ABOUT THE LIST AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The books that appear in this annotated book 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 1999 and were written primarily for children in grades pre-K-8. The selection 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’ NAMES APPEAR IN Abbreviated form. Complete names and 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. To obtain CBC’s Members List, send $2.00 and a self-addressed, 6” x 9” envelope, with 77¢ postage, to CBC, Attn: Members List, P.O. Box 2640/JAF Station, New York, NY 10116-2640, or the list may be downloaded from the CBC web site, www.cbcbooks.org.

Titles are arranged by broad subject categories. Although many are appropriate for more than one subject category, they have been placed where their usefulness in social studies education appears greatest. Annotators have also indicated the thematic strands (shown below), from Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, to which the book relates. Although many titles have multistrand applications, space restraints dictate including a maximum of three strands per title.

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 PRACTICE


BOOK REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jacqueline A. Abbott, retired professor of education, Eastern Connecticut State University, Bolton, CT (JAA)
David W. Clark, social studies curriculum supervisor, West Chester Area School District, West Chester, PA (DWC)
William Fitzhugh, second grade teacher, Reisterstown Elementary School, Reisterstown, MD (WPF)
Linda K. Graham, library media specialist, Clark Elementary School, Cleveland, OH (LKG)
Donna L. Knoell, educational consultant and children’s book columnist, Shawnee Mission, KS (DLK)
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De An M. Krey (Committee Chair), professor of elementary education, University of Wisconsin–River Falls, River Falls, WI (DAK)
Pat Nickell, assistant professor, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (PN)
Namji Steinemann, vice president, education division, Asia Society, New York, NY (NKS)
Karen E. Thompson, retired grade seven ancient history and geography teacher, Boylston, MA (KET)
Scott Waters, associate professor, early childhood/elementary teacher education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS (SDW)
Vickie Weiss, multi-age teacher–grades 3–5, City Schools, Grand Blanc, MI (VDW)

ABOUT THE ANNOTATIONS

1. The titles marked with the exclamation point are Selectors’ Choices—books that individual committee members responded to with particular enthusiasm.
2. Title: Subtitle
3. Author(s)
4. Illustrator(s)
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 2000
9. Reading level: P=Primary (pre-K-2); I=Intermediate (3-5); and M=Middle (6-8). These grade levels are guidelines only 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 above)
12. Thematic strands of the curriculum standards for social studies (see list above)
BIOGRAPHY


AMELIA AND ELEANOR GO FOR A RIDE. Pam Muñoz Ryan. Scholastic Press. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-96075-X, $16.95. (PJ) The adventures of Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt together over Washington, D.C., are creatively told. This “night flight” will delight all readers as they learn, through story and drawings, about two highly respected, courageous women. Author's Note. Recipe for Eleanor Roosevelt's Pink Clouds on Angel Food Cake. (VDW) II, III


AT HER MAJESTY'S REQUEST: AN AFRICAN PRINCESS IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND. Walter Dean Myers. Illustrated with maps, drawings, and photographs. Scholastic Press. 144 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-48669-1, $15.95. (L) On the day she is to be executed, an African princess is rescued by a British naval officer. She is taken to England and presented to Queen Victoria, who decides to oversee her upbringing. Introduction. Epilogue. Selected Bibliography. (LKG) I, IV, III

BABE DIDRIKSON ZAHARIAS: THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION. Russell Freedman. Illustrated with photographs. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-63367-2, $18.00. (M) This biography of Babe Didrikson tells of a woman who broke records in golf, track and field, and other sports at a time when there were few opportunities for female athletes. Author's Note. Notes. A Selective Bibliography. Index. (KET) III, IV


A BOY NAMED GIOUOTO. Paolo Guarnieri. Translated by Jonathan Galassi. Illustrated by Bimba Landmann. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30931-0, $12.00. (PJ) This breathtaking picture book tells the story of Giotto, an eight-year-old shepherd who longed to be a painter. The book describes how he fulfilled his dreams after being discovered and taught by the famous artist Cimabue. (DLK) III, IV, I


examples of how Einstein’s theories affect our current life provide richness and meaning. Photographs enhance the text. Chronology.

Bibliography. Index. (DLK) VIII, IV, III

ELIZABETH I: RED ROSE OF THE HOUSE OF TUDOR
(The Royal Diaries series). Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Scholastic Inc. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-516-29074-4, $31.95; Hardcover ISBN 0-516-24665-6, $16.95. (M) Seventy short biographies, arranged both thematically and chronologically, give the reader a sense of the history of the West as experienced by women recognized as exceptional in their time. Each biography is unique and well written to capture the interest of young adolescents. For Further Information. Index. (AA) IV, II

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN WEST

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

ICE STORY: SHACKLETON’S LOST EXPEDITION

JACOB LAWRENCE
(Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Artists series). Mike Venezia. Illustrated by the author and with photographs and paintings. Children’s Press/Grolier. Library ISBN 0-516-21012-2, $22.00; Paperback ISBN 0-516-26533-4, $6.95. (I) This engaging biography of African American artist Jacob Lawrence focuses on his life and his works. As exemplified by his art, Lawrence was a historian and storyteller as well as a famous artist. Included are identifying details for each work of art reproduced. Afterword: Locations where Lawrence’s works can be seen. (DLK) I, III, IV

JESSE OWENS

JOHANNES BRAHMS
(Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Composers series). Mike Venezia. Illustrated by the author and with photographs and prints. Children’s Press/Grolier. 32 pp. Library ISBN 0-516-21066-4, $22.00; Paperback ISBN 0-516-26467-2, $6.95. (M) In this biography, the author stresses the magnificence of Brahms’ skill as a composer, while combining fact and fun to give readers a more personal look at his interesting and full life. (LKG) V

THE JOURNAL OF SEAN SULLIVAN: A TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD WORKER

THE LIGHTBULB

LIVES: POEMS ABOUT FAMOUS AMERICANS

MARY ANNING AND THE SEA DRAGON
Jeanine Atkins. Illustrated by Michael Dooling. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 24 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-34840-5, $16.00. (PJ) This beautiful picture biography of Mary Anning tells of her constant search for “curiosities” and details how unique and determined her efforts were for her time (1799-1847). Her search for and ultimate discovery of fossils contributed extraordinarily to the field of paleontology. Afterword. (DLK) III, VIII

MARY, BLOODY MARY

LIVES: POEMS ABOUT FAMOUS AMERICANS

MARY, BLOODY MARY


ROBERT FULTON: FROM SUBMARINE TO STEAM-BOAT. Steven Kroll. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Holiday House. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1433-7, $16.95. (L) This concise, beautifully illustrated biography describes the life and work of the inventor who developed the steamboat and made it a commercial success. Important Dates. Author’s Note. (SDW) VIII, IV, II


TALLCHIEF: AMERICA’S PRIMA BALLERINA. Maria Tallchief with Rosemary Wells. Illustrated by Gary Kelley. Viking/Penguin Putnam. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-670-88756-0, $15.99. (P,J) This extraordinary picture biography of Maria Tallchief is really autobiographical as the subject speaks her own words throughout the book. “Music flowed through young Maria Tallchief as naturally as the wind in her hair” says it all about this remarkable woman. Author’s Note. (JAA) IV, V


CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS


CENTURY FARM: ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON A FAMILY FARM. Cris Peterson. Illustrated with photographs by Alvis Upitis. Boyds Mills. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-56397-710-9, $16.95. (P,J) Historical and contemporary photographs enhance the story of a Wisconsin farm that has been in the Peterson family for one hundred years. Readers will see the differences and similarities in farming as each generation works this beloved family farm. (OJT) II, III


GRANDFATHERS: REMINISCENCES, POEMS, RECIPES, AND PHOTOS OF THE KEEPERS OF OUR TRADITIONS. Edited by Nikki Giovanni. Henry Holt. 242 pp. (M) This is an interesting personal look at grandfathers that reflects on their special roles in the lives of their family members. Biographical data. (WPF) IV, V

HOPE. (Carolrhoda Picture Books series). Isabell Monk. Illustrated by Janice Lee Porter. Carolrhoda/Lerner. 32 pp. Library ISBN 1-57505-230-X, $15.95. (P,J) When Hope is suddenly confronted with the knowledge of her mixed heritage, it takes a very special aunt with a very special story to help her understand her situation. This is a sensitive portrayal of the power and importance of family. (PN) IV, I

LENA. Jacqueline Woodson. Delacorte/Random House. 128 pp. Trade ISBN 0-385-32308-5, $15.95. F (Random House). (M) Lena must protect her little sister from their abusive father, so the two of them run away. Brave but increasingly vulnerable, they wish only to find safety and warmth … together. Sexual abuse is addressed sensitively, but honestly. (PN) IV


ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND ECOLOGY


GORILLA WALK. Ted and Betsy Lewin. Illustrated by the authors. Lothrop/HarperCollins. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-16509-5, $16.00; Library ISBN 0-688-16541-9, $15.93. (LM) Spectacular illustrations enrich the Lewins’ description of their expedition into the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda to observe mountain gorillas that have become habituated to the presence of humans. They comment, “As long as ecotourism generates revenue and jobs, it provides...incentive...to protect mountain gorillas.” Introduction. Maps. Mountain Gorilla Facts. Index. (DAK) III, IX


STRETCH YOUR WINGS: FAMOUS BLACK QUOTATIONS FOR TEENS. Selected and edited by Janet Cheatham Bell and Lucille Usher Freeman. Illustrated with photographs. Little. Brown. 176 pp. Paperback ISBN 0-316-03825-3, $8.95. (M) This collection of more than four hundred quotations offers young people advice and encouragement about overcoming obstacles to their personal progress. Categorized by topic or theme, the quotes will inspire readers to new heights. Preface. Index and Biographies. (DLK) IV, III

FOLKTALES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS

AT THE WISH OF THE FISH: A RUSSIAN FOLKTALE. Adapted by J. Patrick Lewis. Illustrated by Katya Krémina. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-81336-8, $16.00 (PJ) In this adaptation of a traditional Russian folktale, the lazy simleton Emylca catches an enchanted fish, which promises him that every wish he makes will come true. His good fortune leads to wealth and captures the attention of the Tsar and his beautiful daughter. Author’s Note. (KET) I, III, IV

THE BAREFOOT BOOK OF MOTHER AND SON TALES. Josephine Evetts-Secker. Illustrated by Helen Cann. Barefoot. 80 pp. Trade ISBN 1-902283-05-8, $19.95. (LM) Tales from world cultures, all based on the mother/son relationship, are presented in a pleasing form complemented by symbolic illustrations from the various cultures. These narratives are suitable for use by young storytellers. Foreword. Notes. Sources. (OTK) I, II, III


GRANDMOTHERS’ STORIES: WISE WOMAN TALES FROM MANY CULTURES. Burleigh Matén. Barefoot. 80 pp. Trade ISBN 1-902283-24-4, $19.95. (LM) Keepers of family tradition, holders of the knowledge that went before...kind, wise, independent women from many cultures are the heroes of these stories. The narrative flows easily and is appropriate for young storytellers. (OTK) I, II, III


O’SULLIVAN STEW. Hudson Talbot. Illustrated by the author. Putnam/Penguin Putnam. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23162-5, $15.59. (P) Exciting illustrations accompany this lively retelling of an Irish folktale. Kate decides to recapture a horse the King has taken in order to save her village from destruction by a witch. (WPF) III, V


THE QUILTMAKER’S GIFT. Jeff Brumbeau. Illustrated by Gail de Marcken. Pfeifer-Hamilton. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 1-57025-199-1, $17.95. (LM) This outstanding folktale is about a greedy king who loves and demands gifts. A skilled quiltmaker will give her beautiful quilts only to those in need. The lesson is about how the king receives a quilt. Illustrations filled with traditional quilt patterns reveal more of the story. This is a gem. Website. Quilt design endpapers. (JAA) IV

THE RABBIT’S TAIL: A STORY FROM KOREA. Suzanne Crowder Han. Illustrated by Richard Wehrman. Henry Holt. 32 pp. (P) Delightfully confusing circumstances arise when a thief and a tiger meet at night in the yard of a villager. This is a nice retelling of one of Korea’s beloved “clever rabbit and foolish tiger” stories. Author’s Note. (NKS) I


THE WHITE TIGER, BLUE SERPENT. Retold by Grace Tseng. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng. Lothrop/HarperCollins. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-12515-8, $16.00; Library ISBN 0-688-12516-6, $15.95. (P) Ancient China is the setting for this mythical tale about a young Chinese boy and the many perils he faces to retrieve a beautiful brocade woven by his mother and snatched away by a greedy goddess. (KET) I, III, IV

GEOGRAPHY, PEOPLE AND PLACES


ALL KINDS OF CHILDREN. Norma Simon. Illustrated by Diane Paterson. Albert Whitman. 32 pp. Library ISBN 0-8075-0281-2, $15.95. (P) Captivating watercolor illustrations accompany a narrative that describes things children all over the world have in common: food, clothing, love, an opportunity to play, and even a bellybutton. (WPF) III, IV

NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE • 2000 7


BASKET MOON. Mary Lyn Rae. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. Little, Brown. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-316-73521-3, $15.95. (P,I) In this historical fiction, set in a mountainous area during the late 1800s, a young boy tells of a time when his basket-maker father was taunted as a “hillbilly.” Cooney’s illustrations provide hauntingly lovely vistas. Author’s Note. (DAK) IV, VII, III


BOYS OF THE DEEPS. Ian Wallace. Illustrated by the author. DK Ink/DK Publishing. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7894-2569-6, $16.95. (LM) In this story, a young boy in turn-of-the-century Nova Scotia proudly joins his father as a coal miner. They become trapped, and we are reminded of the dangers that called child labor practices into question. Author’s Note. (PN) IV, VII, II


BUILDING THE BOOK: CATHEDRAL. David Macaulay. Illustrated by the author. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. 112 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-92147-3, $22.95. (LM) Twenty-five years after the first publication of Cathedral, Macaulay tells how he wrote and produced the book, and describes changes he would like to make in the original work. Included are “work in progress” illustrations that were not part of the original book. Glossary. (KET) II, III, VII


THE GOOD LIAR. Gregory Maguire. Clarion/Houghton-Mifflin. 144 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-90697-0, $15.00. F (HarperCollins). (LM) An artist living in the United States tells of his childhood in WW II France during one summer when his village was occupied by the Germans. There is great warmth in the antics of the storyteller and his two brothers and some unease in their friendship with one soldier. (KET) III, VI, IX


PIONEER CHURCH. Carolyn Otto. Illustrated by Megan Lloyd. Henry Holt. 32 pp. (LM) Based on the records of the Old Zion Church in Brickerville, Pennsylvania, this delightful account
reminds us of how communities change over time. Otto’s story and the book’s colorful illustrations may motivate readers to examine the history of their own towns. Author’s Note. (VDW) II, V


**THE STARS IN MY GEDDOH’S SKY.** Claire Sidhom Matze. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Albert Whitman. 32 pp. Library ISBN 0-8075-5332-8, $14.95. (P) For young Alex, the bond of love he feels is strengthened when his grandfather comes to visit. A trunk full of artifacts helps the boy learn about Geddoh’s Middle Eastern homeland. A shared look at a constellation eases the sadness when his grandfather must return home. (Dak) IX, I, V


**HISTORY, LIFE AND CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

**THE BABE & I.** David A. Adler. Illustrated by Terry Widener. Gulliver/Harcourt Trade. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-201378-4, $16.00. (I) This picture book is a poignant, believable story about a young boy who sold newspapers to help his family during the Great Depression. It blends economic realities with the exuberance of meeting a hero like Babe Ruth. Author’s Notes. (DLK) VII, IV, III


**NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE • 2000**


GRANDDADDY’S STREET SONGS. Monalisa DeGross. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7868-0160-3, $14.99; Library ISBN 0-7868-2132-9, $15.49. (PJ) In this entertaining story, a grandfather vividly describes a typical day from his youth when he worked as a street-seller peddling produce from his wagon throughout the city. Historical Note. (WPf) II, III


THE MANHATTAN PROJECT. Daniel Cohen. Illustrated with photographs. Twenty-First Century/Millbrook. 128 pp. Library ISBN 0-7613-0539-6, $21.90. (M) This book offers an accurate and informative treatment of the history of the atomic age, from Einstein’s iconic letter to President Roosevelt to...
the collapse of the Soviet Union. Chronology. Notes. Bibliography. Index. (DWC) II, VI, VIII


A PICNIC IN OCTOBER. Eve Bunting. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. Harcourt Brace/Harcourt Trade. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-201656-2; $16.00. (I) When Grandma leads the annual family pilgrimage to Ellis Island, a young boy comes to realize not only what Liberty stands for, but also the importance of acknowledging his own cultural legacy. This is a sensitive and beautiful picture book. (DLK) IV, III, I

RUSHMORE. Lynn Curlee. Illustrated by the author. Scholastic Press. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-22573-1; $12.95. (I) This is a thought-provoking account of the creation of one of our country’s most well-known monuments. Time Line. Bibliography. (DWC) III

SANTA WHO! Gail Gibbons. Illustrated by the author. Morrow/HarperCollins. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-15528-6; $16.00; Library ISBN 0-688-15529-4; $15.95. (PLM) If you want to know about Santa Claus, read this book, which traces his origins and evolution from the Turkish Saint Nicholas to the red-suited, modern Santa figure. Similar legendary figures from other cultures are also discussed. (KET) I, II, IX


A THANKSGIVING WISH. Michael J. Rosen. Illustrated by John Thompson. Blue Sky/Scholastic Inc. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-25563-0; $16.95. (P) This is an exceptionally tender book about a child’s longing for her grandmother. Thanksgiving simply isn’t the same without her, especially when the electricity goes off and a stranger appears who doesn’t know anything about wishbones. (PN) I, IV

THROUGH MY EYES. Ruby Bridges. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic Press. 64 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-18923-9; $16.95. (LM) This is a compelling personal account of the six-year-old African American girl who integrated the New Orleans public schools in 1960. Author’s Note. (DWC) III, VI, X


TREE OF HOPE. Amy Littlesugar. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23300-8, $16.99. (I) A girl living through the Great Depression makes a wish on the “Tree of Hope,” the neighborhood’s only remnant of the glory days of the Harlem Renaissance. Her wish is fulfilled when young stage director Orson Welles undertakes the production of a black Macbeth in Harlem. Author’s Note. Bibliography. (NKS) I, IV, V


VICKSBURG: THE BATTLE THAT WON THE CIVIL WAR. Mary Ann Fraser. Illustrated with photographs, prints, and maps. Henry Holt. 104 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-6106-1, $16.95. (LM) This is a well-written and illustrated account of the battle that was the turning point of the Civil War. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. (DWC) III


WHEN THE RAIN SINGS: POEMS BY YOUNG NATIVE AMERICANS. National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution. Simon & Schuster. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-82283-9, $16.00. (M) This is a collection of powerful poems by young Native Americans who write of their history, their lives, and their community. Some of the entries are responses to artifacts in the National Museum of the American Indian, but most are songs of a culture emanating from strong young voices. Foreword. About Wordcraft Circle and This Book. Introduction. Indian Nations Represented. Object Information. Index. (OKT) I, II, III

THE WILD COLORADO: THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF FRED DELLENBAUGH, AGE 17, ON THE SECOND POWELL EXPEDITION INTO THE GRAND CANYON. Richard Maurer. Illustrated with photographs. Crown/Random House. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-517-70945-7, $18.00; Library ISBN 0-517-70946-5, $19.99. (M) This photographic account of the second Powell expedition on the Colorado River in 1869 is told through the eyes of a seventeen-year-old boy. It was Major John Wesley Powell who became famous for rafting the Colorado and mapping the area, but it was the brave men who fulfilled the main tasks who were the real heroes. Epilogue. Author’s Note. Suggested Reading. Index. (JAA) II, III, VIII

WOODROW FOR PRESIDENT: A TAIL OF VOTING, CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS. Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes. Illustrated by the authors. VSP Books. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-893622-01-0, $15.95. (M) Written in verse and using a mouse as the main character, this delightful book chronicles the progression from declaring oneself a presidential candidate through campaigning, the national conventions, the election, and inauguration. Important concepts and terms are presented in a lighthearted format with detailed illustrations. Notes for Parents and Teachers. Contract to Vote Between America’s Children and Adults. (DLK) VI, X

REFERENCE

ANCIENT MEDICINE: FROM SORCERY TO SURGERY


EMERGENCY! Joy Massof. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic Reference. 56 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-97898-5, $16.95. (LM) All aspects of emergency medicine, including the medical personnel and equipment needed to help patients, are presented without blood and gore in this useful reference book. If You’d Like to Learn More. Author’s Note. Index. (SDW) VIII/V


SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS


THE CELLO OF MR. O. Jane Cutler. Illustrated by Greg Couch. Dutton/Penguin Putnam. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-525-46119-1, $15.99. (P) In a war-torn place, a young girl expresses her concern about the destruction that rages around her. The one bright spot is the weekly arrival of the relief truck. When the truck is bombed, Mr. O. tries to restore hope by playing on his cello. When the cello is blown up, Mr. O. resorts to playing a harmonica to instill courage in his neighbors. (JAA) VI, I, III


GOODBYE, WALTER MALINSKI. Helen Recorvits. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-32747-5, $15.00. (LM) In 1934, with food and jobs scarce, the Malinski family is finding it hard to survive the Great Depression. With tragic results, Pa takes out on Walter his feelings of frustration at not being able to provide for his family. (LKG) IV, II

GOWANUS DOGS. Jonathan Frost. Illustrated by the author. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-31058-0, $15.00. (P) Three puppies and their mother live in an abandoned cement mixer truck near the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, New York. As the dogs forage for food, they meet people who want to adopt them. A homeless man uses his little bit of cash to buy food for the dogs, and later adopts the sick female puppy. The man’s life is dramatically changed as he reaches out to help and experiences the human kindness in others. Black and white illustrations work well with the text. (JAA) V, III


THE MATS. Francisco Arcellana. Illustrated by Hermès Alègrè. Kane/Miller. 24 pp. Trade ISBN 0-916291-86-3, $13.95. (I) This wonderfully-wrought depiction of a large family in the Philippines centers on how the importance of each member is recognized and appreciated. Maps. Afterwords. Index. (LKG) IV, II


OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA. Jennifer L. Holm. HarperCollins. 160 pp. Trade ISBN 0-06-027822-6, $15.95; Library ISBN 0-06-028354-8, $15.89. F (Harper Trophy/HarperCollins). (M) It is 1899, and May Amelia Jackson is struggling to grow up, not only as the only girl among seven boys, but also as the only girl ever born on the Nasel River in the state of Washington. Named a 2000 Newbery Honor Book. (LKG) IV

STRONG TO THE HOOP. John Coy. Illustrated by Leslie Jean-Bart. Lee & Low. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-880000-80-6, $16.95. (P) Mixed media collages enhance the lively text of this picture book as James, a ten-year-old inner-city boy, proves himself on the basketball court. This story of identity and acceptance reflects the realities of contemporary life for some of today’s youth. (DLK) IV, III

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TRUE HEART. Marissa Moss. Illustrated by C.F. Payne. Silver Whistle/Harcourt Trade. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-201344-X, $16.00. (I) In this picture book set in 1893, a young person of sixteen goes to work loading freight, and learns engineering while riding in the cab between freight loadings. When the engineer and fireman are shot by bandits, the youngster saves the day by driving the train. The reader doesn’t realize that Bee is a young woman until near the end of the story. Author’s Note. (JAA) II, IV

UNBROKEN. Jessie Haas. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-16260-6, $15.00. F (Harper Trophy/Harper Collins). (M) Young Harriet’s world is torn apart when her mother dies after her buggy collides with a Model-T. When it looks as if Harriet’s prospects are zero, supportive people help her to regain hope for the future. Based on a true story, this novel’s setting in 1900 is well-depicted. Author’s Note. (JAA) III, II

UNDER THE LEMON MOON. Edith Hope Fine. Illustrated by René King Moreno. Lee & Low. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-88106-065-8, $16.95. (LM) When the lemons from her prize tree are stolen and the tree becomes sick, Rosalinda starts on a quest for help. Moving through her Mexican village, she discovers both understanding and the ability to forgive. Serene illustrations depicting the village at work and Rosalinda’s joy complement the text. Pronunciation key. (OTK) III, IV

WORLD HISTORY AND CULTURE


ELEANOR’S STORY: AN AMERICAN GIRL IN HITLER’S GERMANY. Eleanor Ramrath Garner. Illustrated with photographs. Peachtree. 268 pp. Trade ISBN 1-56145-193-2, $14.95. (M) Eleanor is part of an American family caught in Germany during World War II. This compelling story offers readers many chances to step into someone else’s shoes as it puts a human face on the horrors of war. Author’s Note. (JAA) VI, I


THE HOUSE OF WISDOM. Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland. Illustrated by Mary Grandpré. DK Ink/DK Publishing. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7894-2562-9, $16.95. (LM) In this low key but powerful picture book, the authors introduce the reader to Ishaq, a young boy living in ancient Baghdad. Ishaq “catches the light” as he becomes a scholar and traveler in search of books
and manuscripts for Baghdad's library, known as the House of Wisdom. Knowledge preserved is an important value. Text and illustrations work seamlessly to tell this story. Bibliography. Glossary. (JAA) III, II, IX


WHEN THE SOLDIERS WERE GONE. Vera W. Propp. Putnam/Penguin Putnam. 112 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23325-3, $14.99. (M) Benjamin, a young Jewish boy, has been hidden by a Dutch family during World War II. When his parents claim him at war's end, he at first denies their existence and only gradually accepts them as his natural family. This well-told story is presented from Benjamin's point of view. Epilogue. (JAA) IV, III, II

NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE • 2000 15
ABOUT THE CHILDREN’S BOOK COUNCIL

The Children’s Book Council is a not-for-profit association encouraging the use and enjoyment of children’s books and related literacy materials. Its members are publishers of trade books for children and producers of book-related materials for young people. CBC is the official sponsor of National Children’s Book Week and Young People’s Poetry Week. It cooperates on reading development projects with several national associations including NCSS. To receive a catalog of CBC’s reading encouragement materials, write to The Children’s Book Council, Attn: Catalog, P.O. Box 2640/JAF Station, New York, NY 10116-2640.

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National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) is a professional, non-profit association for teachers and social studies 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 a supplement to NCSS periodicals sent to all NCSS members three times annually.

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 published in the May/June Issue of Social Education, which is sent to all subscribers of Social Studies and the Young Learner, as well as to the regular subscribers of Social Education. The list is also available online at www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable.

For information on NCSS membership and services, write to National Council for the Social Studies, 3501 Newark Street NW, Washington, DC 20016, call 202-966-7840, or visit www.socialstudies.org/about on the Web.

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A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE MAY/JUNE 2000 ISSUE OF SOCIAL EDUCATION
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