

NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR 2018

Selection Criteria

Eligibility

Titles must be published in the United States, December 2016 through December 2017. Reprints or licensed editions of titles initially published in the U.S. before 2017 are not eligible.

Titles originally published abroad are eligible if they have a 2017 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.)?

Evaluating Titles

Rate each book you read on a scale of 0 to 3:

- 3** Recommended as a notable social studies trade book.
- 2** A strong title worthy of serious consideration for inclusion.
- 1** A title of some merit. Appropriate for the list only if it fills a strongly identified need or adds an important balance that the Review Committee members feel essential to the list.
- 0** Not an appropriate title for the list.

You may add a plus (+) or a minus (-) to the numerical rating to qualify your response to a title, though you should use them sparingly. Be strict in your evaluations. Books should be evaluated in accordance with the stated selection criteria and in the context of the field of social studies. Only books that are **truly notable in the field of social studies** belong on the list. Not appropriate for the list is the utilitarian but undistinguished title nor a good book that is a personal favorite but not social-studies-applicable.

In general, books that receive three 3's will be put on the list.

Along with the numbers every committee member will be given a trump card. You can use one trump to put a book on the list even if one of the three reviewers has not given that book a 3. The annotation card should be held up when a reviewer particularly enjoyed a title and would like to annotate that book for the final bibliography.

On occasion there are titles about which there is strong disagreement among the three designated reviewers. While there is no time at the meeting for exhaustive critical discussion of books, when possible, these titles are examined and evaluated by additional Review Committee members during the course of the meeting. This supplementary review is not possible for books with long texts, in which instances the decision will rest with the original three readers.

It is the responsibility of Review Committee members to be certain that each title selected for the final list is accurate. Each book on the list should be fact-checked to the best of your ability. This includes appropriate representation of cultures as well as accuracy of geography, history, etc. Books with factual errors or misrepresentations should not be included on the list.