

NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR 2017

Selection Criteria

Eligibility

Titles must be published in the United States, December 2015 through December 2016. Reprints or licensed editions of titles initially published in the U.S. before 2016 are not eligible.

Titles originally published abroad are eligible if they have a 2016 U.S. publication date. The publication date is the determinant, not the copyright date. If in doubt, contact Alexa at Alexa.Frank@cbcbooks.org before removing a title from your review list.

Revised editions are eligible only if the previous edition of the title appeared before 1971, when the *Notables* list was initiated, or if the revisions are substantial, i.e., the book is re-illustrated or substantial text, constituting at least one-quarter of the book, has been changed or added.

Content

The NCSS Review Committee members look for books that:

1. **Are written for children in grades K-12**
2. **Emphasize human relationships**
 - Are relationships depicted accurately, and do they objectively reflect real world situations?
3. **Represent a diversity of groups and are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences**
 - What is the author's background? Is he/she qualified to accurately deal with the subject/culture objectively? Does the author's perspective/experience strengthen the book?
 - Are characters stereotyped? Do they present role models?
 - Do characters possess universal attributes?
4. **Present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic**
 - Is the book unique? If so, why or how?
 - Does the book address a current void or a need in children's literature?
5. **Are easily readable and of high literary quality**
 - Is the content accurate?
 - Does the book have a true sense of story?
 - Is the writing engaging to children?
6. **Have a pleasing format and, when appropriate, illustrations that enrich the text**
 - Is there strong, positive visual impact? Do illustrations complement, rather than compete with, text?
 - Are illustrations appropriate for the intended audience (age level, etc.)?
7. **Have citations, a bibliography, or resource list where appropriate**
 - Citations are encouraged when appropriate and are essential in non-fiction.

Additional considerations:

- Is the book appropriate for the social studies? Does it accurately and appropriately address social studies concepts?

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- Does the book address one or more of the social studies disciplines (history, geography, civics, etc.)?
- Does the book address aspects of the national standards (social studies, history, geography, civics standards)?
- What special features strengthen the book (index, glossary, maps, etc.)?