (P, I)

This lyrical free-verse biography describes the journey of the little girl who would become the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Photographs, Author's Note, Selected Bibliography. (CAT) 1, 5

## Contemporary Concerns

### Black Gold: The Story of Oil in Our Lives

Albert Marrin. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-6673-9, \$19.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-3758-5968-7, \$15.99. (M, H)

This captivating book outlines the history of our relationship with and dependency on oil. A historical approach to a modern issue. Glossary, Index. (KAB) 3, 7

### Dear Blue Sky

Mary Sullivan. Nancy Paulsen Books, a division of Penguins Young Readers Group. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3992-5684-4, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-1424-2667-8, \$6.99. (M, H)

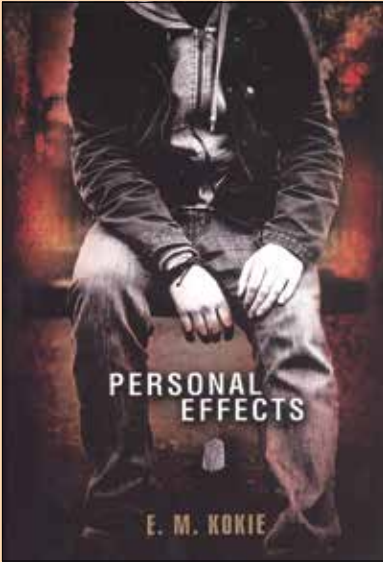
This story chronicles the lives and correspondence between two adolescent girls, one whose brother is fighting in Iraq, and the other who lives in Iraq. (JC) 4, 1, 3

### Kizzy Ann Stamps

Jeri Watts. Candlewick Press. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5895-3, \$15.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-7636-6976-8, \$5.99. (I, M)

Kizzy Ann struggles upon entering a newly integrated school during the civil rights era, but shines while competitively training her beloved collie. Her journey of acceptance and trust ultimately reveals her personal strength. Author's Note. (KK) 4, 1, 2

# Contemporary Concerns



## Personal Effects

E.M. Kokie. Candlewick Press. 352pp  
Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5527-3, \$16.99. (M, H)

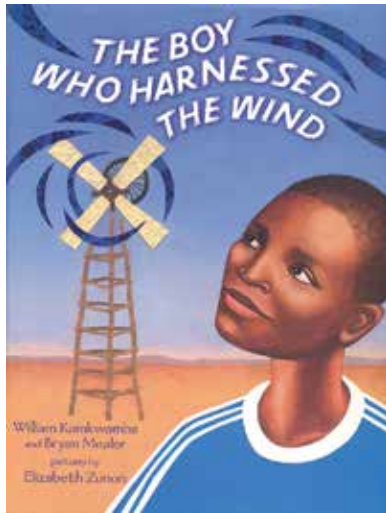
Matt Foster is despondent over the recent death of his brother who was killed in Iraq. This fictionalized account explores the trauma of coping with his brother's death and the awareness Matt gains as he learns of his brother's secret life. (KSH) 3, 4

## The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir

Gaby Rodriguez with Jenna Glatzer. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/SSBFYR. 224pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-1-4424-4622-9, \$17.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-1-4424-4623-6, \$9.99. (M, H)

This school project, turned memoir, chronicles Gaby Rodriguez's faked pregnancy as she seeks to uncover the stereotypes and low expectations others have of her as the child of a teen mother. Acknowledgments. (MOS) 1, 4

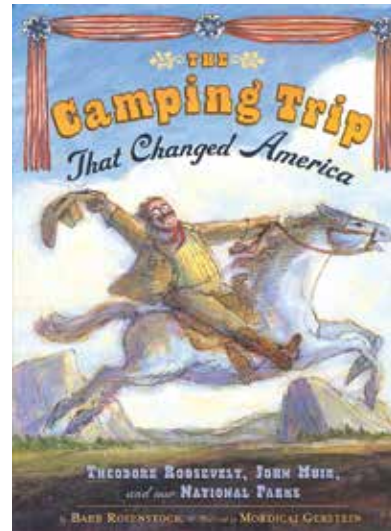
# Environments/Energy/Ecology



## The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Dial. 32pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3511-8, \$16.99. (P, I)

In this picture book adaptation of the adult autobiography, inventor and entrepreneur Kamkwamba gives us a glimpse into his life as a 14-year-old in drought-ridden Malawi and how he came to help his family, community, and nation. Author's Note. (CG) 3, 9, 8



## The Camping Trip that Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our National Parks

Barb Rosenstock. Illustrated by Mordcai Gerstein. Dial. 32pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3710-5, \$16.99. (I, M)

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt asked conservationist John Muir to take him camping in California to learn about Yosemite's giant trees. The experience turned the president into a fierce protector of wilderness areas, and impacted the development of the national park system. Author Notes. (KSH) 3, 4

# Folktales

## Miss Sally Ann and the Panther

Bobbi Miller. Illustrated by Megan Lloyd. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-1833-6 \$16.95. (P)

Young readers will love this tall tale about Davy Crockett's fictional sweetheart, Miss Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, and her taming of the ferocious Black Panther, Fireeyes. (SDW) 1, 3

## Starry River of the Sky

Grace Lin. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3161-2595-6, \$17.99. (I, M)

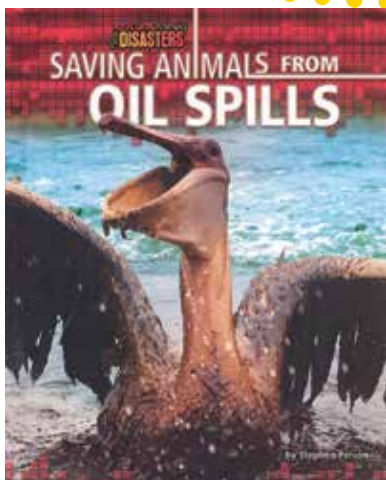
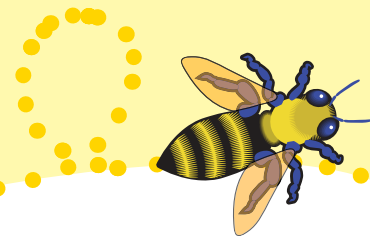
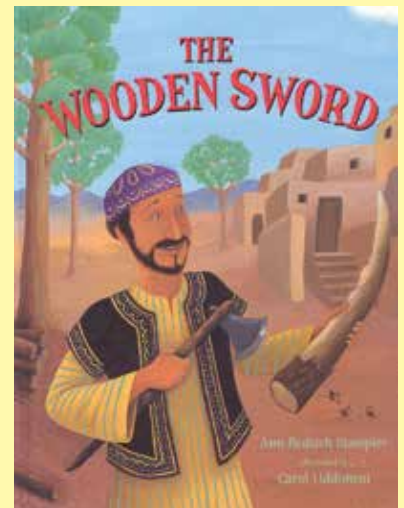
What happened to the moon in the Village of Clear Sky? The central question in this delightful tale filled

with Chinese folklore may only be answered by young Rendi, who hears the moon wailing at night. Author's Note, Book List. (JC) 1, 3

## The Wooden Sword: A Jewish Folktale from Afghanistan

Ann Redisch Stamper. Illustrated by Carol Liddiment. Albert Whitman & Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-9201-4, \$16.99. (P)

Playful illustrations lend a carefree feeling to this classic Afghani and Jewish tale of a Muslim shah who, both curious and respectful, initiates a sequence of challenges to a poor Jewish shoemaker who conquers each challenge through faith and cleverness. Author's Note. (KK) 1, 3



## Saving Animals from Oil Spills

Stephen Person. Illustrated with photographs. Bearport Publishing. 32pp. Library ISBN 978-1-61772-288-2, \$18.95. (I)

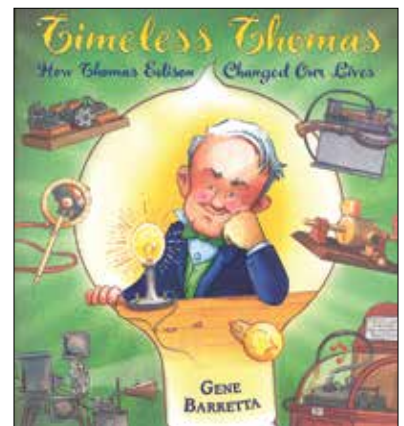
This informational book chronicles the ways that people intervene to rescue marine and other animals from oil spills, and what scientists have learned from these disasters. Close-up photographs with detailed captions help simplify this complex issue. Bibliography, Glossary, Index. (CG) 3, 8



## These Bees Count!

Alison Formento. Illustrated by Sarah Snow. Albert Whitman & Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-7868-1, \$16.99. (P, I)

Bees count in so many ways! The author creatively integrates math, science, and social studies concepts to help inform the reader about the essential role that bees play in our global food supply. Informational Note. (KON) 3, 8, 7

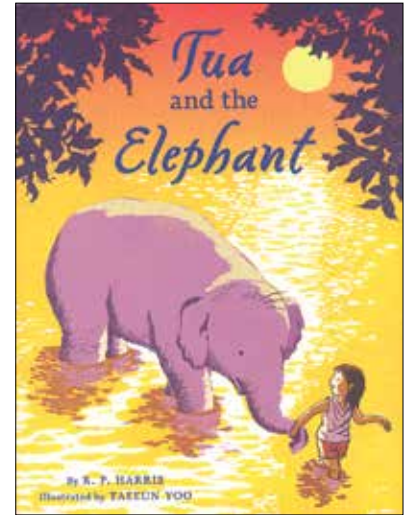
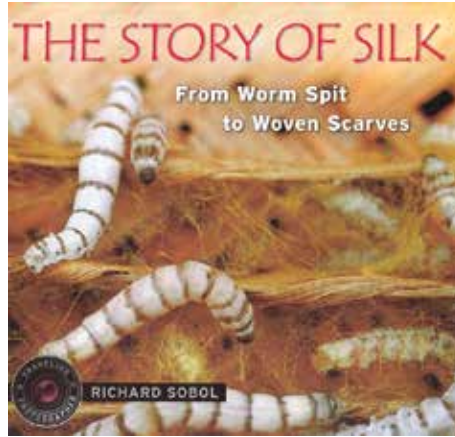
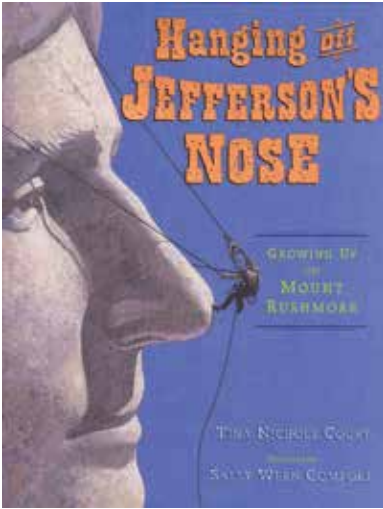


## Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives

Gene Barretta. Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 36pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-9108-3. \$16.99. (P, I)

What do tattoo needles, vending and voting machines, x-rays, movies, and cement have in common with light bulbs and the telegraph? Thomas Edison's laboratory! Follow the development of these and other inventions from laboratory to present day. (CAT) 2, 8

# Geography/People/Places



## The Glass Collector

Anna Perera. Albert Whitman Teen. 352pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-2948-5, \$17.99. (H)

Fifteen-year-old Aaron is an impoverished Coptic Christian in Egypt, a Zabbaleen, who spends his days digging through garbage to find broken glass that he can resell in order to survive. Author's Note. (TB) 3, 9, 7

## Hanging off Jefferson's Nose: Growing Up on Mount Rushmore

Tina Nichols Coury. Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Dial. 40pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3731-0, \$16.99. (P, I)

Lincoln Borglum was 12 years old when his father was commissioned to design a monument out of Mount Rushmore, a project that Lincoln, as an adult, would lead to completion. Large-scale illustrations emphasize the massive size of the endeavor. Afterword, Bibliography. (CG) 3, 5

## Laugh with the Moon

Shana Burg. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 256 pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-3857-3471-4, \$16.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-0-4404-2210-5, \$6.99. (I, M)

Clare is grieving over her mother's death when her father takes her along on a medical trip to Malawi. New friends teach her how to deal with loss and find joy in small things. Author's Note, Glossary. (TB) 4, 3, 9

## My Heart Will Not Sit Down

Mara Rockliff. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 40pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-4569-7, \$17.99. (P)

Inspired by true events during the Great Depression, young Kedi, of a Cameroon village, is distressed to learn that Americans are going hungry. Vibrant illustrations reflect Kedi's innocence and earnestness as she convinces her fellow villagers to help out New York City. Author's Note. (CG) 1, 3, 9



## Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town

Warren St. John. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 240pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-3857-4194-1, \$16.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-0-3855-2204-5, \$14.99. (M, H)

This book documents the lives of a youth soccer team made up of refugees, their female coach, and the southern American town in the process of becoming a resettlement center. Epilogue, Contact Resources. (MOS) 1, 10, 4

## The Story of Silk: From Worm Spit to Woven Scarves

Richard Sobol. Candlewick Press. 40pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-4165-8, \$17.99. (I)

A National Geographic photographer captures colorful images of a small village in Thailand that practices the ancient craft of silk weaving. Local girls celebrate their pride modeling creations of labor and love. Silk Facts, Glossary, Maps. (KK) 1, 3, 9



### **Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World**

Sally M. Walker and Douglas W. Owsley. Carolrhoda Books. 136pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7613-7457-2 \$22.95. (M, H)

A fascinating account of the discovery of a 9,000-year-old skeleton in Washington State. This book details the amazing new information provided by the find, along with advancements in scientific examination, and a controversy over ownership of the skeleton. Bibliography, Index. (KMB) 2, 3, 6, 8

### **A Thunderous Whisper**

Christina Diaz Gonzalez. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 320pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-6929-7, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-3758-7371-3, \$7.99. (I, M)

A young Basque girl and a handicapped Jewish refugee boy from Germany are victims of the bombing of Guernica, Spain, in 1937. The aftermath of destruction and rebuilding are central themes in this fictionalized account. Author's Note, Glossary. (KSH) 1, 3, 4



### **Tua and the Elephant**

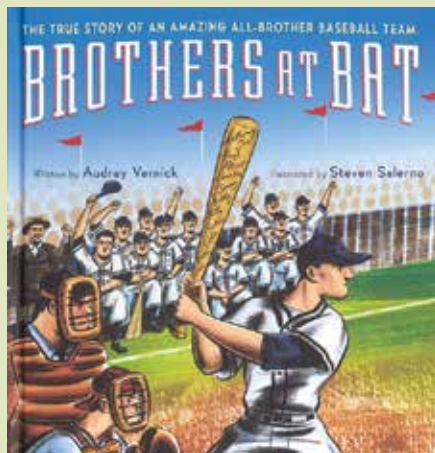
R.P. Harris. Illustrated by Taeun Yoo. Chronicle Books. 204pp.

Trade ISBN 978-0-8118-7781-7, \$16.99. (I, M)

Readers will enjoy this charming adventure that conveys aspects of Thai culture as 10-year-old Tua saves Pohn-Pohn, the elephant, from the cruel mahouts and makes new friends along the way. Author's Note. (TB) 3, 1, 9



## **History/Life & Culture in the Americas**



### **Brothers at Bat**

Audrey Vernick. Illustrated by Steven Salerno. Clarion Books, an Imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-5473-8557-0, \$16.99. (P, I)

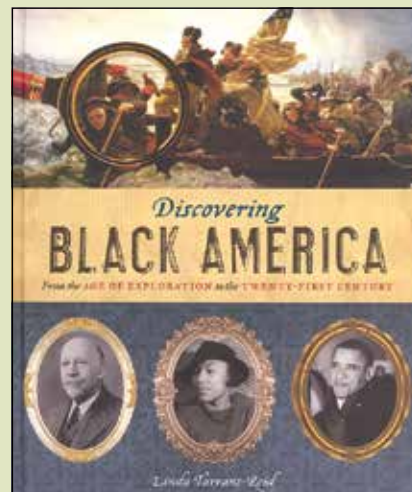
This is the true story of the Acerra family, with 16 children, 12 of whom were boys. The boys all played baseball, and could field their own team. They cared for and supported one another, and became the longest-playing all-brother baseball team. Author's Note, Artist's Note. (SDW) 1, 2, 5



### **Crow**

Barbara Wright. Random House Books for Young Readers. 340pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-6928-0, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-3758-7367-6, \$7.99. (M, H)

An impossible to put down story about an African American teen and his family caught up in the 1898 race riot in Wilmington, North Carolina. This is a powerful book about a too-often overlooked event in our nation's history. Author's Note. (KMB) 2, 5, 6

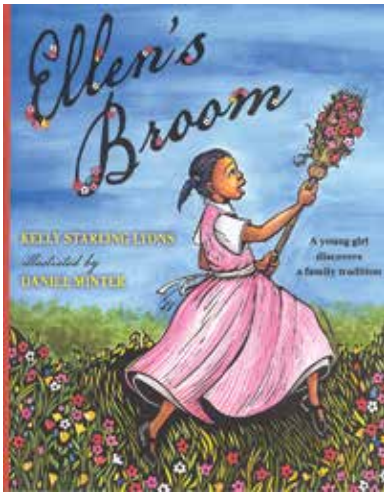


### **Discovering Black America: From the Age of Exploration to the Twenty-First Century**

Linda Tarrant-Reid. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 244pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-7098-4 \$29.95. (M, H)

Four hundred years of African American history—from the sailors aboard the *Niña* to the first African American president—are presented in fascinating detail with archival material from diaries, journals, and images. Bibliography, Index. (KAB) 2, 5, 9

# History/Life & Culture in the Americas



## Ellen's Broom

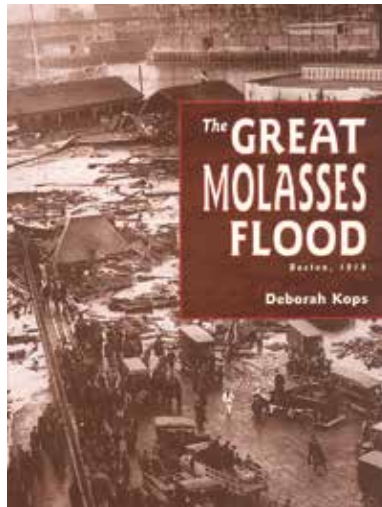
Kelly Starling Lyons. Illustrated by Daniel Minter. Putnam. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3992-5003-3 \$16.99. (P)

The broom resting above the hearth takes on special meaning to Ellen, when it is announced that former slaves can now have unions legally recognized. A Reconstruction tale. Author's Note. (SDW) 2, 4

## Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington

Jabari Asim. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3160-8657-8, \$16.99. (P, I)

This book captures the hardship and spirit of one of the most inspiring figures in American history, Booker T. Washington, the legendary educator of freedmen. Author's Note, Bibliography, Timeline, and Additional Notes. (SDW) 3, 4, 5



## The Great Molasses Flood: Boston, 1919

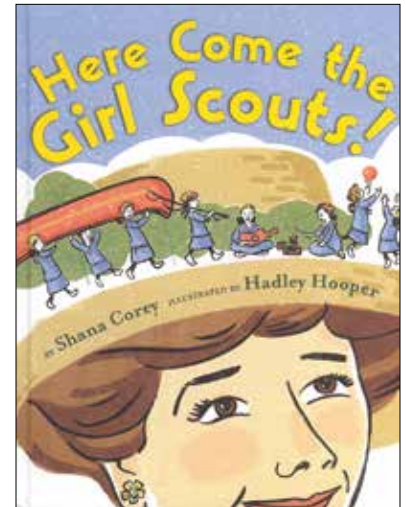
Deborah Kops. Illustrated with archival photographs. Charlesbridge. 112pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-348-0, \$18.95. (M)

An in-depth look at one of the strangest and stickiest disasters in American history, the explosion of a tank that held more than two million gallons of molasses, near Boston Harbor. The book includes details of the investigation that followed. Cast of Characters. Index. (KMB) 3, 6, 10

## Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills

Renee Watson. Random House Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-6973-0. (P, I)

A heartwarming story about a little-known, yet extremely influential figure from the Harlem Renaissance. The story of Florence Mills can inspire others to pursue their dreams. Author's Note. (JEL) 2, 4



## Here Come the Girl Scouts!

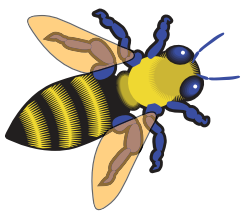
Shana Corey. Illustrated Hadley Hooper. Scholastic Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-34278-0 \$17.99 (P, I)

Combining her ancestors' passion for service with her own adventurous spirit and her belief that girls could do anything, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts. Author's Notes, Sources. (SDW) 4, 5

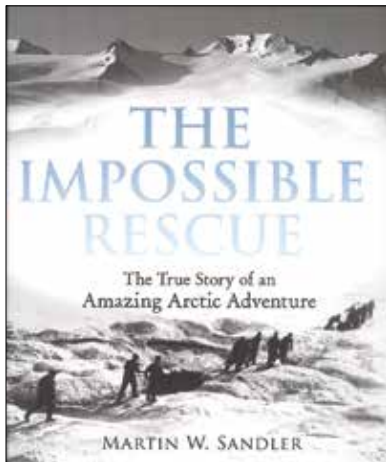
## I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery

Cynthia Grady. Illustrated by Michele Wood. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 34pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8028-5386-8, \$17.00. (I, M, H)

The poems in this collection mirror the structure of a quilt, and include biblical or spiritual references, musical references, and fiber arts references that reflect the patchwork of circumstances of enslaved people in America. Author's Note, Illustrator's Note, Suggested Readings. (CAT) 1, 2, 6



# History/Life & Culture in the Americas



## **The Impossible Rescue** **The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure**

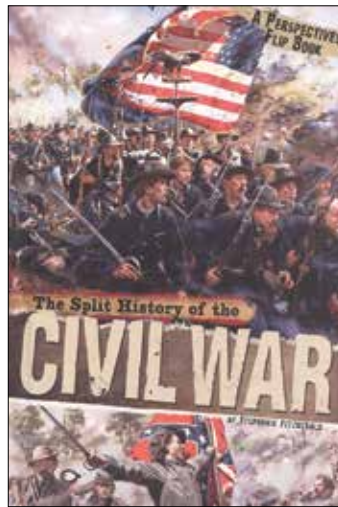
Martin W. Sandler. Candlewick Press. 176pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5080-3, \$22.99. (I, M, H)

This is the true story of three men ordered by President McKinley to carry out a rescue mission for eight whale ships stranded in the Arctic waters carrying about 300 sailors, in 1897. Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. (KON) 3

## **Jump into the Sky**

Shelley Pearsall. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 352pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-3699-2, \$16.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-0-4404-2140-5, \$7.99. (I, M)

Levi, a 13-year-old boy from Chicago, is sent on a dangerous and eye-opening journey into the Jim Crow South to be reunited with his father, a member of the elite, but overlooked, African American 555th Paratrooper Infantry Battalion. Author's Note. (TB) 10, 6, 2



## **Marching to the Mountaintop**

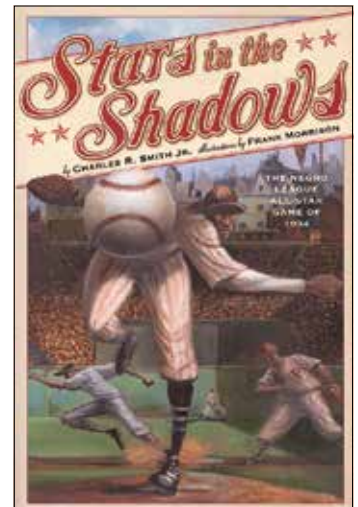
Ann Bausum. National Geographic Children's Books. 112pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4263-0939-7, \$19.95.  
Library ISBN 978-1-4263-0940-3, \$28.90. (H)

Through the use of extensive primary sources, the author analyzes the impact that poverty, labor struggles, and civil rights had on the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Author's Note, Bibliography, Resource Guide, Timeline. (JEL) 2, 4

## **The Split History of the Civil War: A Perspectives Flip Book**

Stephanie Fitzgerald. Illustrated with prints and photographs. Compass Point Books, a Capstone imprint. 64pp. Paperback ISBN 978-0-7565-4594-9 \$8.95. Library ISBN 978-0-7565-4572-7 \$24.99. (I, M)

A creative way to teach perspective! Not only are the Union and Confederate perspectives of the Civil War presented, but the flip book format lends a physical element that helps the reader differentiate between the opposing viewpoints. (KON) 2, 3



## **Stars in the Shadows: The Negro League All-Star Game of 1934**

Charles R. Smith Jr. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/ Atheneum. 112pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-6898-6638-8, \$14.99. (I)

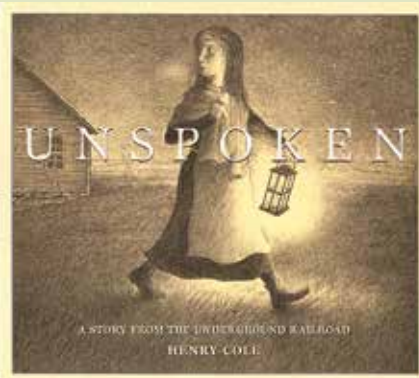
Written in verse, this tale of the Negro Baseball League is told from the unique and entertaining perspective of the radio announcer. Black and white illustrations, along with fan reactions, and commercials add to the authenticity of this Depression-era story. Author's Note. (KMB) 1, 3, 5

## **Tracks**

Diane Lee Wilson. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/ Margaret K. McElderry. 288pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-1-4424-2013-7, \$16.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-1-4424-2014-4, \$6.99. (I, M)

Working to help build the transcontinental railroad, Malachy, an Irish youth, faces dangerous working conditions and his own ignorance and prejudice about the Chinese workers at his side. A tale of personal development, change, and courage during times of struggle. Author's Note. (KMB) 3, 4, 5, 6

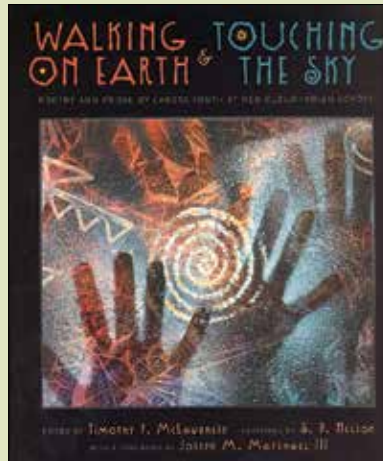
# History/Life & Culture in the Americas



## **Unspoken: A Story From the Underground Railroad**

Henry Cole. Scholastic Press. 40pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-545-39997-5, \$16.99. (I)

Simple, beautiful pencil and paper illustrations pull the reader into a powerful and mysterious wordless story. During the Civil War, a young girl becomes aware of someone hiding in her family's barn. Author's Note. (KAB) 2, 10



## **Walking on Earth and Touching the Sky: Poetry and Prose by Lakota Youth at Red Cloud Indian School**

Edited by Timothy P. McLaughlin, foreword by Joseph Marshall III. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 80pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-1-4197-0179-5, \$19.95. (I, M, H)

Lakota youth express their "feelings of Indian self-identity" and connection with their traditional Native culture. The reader gains an understanding of contemporary Lakota life through these perspectives. Author's Note, Index of Titles, Index of Poets. (KON) 4, 1, 5



## **We March**

Shane W. Evans. A Neal Porter Book, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 32pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-1-5964-3539-1, \$16.99. (P, I)

The author conveys the significance of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom using simplistic sentence patterns that are both easily understood by younger students and thought-provoking for older readers. Author's Note. (KON) 5, 6

## Reference

## **The Giant and How He Humbled America**

Jim Murphy. Scholastic Press. 112pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-439-69184-0, \$19.99. (M, H)

In 1869, a man deceived the nation into believing an exhumed 10-foot-tall "petrified man" was from the Onondaga Indian tribe or possibly a biblical giant like Goliath. This is an intriguing case study in fraud and propaganda. Source Notes, Selected Bibliography, Index. (CAT) 1, 3, 7

## **Master of Deceit: J. Edgar Hoover and America in the Age of Lies**

Marc Aronson. Candlewick Press. 230pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5025-4, \$25.99. (H)

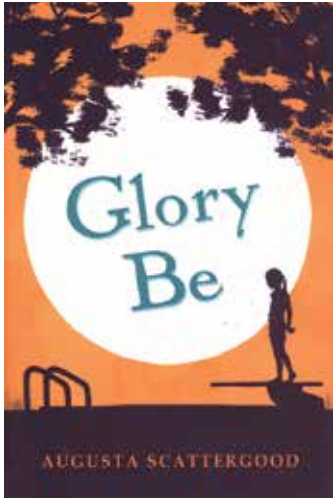
This book explores the life and legacy of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI's founding director, and one of the most powerful Americans of the twentieth century. Author's Note, Bibliography, Image Credits, Index. (JC) 3, 6, 5

## **A Street through Time: A 12,000-Year Walk through History**

Illustrated by Steve Noon. DK Publishing. 48pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0756697921, \$11.99. (M, H)

Wonderfully detailed illustrations and primary photographs allow the reader to experience the story of a street as it changes throughout time. Timeline. (JEL) 2, 3, 7

# Social Interactions/Relationships



## **Glory Be**

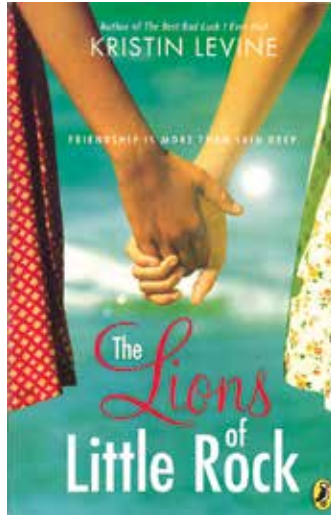
Augusta Scattergood. Scholastic Press. 208pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-33180-7 \$16.99. (I, M)

Set during the civil rights movement as a Mississippi town debates whether to keep a segregated public pool open, this book offers a refreshing look at adolescence, tough decisions and distinguishing right from wrong. Author's Note. (JC) 4, 2, 3

## **I, Too, Am America**

Langston Hughes. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/SSBFYR. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4424-2008-3, \$16.99. (P, I)

The words of Hughes have inspired feelings of love, honor, hope, and endurance. In one of his most powerful poems, his vision of equality is captured with beautiful illustrations. Illustrator's Note. (SDW) 4, 5



## **The Lions of Little Rock**

Kristin Levine. Putnam. 304pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3992-5644-8, \$16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-0-1424-2435-3, \$7.99. (I, M)

This dynamic story of friendship, courage, and life set in 1958 Little Rock is told through the eyes of a painfully shy Marlee. Readers join 12-year-old Marlee as she takes on both her shyness and segregation. Author's Note. (MOS) 2, 4, 5

## **Now**

Morris Gleitzman. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-9378-0, \$16.99. (M, H)

In this third and final book of a series (*Once and Then*), Felix is a grandfather and respected member of the community. Painful childhood memories that he had buried, resurface when his granddaughter Zelda comes to stay, and together they must face a cataclysmic event. (KAB) 1, 4, 10



## **October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard**

Lesléa Newman. Candlewick Press. 112pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5807-6, \$15.99. (M, H)

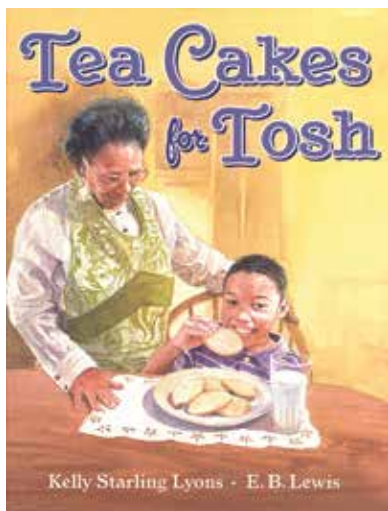
In 68 stunning poems, Newman pays tribute to Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old university student, who was violently killed in 1998. Her poems explore the crime from a range of viewpoints. Author's Note, Source Notes, Explanation of Poetic Forms. (CG) 3, 4

## **A Path of Stars**

Anne Sibley O'Brien. Charlesbridge. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-57091-735-6, \$15.95. (P, I)

A poignant reflection of Cambodian culture and tradition, perseverance and the impact of strong familial relationships. Author's Note, History of Cambodians in Maine, Note from Cambodian American Educator, Glossary. (JC) 1, 9, 3

# Social Interactions/Relationships



## Tea Cakes for Tosh

Kelly Starling Lyons. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Putnam. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3992-5213-6 \$16.99. (P, I)

In this intergenerational tale, Tosh listens while his grandmother tells familial stories and prepares tea cakes. As his grandmother's memory begins to fail, Tosh steps in to tell the stories. Tender color and sepia-toned paintings. Recipe. (CG) 1, 2, 4

## To the Mountaintop: My Journey through the Civil Rights Movement

Charlayne Hunter-Gault. Flash Point, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 208pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-5964-3605-3, \$22.99. (M, H)

Journalist, Emmy and Peabody award winner, and author Charlayne Hunter-Gault writes about her life within the civil rights movement. Published in association with *The New York Times*, each chapter opens with headlines representing the political atmosphere of the 1960s. Timeline, Articles, Sources and Further Reading, Quotation Notes, Index. (KSH) 2, 3, 4



## The Quiet Place

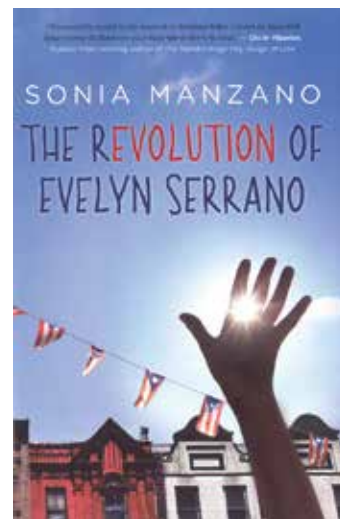
Sarah Stewart. Illustrated by David Small. Margaret Ferguson Books, an imprint of FSG Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 44pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-3743-2565-7, \$16.99. (P, I)

By reading the postcards from a young girl to her aunt in Mexico, readers learn about the hardships and joys of being an immigrant in the United States during the 1950s. Center Foldout. (KON) 4, 3

## The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano

Sonia Manzano. Scholastic Press. 224pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-32505-9, \$17.99. (M)

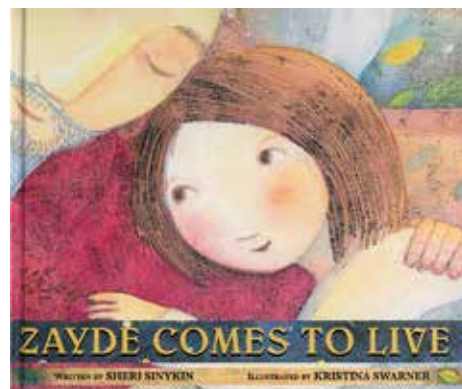
A teen experiences change in her Spanish Harlem neighborhood when her grandmother arrives from Puerto Rico, and the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican activist group, begin a protest of local conditions. Set in the late 1960s, this novel explores a young Latina's search for identity during turbulent times. Author's Note. (KMB) 1, 2, 3, 4



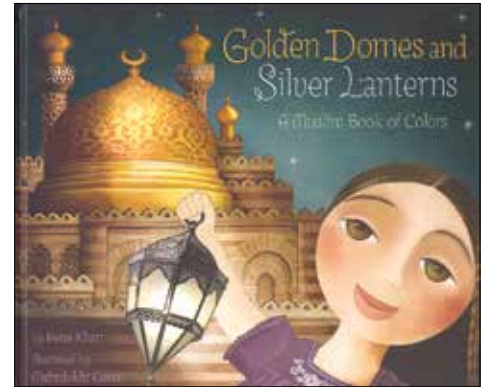
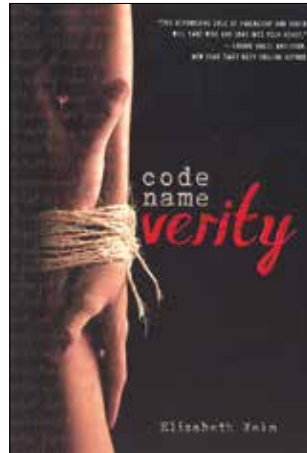
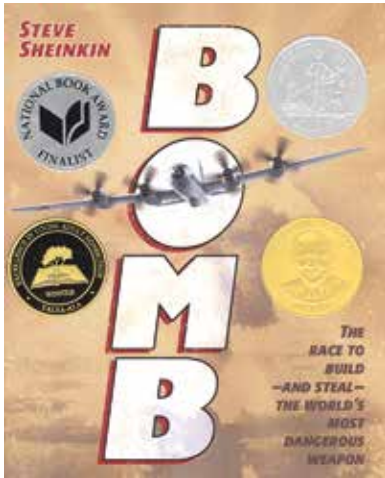
## Zayde Comes to Live

Sheri Sinykin. Illustrated by Kristina Swarner. Peachtree Publishers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-56145-631-4, \$16.95. (P, I)

This touching picture book follows young Rachel as she tries to understand what will happen to her grandfather when he dies. With a gentleness and poignancy that crosses three faiths, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, readers are left with an understanding of acceptance and inner peace. (KON) 1, 4, 5



# World History & Culture



## A Beautiful Lie

Irfan Master. Albert Whitman Teen. 304pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-0597-7, \$16.99. (M, H)

This is the heart-wrenching story of Bilal, who wants to create an atmosphere of peace for his dying father, as India is rocked by tension in the countdown to the Partition. The story touches on themes of friendship, prejudice, tolerance, truth, and a son's love for his father. Glossary, Maps, Author's Note. (KAB) 3, 4, 5



## Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust

Doreen Rappaport. Candlewick Press. 240pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-2976-2, \$22.99. (H)

This book offers an impressive collection of individual stories of Jewish resistance across Nazi-occupied Europe, and a glimpse at the Holocaust through the eyes of those who fought back. Author's Note, Timeline, Bibliography. (JEL) 5, 2, 6



## Bomb: The Race to Build— and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon

Steve Sheinkin. Flash Point, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 272pp.

Trade ISBN 978-1-5964-3487-5, \$19.99. (M, H)

This is the story of how the atomic bomb was created and kept secret, and the international cast of characters—the scientists, the spies, the military commandos, and the dictators—who competed in the race for military dominance over the world. Source Notes, Quotation Notes, Index. (KSH) 3, 4, 6

## Code Name Verity

Elizabeth Wein. Disney-Hyperion. 352pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-1-4231-5219-4, \$16.99.  
Paperback ISBN 978-1-4231-5288-0, \$9.99. (M, H)

This is a gripping, ingeniously plotted tale of World War II, espionage, aviation, courage, survival, and friendship. Historical fiction at its best. (CG) 3, 5, 6



## Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors

Hena Khan. Illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini.  
Chronicle Books. 32pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8118-7905-7, \$17.99. (P, I)

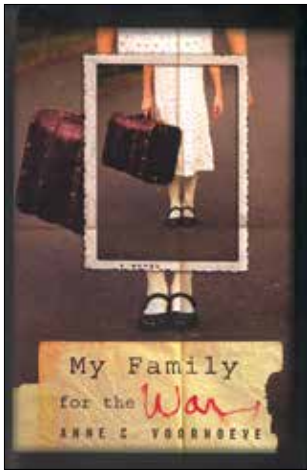
This heirloom picture book celebrates Muslim religion and culture through sumptuous jewel-toned illustrations that complement a gentle narrative intended to teach Islamic vocabulary by associating key terms with specific colors. Glossary. (KK) 1, 9

## Hands around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books

Karen Leggett Abouraya. Illustrated by Susan L. Roth.  
Dial. 32pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3747-1, \$16.99. (P, I)

This is a stunningly illustrated account of the 2011 'Arab Spring' in Egypt that endangered the Great Library of Alexandria and led to the selfless act of thousands of students, library workers, and other volunteers who formed a human chain to protect the priceless collection. Captioned Photographs, History Notes, Pictorial Glossary, Author's Notes. (KK) 5, 1, 6

# World History & Culture



## My Family for the War

Anne C. Voorhoeve. Dial. 412pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3360-2, \$17.99. (M)

This captivating story is told through the eyes of a young Protestant girl of Jewish ancestry in World War II. Torn from her family and smuggled out of Germany on the *kindertransport* of Jewish children, living in London with Jewish strangers, Franziska explores questions of identity, family, and love. Epilogue, Afterword. (MOS) 2, 4, 3

## A Passion for Victory

Benson Bobrick. Knopf Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books. 160pp.  
Trade ISBN 978-0-3758-6869-6. (M, H)

Bobrick deftly conveys the historical and cultural context of the Olympics, from the first games in Ancient Greece through the 1936 Berlin games. Ample photographs enhance this informational narrative of athletic prowess and human spirit. Chronology, Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. (CG) 1, 2, 5

### NCSS Publications

Director of Publications: Michael Simpson  
Associate Editor: Jennifer Baudy  
Art Director: Rich Palmer

### The Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council is the only national trade organization exclusively dedicated to children's book publishers. 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](http://cbcbooks.org).

Other bibliographies on which the CBC cooperates are:

### Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students

Reprinted from the March issues of *Science and Children*, *Science Scope*, and *The Science Teacher*, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. Single copies are available for \$5. Send orders to the Children's Book Council, attn: Outstanding Science, 54 West 39th Street, 14th floor, New York, NY 10018. This list can also be found online at [www.cbcbooks.org/cbc-book-lists/outstanding-science](http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbc-book-lists/outstanding-science).

### Children's Choices

Reprinted from the October issue of *The Reading Teacher*, a joint project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the CBC. Annotated lists are available for download on the IRA website ([www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx](http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx)).

### 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 advocating 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 their membership benefits, NCSS members receive a subscription to *Social Education* or *Young Learner*. All members also receive the NCSS newsletter, *The Social Studies Professional*, which provides information on professional news, opportunities, resources for teachers, workshops, travel and study programs and NCSS activities.

NCSS developed and published the 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](http://members.ncss.org); prior year lists are available at [www.socialstudies.org/notable](http://www.socialstudies.org/notable).

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