Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

2021
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 2020 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 cbcbooks.org/publishers/our-members/.

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 trade edition. 8. Price as of January 2021 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).

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<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2. Buffalo Sisters.</td>
<td>3. Jim Morrison.</td>
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Book Review Committee Members

Holly Hilboldt Swain (Chair), Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (HHS)
Darren T. Guido, Supervisor of Instruction, Caesar Rodney School District, Wyoming, Del. (DTG)
Karen J. Hadley, Instructional Coach for Elementary Social Studies, Onteora Central School District, Boiceville, N.Y. (KJH)
Christy L. Howard, First Grade Teacher, Steele Elementary, Colorado Springs, Colo. (CLH)
Belinda Y. Louie, Professor of Education, University of Washington Tacoma, Wash. (BL)
Carmen L. Newsstreet, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Dallas, Irving, Tex. (CLN)
Brienne R. Pitts, Instructional Coach, Creekside Elementary, Sun Prairie, Wisc. (BRP)
Jennifer Pontius-Vandenberg, World History Teacher, Mariner High, Everett, Wash. (JPV)
Scott L. Roberts, Associate Professor of Education, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant. (SLR)
Noreen Naseem Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa (NNR)
Stephanie E. Schroeder, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Penn. (SES)
Tracee S. Simpson, At Risk Facilitator, Pickens County Schools, Easley, S.C. (TSS)
Jessica Torres, Education Specialist, Education Service Center Region 12, Waco, Tex. (JT)
Kate Van Haren, Fourth/Fifth Grade Social Studies and Reading, Pittsville Elementary School, Pittsville, Wisc. (KVP)
Lara Wilcox, Associate Professor, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga. (LW)
BIOGRAPHY


ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP: HOW ONE GIRL’S FIGHT FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES CHANGED EVERYTHING. Annette Bay Pimentel. Foreword by Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins. Illustrated by Nabi H. Ali. Sourcebooks Sourcebooks Explore. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1492688976, $17.99 (P, I) This true story chronicles Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins’ s fight to make the world accessible to people in wheelchairs like herself. At eight years old, she pulled herself up the Capitol steps to influence the vote for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Includes Timeline, Bibliography, and Life Before and After the ADA. (LW)


ASTRONAUTS: WOMEN ON THE FINAL FRONTIER. Jim Ottaviani. Illustrated by Maris Wicks. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / First Second. 196pp. Trade ISBN 978-1250760031, $12.99. (I, M) This non-fiction graphic novel shares the story of the first women astronaut, who paved the way for nine additional women’s participation in the space program. Includes Author’s Notes, References, and Glimpse into How it Was Made. (LW)


BOX: HENRY BROWN MAILS HIMSELF TO FREEDOM. Carole Boston Weatherford. Illustrated by Michele Wood. Candlewick Press. 51 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0763691561, $23.99. (M) This biography explains the harrowing experiences of Henry Brown’s life in slavery, and his compelling escape by mailing himself to freedom. The story is told through six-line stanzas representing his freedom box. Includes Timeline, Bibliography, Illustrator’s Note, and a Note on Numbers and Language. (KVH)


THE FIGHTING INFANTRYMAN: THE STORY OF ALBERT D.J. CASHIER, TRANSGENDER CIVIL WAR SOLDIER. Rob Sanders. Illustrated by Nabi Ali. Little Bee Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1499809367, $17.72. (P, I) This is the story of Albert and the loyal comrades who stood by his side to ensure his Civil War pension was reinstated after his failing health and hospitalization. Important Author’s Note, Glossary, Timeline, and Background Research. Note: Albert’s “dead name” is used at the beginning of the story and is important to the storyline, particularly for younger audiences. It is not intended to show disrespect. The “dead name” is the name he was born with, but not the name he identified with as a transgender man. (CLH)


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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Trade ISBN</th>
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<tr>
<td>FLYING FREE: HOW BESSIE COLEMAN’S DREAMS TOOK FLIGHT</td>
<td>Karyn Parsons</td>
<td>Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, Christopher Silas Neal</td>
<td>Little, Brown Books for Young Readers</td>
<td>48pp.</td>
<td>ISBN 978-0316457194, $18.99</td>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>Told in verse with rich illustrations, this simple biography describes the early life of aviator Bessie Coleman, and serves as a starting point for young readers learning about “Queen Bess,” the first African American and Native American woman pilot. Includes Timeline of Trailblazing Women in Flight, Photos, Author’s Note, and Artist’s Note. (HHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE OLDEST STUDENT: HOW MARY WALKER LEARNED TO READ</td>
<td>Rita Lorraine Hubbard</td>
<td>Illustrated by Oge Mora</td>
<td>Random House Children’s Books / Schwartz &amp; Wade</td>
<td>32pp.</td>
<td>ISBN 978-1524768287, $17.99</td>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>This picture book uses spelling in the style of Aretha Franklin’s hit song “Respect” to describe the artist’s life through couplets, from her music successes to her role in the civil rights movement. Includes Author’s Note and Chart Toppers: Aretha Franklin’s Greatest Hits. (NR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORMAL: ONE KID’S EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY</td>
<td>Magdalena Newman and Nathaniel Newman</td>
<td>Illustrated by Neil Swaab</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>327pp.</td>
<td>ISBN 978-1328631831, $16.99</td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>In this humorous memoir, mother and son describe Nathaniel’s life growing up with Treacher Collins syndrome, facing 67 surgeries before the age of 15, and persevering through hardship. The story is told both in first person as well as from the family’s perspective, with black-and-white comic illustrations. (LW &amp; TSS)</td>
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<td>RESPECT: ARETHA FRANKLIN, THE QUEEN OF SOUL</td>
<td>Carole Boston Weatherford</td>
<td>Illustrated by Frank Morrison</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers</td>
<td>48pp.</td>
<td>ISBN 978-1534452282, $18.99</td>
<td>(P)</td>
<td>This picture book uses spelling in the style of Aretha Franklin’s hit song “Respect” to describe the artist’s life through couplets, from her music successes to her role in the civil rights movement. Includes Author’s Note and Chart Toppers: Aretha Franklin’s Greatest Hits. (NR)</td>
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A SPORTING CHANCE: HOW LUDWIG GUTTMANN CREATED THE PARALYMPIC GAMES. Lori Alexander. Illustrated by Allan Drummond. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-1328580795, $17.99. (I, H) After escaping Nazi Germany, surgeon Ludwig Guttman challenged the idea that spinal patients were doomed to be bedridden. Full of illustrations and primary sources, the book tracks Guttman’s quest to prove that “incurables” can lead full lives. Includes Timeline, Notes, Bibliography, Index. (JPV)

STRONG VOICES: FIFTEEN AMERICAN SPEECHES WORTH KNOWING. Tonya Bolden. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. HarperCollins Publisher.128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0062572042, $21.99. (M, H) Fifteen American speeches given by diverse figures of influence are each presented with an introduction by the author that provides important background knowledge. Many lines from these speeches can be found in today’s political statements. Includes Timeline for the Speeches, Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Notes and Resources. (BL)

WOOD, WIRE, WINGS: EMMA LILIAN TODD INVENTS AN AIRPLANE. Kirsten W. Larson. Illustrated by Tracy Subisak. Calkins Creek/Boyd Mills & Kane. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1629799384, $18.99. (I) A wonderfully researched, written, and illustrated biography about Emma Lilian Todd, the self-taught aeronautical engineer who became, in the early 1900s, the first woman to design airplanes. The text includes Todd quotes. Author’s Note with pictures of Todd and her plane, Age of Airships Timeline, and Selected Bibliography. (CLN)

CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS

DEAR JUSTYCE. Nic Stone. Random House Children’s Books / Crown BFYR. 266pp. Trade ISBN 978-1984829665, $18.99. (H) This raw portrayal of discriminatory practices against African American boys in the judicial system is a sequel to Dear Martin. The story of Quan unravels as he writes to Justyce, his once neighbor. (LW)

MIGRANTS. Issa Watanabe. Gecko Press. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1776573134, $17.49. (P, I, M) This beautifully illustrated book explores migrant experiences through the use of animals. Although there are no words, the readers can identify the harrowing experiences of those who risk their safety in search of a better life. (KVH)

Santiago leaves his abusive family in search of a better life in the United States. This heart-wrenching story describes his journey and subsequent detention, bringing to life ongoing immigration and human rights issues along the U.S./Mexico border. Includes Author’s Note, Resources, Further Reading, Glossary. (NNR).


EARTH HOUR: A LIGHTS-OUT EVENT FOR OUR PLANET. Nanette Heffernan. Illustrated by Bao Luu. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1580899420, $16.99. (P) Every year, on a Saturday in March, millions of people around the world turn off their lights for Earth Hour to conserve energy in a symbol of global action and appreciation. Includes More About Earth Hour, But Why?, Author’s Note. (NNR)

YES NO MAYBE SO. Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed. HarperCollins Children’s Books/Balzer + Bray. 448pp. Trade ISBN 978-0062937049, $13.99. (M/H) Alternating between Jamie’s and Maya’s viewpoints, this contemporary romance unfolds within a framework of political activism. An array of topics that are woven seamlessly throughout the story include culture, religion, gender, progressive politics, recent legislation, and social media’s impact on political ideologies. Includes Author’s Notes. (HHS)


Earth Hour: A Lights-out Event for Our Planet. Nanette Heffernan. Illustrated by Bao Luu. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1580899420, $16.99. (P) Every year, on a Saturday in March, millions of people around the world turn off their lights for Earth Hour to conserve energy in a symbol of global action and appreciation. Includes More About Earth Hour, But Why?, Author’s Note. (NNR)

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Dinosaur Lady, the daring discoveries of Mary Anning, the first paleontologist. Linda Skeers. Illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguens. Sourcebooks eXplore/Sourcebooks Kids. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1728209517, $17.99. (P, I) Mary Anning’s discoveries rocked the world of science and helped create a brand new field of study: paleontology. But because many people didn’t believe women could be scientists, she wasn’t given the credit she deserved. Still, Mary Anning kept on looking, learning, and making discoveries. Includes Foreword by Angela Davis, Dear Reader, Reader Questions, and Additional Resources, Fossil Facts, Timeline, and Author’s Note. (TSS)

Earth Hour: A Lights-out Event for Our Planet. Nanette Heffernan. Illustrated by Bao Luu. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1580899420, $16.99. (P) Every year, on a Saturday in March, millions of people around the world turn off their lights for Earth Hour to conserve energy in a symbol of global action and appreciation. Includes More About Earth Hour, But Why?, Author’s Note. (NNR)


ONE BOY’S CHOICE. Sueli Menezes. Illustrated by Annika Siems. MineditionUS. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1662650031, $17.99. (P) A boy and his grandfather go on a fishing trip in the Amazon. Caught between wanting to impress his friends and being a good steward of the Earth, the boy must grapple with a hard decision. (SES) 🌿 🌿 🌿

ONE LITTLE LOT: THE 1-2-3s OF AN URBAN GARDEN. Diana C. Mullen. Illustrated by Oriol Vidal. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1580898898, $16.99. (P) Inspired by the Soo Line Community Garden in Minneapolis, this original take on a counting book showcases collective community action as one neighborhood works to build an urban garden benefiting the city, people, plants and even the honeybees. Includes Author’s Note, All About Those Hungry Honeybees, and Ways To Make Your Little Lot Bee-Friendly. (IHHS) 🌿 🌿 🌿


FOOKTALES

A WISH IN THE DARK. Christina Soontornvat. Candlewick Press. 375pp. Trade ISBN 978-1536204940, $17.99. (I, M) A retelling of Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world comprising a watery city with arterial canals, juxtaposed against a mountainous village where oppressive rules are broken and wisdom is found. The central theme examines the conflict of giving up freedom in the name of safety and security. (KJH) 🌿 🌿 🌿

GEOGRAPHY / PEOPLE / PLACES


IF DOMINICAN WERE A COLOR. Sili Recio and Brianna McCarthy. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers / Denene Millner Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534461796, $16.55. (P) This vibrant picture book highlights brilliant hues on the island of Hispanola—the sunsets, the ocean, the people—through prose and illustrations. Sure to make any Dominican proud. (LW) 🌿 🌿 🌿

I WANT TO RIDE THE TAP TAP. Danielle Joseph. Illustrated by Olivier Ganthier. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR. 34 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0374312145, $18.99. (P) This story follows a Haitian family riding a public bus, called a tap-tap, to complete weekly tasks and describes the people they meet along the way. Illustrations are painted by a well-known Haitian street artist. Includes Haitian Creole Glossary. (KVH) 🌿 🌿 🌿


WHEREVER I GO. Mary Wagley Copp. Illustrated by Munir D. Mohammed. Simon & Schuster / Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 30pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534419193, $17.99. (P) Abia and her family are three of the estimated 68 million displaced people on Earth. This story chronicles their search for a forever home. Beautifully written and illustrated, it reminds us that wherever we go, we hold on to our stories and memories. Includes Author’s Note and a list of books relevant to refugees and resettlement. (DTG) 🌿 🌿 🌿
A WORLD TOGETHER. Sonia Manzano. National Geographic Children’s Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1426337383, $17.99. (P) The simplicity of message and beautiful photography convey to children that although they may initially see differences with others around the world, there are more similarities that unite us. Includes Author’s Note. (JT)

HISTORY / LIFE & CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS

AMERICAN AS PaneER PIE. Supriya Kelkar. Simon & Schuster / Aladdin. 320 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534439382, $17.99. (I, M) Indian American Lekah must decide if she will risk friendships in her rural community and speak up against the discrimination inflicted on another student. This story emphasizes the need for everyone to speak out against injustice. (KVH)


THE DEGENERATES. J. Albert Mann. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon and Schuster Children’s Publishing. 288pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534419353, $18.99. (H) This historical novel follows four young women in early 20th-century Massachusetts after they are institutionalized for life, for being poor and disabled. Cruel attendants and bullying girls treat them as morons, imbeciles, and idiots, as diagnosed by doctors. Includes Historical Note, Author’s Note and Bibliography. (CLN)


DIGGING FOR WORDS: JOSÉ ALBERTO GUTIÉRREZ AND THE LIBRARY HE BUILT. Angela Burke Kunkel. Illustrated by Paola Escobar. Random House Children’s Books / Schwartz & Wade. 33pp. Trade ISBN 978-1984892638, $17.99. (P, I) An elderly garbage collector and a young boy waiting for Saturday get together to share their love of books. Magical illustrations convey the passion these two “Josés” have for reading. Set in Colombia and written in English with a liberal sprinkling of Spanish words, this touching portrayal of a cross-generational bond between males offers a positive message for young boys who love to read. Includes Author’s Note, Featured Books, Selected Online Sources. (KJH)

DISPLACEMENT. Kiku Hughes. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / First Second. 288pp. Trade ISBN 978-1250193537, $17.99. (M) In her debut graphic novel, author Kiku Hughes finds herself transported from present-day America to the 1940s where she experiences the same forced relocation that her grandmother endured many years prior during the Japanese American internment camps. Includes Glossary and Further Reading. (JT)

THE CHALLENGER DISASTER. TRAGEDY IN THE SKIES (HISTORY COMICS). Pranas T. Naujokaitis. Color by Cassie Hart. First Second. Imprint by Roaring Brook Press. 121 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1250174307, $12.99. (M) In this graphic novel, we turn the clock back to January 28, 1986. Seven astronauts board the space shuttle Challenger on a routine mission. All eyes were on Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher set to become the first private citizen in space. But at T-plus 73 seconds after launch, the unthinkable happened. In this imaginative tale set in a far-off future, a group of curious kids investigate the hard questions surrounding the Challenger explosion. Afterword from Author, Challenger Facts. (TSS)


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THE NEXT PRESIDENT: THE UNEXPECTED BEGINNINGS AND UNWRITTEN FUTURE OF AMERICA’S PRESIDENTS.
Kate Messner and Adam Rex. Chronicle Books. 41pp. Trade ISBN 978-1452174884, $18.99. (P, I) Portrays the early lives of American presidents and conveys the message that even the reader could be the next president. The illustrations are mixed with drawings and images that pull the reader in. Includes Presidential Birthplaces, Requirements, and Bibliography. (LW)


SAVING SAVANNAH. Tonya Bolden.


REFERENCE


JANE AGAINST THE WORLD: ROE V. WADE AND THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS. Karen Blumenthal. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. 385pp. Trade ISBN 978-1626721654, $19.99 (H) This informational text shares compelling tales of freedom-fighters for reproductive rights. From “Jane” and early abortion advocates to the modern fight for reproductive justice, readers will be enthralled by the twists and turns that bring us to the present-day struggle. Includes Glossary, Timeline, Supreme Court Cases, Bibliography. (BRP)


SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY


SOCIAL INTERACTIONS / RELATIONSHIPS


FARMERS UNITE: PLANNING A PROTEST FOR FAIR PRICES. Lindsay Metcalf. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-1684379088, $18.99. (I) This historical account with archival photography explains the 1979 “tractorcade,” when farmers drove tractors to Washington to demand that Congress address fair pricing. Their protests spurred new laws, raised appreciation for farmers and farming, and by happenstance, dug Washington, D.C., out of a snowstorm. Includes Author’s Note, Timeline, and Farm Pricing Data. (IH) 

FISH OUT OF WATER. Joanne Levy. Orca Book Publishers. 144 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1459826595, $10.95. (M) Twelve-year-old Fishel (Fish) Rosner does not like regular “boy” activities; his interests are considered “girly.” A lovely novel about a boy who experiences peer and family pressure to express himself as a male, and his triumph in defying labels. (CLN)

GROWN. Tiffany D. Jackson. HarperCollins Children’s Books / Katherine Tegen Books. 384pp. Trade ISBN 978-0062840356, $11.99. (H) Enchanted Jones is an aspiring singer who meets a famous musician at an audition. She thinks he will make her dreams of becoming a professional singer come true, but he turns out to be a nightmarish and abusive predator. Includes Author’s Note, Resources. (NNR)


HOT POT NIGHT. Vincent Chen. Illustrated by Vincent Chen. Charlesbridge. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1623541200, $19.99. (K-2) Hot pot is a beloved dish for Chinese people all over the world. Vincent Chen’s illustrations show all the authentic ingredients. Although he includes diverse characters coming for the meal, usually it is a feast enjoyed by close family and friends. Includes Hot Pot recipe, Author’s Note. (BL)


JUST LIKE MAMA. Alice Faye Duncan. Illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534461833, $17.99. (K-2) Duncan has created a warm and uplifting story to celebrate the caring and affirming connections between foster parents and children. Love, laughter, and fun can be present in these temporary homes, as children await reunification with a mom or dad. Includes Author’s Note. (BL)

THE LAST TREE TOWN. Beth Turley. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 272 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534420649, $17.99. (M) Cassi is a proud Puerto Rican, which surprises some people because she doesn’t have “typical” Latinx features like her
LIZZIE DEMANDS A SEAT!: ELIZABETH JENNINGS FIGHTS FOR STREETCAR RIGHTS. Beth Anderson. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Boyds Mills & Kane / Calkins Creek. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1629799391, $17.99. (I) This informational picture book tells the inspiring story of Elizabeth Jennings, an African American schoolteacher in 1854, who fought back when she was denied entry to a streetcar. Includes Author’s Note and a List of Resources. (DTG)


PAPA, DADDY, AND RILEY. Seamus Kirst. Illustrated by Devon Holzwarth. Magnation Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1433832390, $14.99. (P) After her dads drop her off at school, Riley grapples with classmates’ questions about which father is her “real” one. The story offers a touching reminder that while families may appear different from one another, they are tied together with love. (JPV)

POWWOW: A CELEBRATION THROUGH SONG AND DANCE. Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane. Illustrated by Don Tate. Peachtree Publishing Company, Inc. 36pp. Trade ISBN 978-1561459346, $17.95. (I, M) This lovely book explores the powwow with personal stories, family history, community pictures, and facts. Powwow is a social gathering and traditional celebration honoring the cultures of Native American people. Protocol, regalia, songs, dances, and food all play an important role in a Powwow. Includes Glossary, Resources. (BL)


THIS IS MY AMERICA. Kim Johnson. Random House. 416pp. Trade ISBN 978-0593118764, $17.99. (H) An incredible page-turner that details racial injustice in the criminal justice system. This is an unflinching novel in its honesty about the treatment of Black men while also being uplifting in its hope. Includes Author’s Note and Additional Resources. (CLN)


WORLD HISTORY & CULTURE

A PLACE AT THE TABLE. Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan. Clarion Books. 336 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0358116684, $16.99. (M) Sixth graders Sara and Elizabeth could not be more different. Sara is at a new school that is completely unlike the Islamic school she used to attend. Elizabeth’s British mum has been struggling with depression. The girls meet in an after-school South Asian cooking class, which Elizabeth takes because her mom has stopped cooking, and which Sara is forced to attend because her mother is the teacher. The girls form a shaky friendship and make plans to create the most amazing, mouth-watering cross-cultural dish to win a spot on a local food show. Includes Recipe Pages, Authors’ Notes. (TSS)  


THE CAT I NEVER NAMED: A TRUE STORY OF LOVE, WAR, AND SURVIVAL. Amra Sabic-El-Rayess with Laura L. Sullivan. Bloomsbury Y. 352 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1547604531, $13.99. (H) This memoir describes how teenager Amira witnessed the destruction of her multiethnic community as her Muslim family struggled to survive the Bosnian genocide. The account combines descriptions of the horrors of war with personal triumphs. Includes Author’s Note and Bibliography. (KVH)  


THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE: THE TRUE STORY OF A HOUSE, ITS HISTORY, AND THE FOUR FAMILIES WHO MADE IT HOME. Thomas Harding. Illustrated by Britta Teckentrup. Candlewick Press. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1536212747, $17.99. (I) A beautifully illustrated story about a house, both happy and full, and sadly empty. Told by the builder’s great-grandson, the house witnesses German history, from 1927 to the present, when it is a center for education and reconciliation in Potsdam, Germany. Includes List of Occupants. (CLN)  

MEI LING IN CHINA CITY/MEI LING EN LA CIUDAD CHINA. Icy Smith. Illustrated by Gayle Garner Roski. East West Discovery Press. 47pp. Trade ISBN 978-0997394764, $21.95. (I) Based on a true story, a Chinese American girl and a Japanese American girl living in Los Angeles during World War II are separated when Japanese Americans are forced to relocation camps. The best friends keep contact through letters. This story, written in both English and Spanish, includes beautiful watercolor paintings that depict the forgotten China City in Los Angeles and the Manzanar War Relocation Center. Includes Author’s Notes on China City, F. Suie One Company, United China Relief, and Manzanar War Relocation Center, as well as historical photographs; A Reunion to Remember—featuring the best friends after 66 years of separation. (KJH)

ON THE HORIZON: WORLD WAR II REFLECTIONS. Lois Lowry. Illustrated by Kenard Pak. HMH Books for Young Readers. 80pp. Trade ISBN 978-0358129400, $16.99. (I, M, H) Lois Lowry takes us into World War II through her childhood memories in Hawai’i and Japan. A tricycle, a broken watch, 1,000 cranes are all related to individuals whose lives were tied to the bombings of Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. This book blends personal experiences and relevant research to show that the horror of war touches us all. Includes Author’s Note. (BL)


TEATIME AROUND THE WORLD. Denyse Waissbluth. Illustrated by Chelsea O’Byrne. Greystone Books Ltd. / Greystone Kids. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-1771646017, $22.95. (P) Tea is a beverage beloved around the world. This book’s colorful illustrations highlight a variety of tea preparations and customs, from Tibetan yak butter tea and samovars filled with zavarka in Russia, to South American maté and Pakistani pink chai. Includes My Tea Story. (NNR)

THIS LIGHT BETWEEN US. Andrew Fukuda. Tor Teen - Macmillan Publishing. 384 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1250192387, $17.99. (H) At first, when ten-year-old Alex Maki, a Japanese American boy from Bainbridge Island, Washington, is forced to become pen pals with Charlie Lévy of Paris, France, he’s disgusted to find out Charlie is not a boy, but a French Jewish girl. From 1935 on their letters fly back and forth across the Atlantic, until the growing Nazi persecution and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Through the horrors of war, they hold on to the memories of their letters. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography. (TSS)


EQUALITY’S CALL: THE STORY OF VOTING RIGHTS IN AMERICA. Deborah Diesen. Illustrated by Magdalena Mora. Beach Lane Books. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1534439580, $13.99. (P) From the founding fathers’ vision to contemporary struggles, the history of voting in America is recounted in rhyme. “A right isn’t right until it’s granted to all” is shared via a timeline with key activists. Includes History of Voting Amendments. (CLH)

V IS FOR VOTING. Kate Farrell. Illustrated by Caitlin Kuhwald. Henry Holt and Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1250231253, $15.42. (P) An alphabetical book that emphasizes the importance of voting for young learners. Includes familiar historic faces representing groups that have fought for voting rights in our country. Includes Voting Timeline, Further Information on Historic Individuals. (CLH)
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**

Printed 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/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 at cbc.info@cbcbooks.org. This list can also be found at http://www.cbcbooks.org/best-stem/.

**Children's Choices**

Printed 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 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 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, resources for teachers, workshops, travel and study programs and NCSS activities.

NCSS developed and published the national social studies standards, National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, which are used nationally as a basis for curriculum planning and student performance assessment. The annotations 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 open access at www.socialstudies.org/notable-social-studies-trade-books.

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This list is a joint project of NCSS and the Children's Book Council. Single copies are available from the Children's Book Council; please email cbc.info@cbcbooks.org to request one.

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