Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

2001

Supplement to Social Education, the official journal of National Council for the Social Studies
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, although a number of books are also suitable for older students. 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 3oz. postage, to CBC, Attn: Members List, 12 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018, or the list may be downloaded from the CBC web site, www.cbcbooks.org. 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 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.

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

About the Annotations

1. The titles marked with the book icon 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 2001
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 at left)


Biography


IDA B. WELLS: MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. Dennis Brindell Freadin and Judith Bloom Fradin. Illustrated with photographs. Clarion. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-89-88988-6; $18.00. (M) Ida B. Wells is most remembered for her successful lifelong crusade against lynching. The former slave taught school, ran a newspaper, and founded or helped found several organizations, including the NAACP, while married and raising a family. The photographs that illustrate the book make this story of extraordinary courage and determination come even more alive. A Note from the Authors. Bibliography. Index. Afterword. (DBK) I, III, IV


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PICK-AND-SHOVEL POET: THE JOURNEYS OF PASCAL D’ANGELO. Jim Murphy. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Clarion. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-77610-4, $20.00. (M) After crossing the ocean from Italy to America alone at age sixteen, Pascal D’Angelo made his living with a pick and shovel. This engaging biography focuses on his determination to write poetry as he teaches himself to read and write in English. Bibliography and Sources. Author’s Note. Index (OKT) I, II, III, IV


Important Dates. Author’s Note. Bibliography. (VDW) II, III, IV


VITAL STATISTICS: THE STORY OF SARAH BREEDLOVE WALKER. Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated by Nneka Bennett. Candlewick. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7636-0253-1, $16.99. (I, M) This is the story of Madame C. J. Walker, the first female African American self-made millionaire. The illustrations and text work together to provide young readers with a solid portrait of a woman who triumphed against the odds. Author’s Note. Illustrator’s Note. Epilogue. (DBK) I, IV


VISION OF BEAUTY: THE STORY OF SARAH BREEDLOVE WALKER. Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated by Nneka Bennett. Candlewick. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7636-0253-1, $16.99. (I, M) This is the story of Madame C. J. Walker, the first female African American self-made millionaire. The illustrations and text work together to provide young readers with a solid portrait of a woman who triumphed against the odds. Author’s Note. Illustrator’s Note. Epilogue. (DBK) I, IV


DREAM FREEDOM. Sonia Levitin. Silver Whistle. 288 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-202404-2. $17.00. (M) Slavery in contemporary Sudan in Africa is the topic of this book. As many voices tell their stories of enslavement, the reader is able to see how the crime of enslavement affects everyone concerned. This is a powerful statement and a must read. Author’s Note. Afterword. Bibliography. (JAA) V, I, VI, IX

FIRST MATE TATE. Virginia Masterman-Smith. Cavendish. 160 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7645-5075-0. $14.95. (M) The Tate parents have a serious gambling problem. Once comforted and now hanging by a thread, this family with six children experiences the consequences of uncontrolled gambling. First Mate, the oldest child, goes to extremes to save the family and herself. (JAA) IV


RAINY DAY. Emma Haughton. Illustrated by Angelo Binaldi. Carolrhoda. 32 pp. Library ISBN 1-57505-432-3. $15.95. (P) A boy and his dad spend a rainy day together. It is apparent that the boy’s parents are separated and that tension exists between father and son. But their time together, sharing the discomfort of getting wet, draws them closer in a special way. The subtle and comforting message of this book is conveyed in both text and beautiful illustrations. (JAA) IV, V

SMILING FOR STRANGERS. Gaye Hickeyman. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 160 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-37081-8. $16.00. (M) This fine novel is about a girl, a family, and war in contemporary Yugoslavia. Nina must run from her home at her grandfather’s instruction because the war is in her backyard. She has the address of a man in Sussex, England, someone very special to her mother. This is a tale of courage on a long trip to safety, and the struggle for identity in a strange place. (JAA) I, III, IV, IX

Environment, Energy and Ecology


HENRY HIKES TO FITCHBURG. D.B. Johnson. Illustrated by the author. Houghton Mifflin. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-96864-7. $15.00. (P) This delightful story inspired by Thoreau’s Walden begins with two friends setting out separately to meet thirty miles away in Fitchburg. Readers follow the progress of each as colorful illustrations compare and contrast their different experiences of the day. Author’s Note. (VDW) IV, III, II


RIVER FRIENDLY, RIVER WILD. Jane Kurtz. Illustrated by Neil Berman. Simon & Schuster. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-82049-6. $16.00. (P) A series of poems describes the Red River, which forms the border between Minnesota and North Dakota, and a family’s experiences of being evacuated during the river’s spring floods. The family then returns home to survey the damage. Author’s Note. (KET) III, II, I
Folk Tales, Myths and Legends


THE EAGLE AND THE WREN. Retold by Jane Goodall. Illustrated by Alexander Reichstein. North-South. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7358-1381-7, $15.88. (P, I) This fable is told by conservationist Jane Goodall, remembering one of her favorite tales from childhood. All of the earth’s birds engage in a contest to see who can fly the highest. The outcome surprises them all, and carries with it the message that teamwork is best. Author’s Note. (JAA) V

THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES: A GRUESOME GREEK MYTH WITH A HAPPY ENDING. Jean Richards. Illustrated by Kat Thacker. Millbrook. 40 pp. Library ISBN 0-7613-1311-7, $22.90. (P, I) Pelops, son of Tantalus and grandson of the Greek god Zeus, wins the hand of Hippodamia in a chariot race, and then decrees that the earth’s birds engage in a contest to see who can fly the highest. The outcome surprises them all, and carries with it the message that teamwork is best. Author’s Note. (JAA) V

GERSHON’S MONSTER: A STORY FOR THE JEWISH NEW YEAR. Retold by Eric A. Kimmel. Illustrated by Jon J Muth. Scholastic Press. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-10839-X, $16.95. (P, I) This Jewish folktale tells the story of Gershon, who regularly ignores his shortcomings and, on the new year, packs them up and tosses them into the sea. When Gershon and his wife want children, he promises the Rabbi he will change his ways, but fails to do so until the near loss of his two beautiful children causes him to repent. Striking illustrations enliven the story. Author’s Note. (JAA) I, IV

IN THE RAINFIELD: WHO IS THE GREATEST? Isaac O. Olatoye. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. Blue Sky. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-580-48363-3, $16.95. F (P, I) This Nigerian folktale illustrates the important message for youngsters that the fiercest and the strongest are not always the best or most loved. Here we learn why the gentle rain may be better than wind or fire. (PN) I, IV, III

THE KING AND THREE THIEVES: A PERSIAN TALE. Kristen Balouch. Illustrated by the author. Viking. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-670-88039-0, $15.99. F (Puffin) (P, I) Disguised as a beggar, King Abbas sets out in search of hungry people to feed. He comes upon three men who are, in fact, thieves scheming to use their magical powers to rob the king. He appears to go along with their plan until he surprises them at the end. Amazing illustrations. Author’s note. (NS) I


NOT ONE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: WORLD FOLKTALES FOR STRONG GIRLS. Compiled and retold by Jane Yolen. Illustrated by Susan Capuana. Silver Whistle. 128 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-202047-0, $17.00. (P) Thirty fascinating stories from around the globe feature strong, brave, and resourceful women, such as Atalanta, Molly Whuppie, and the Samurai Maiden. A letter from Yolen to her daughter and granddaughters sends a powerful message: “Anyone can be a hero if they have to be. Even girls. Especially girls.” Notes on the Stories. Bibliography. (VDW) I, II, IV

ONLY ONE COWRY. Retold by Phillis Gershator. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-531-30288-1, $16.95; Library ISBN 0-531-33288-8, $17.99. (P, I) A young man’s cleverness proves an asset when the first king of Dahomey decides to find a queen, but offers for dowry only a paltry cowry shell. Through trade and barter, the young man achieves what was thought impossible among his fellow villagers. Author’s Note. (NS) I

PHILIPOK, Leo Tolstoy, retold by Ann Kozy Beneduce. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. Philomel. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23482-9. $16.99. F (Puffin) (P) This is a retelling of Tolstoy’s tale of a young boy who wants to attend school with his older brother. The story, beautifully illustrated by Spirin, follows Philipok as he dresses himself then trudges through the snow to school. Young children will love the story, while older students may be attracted by the traditionally, wonderfully detailed art work. (NKH) I, IV, V


SWEET LAND OF STORY: THIRTY-SIX AMERICAN TALES TO TELL. Pleasant DeSpain. Illustrated by Don Bell. August House. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 0-87483-569-4. $19.95. Paperback ISBN 0-87483-600-X. $12.95. (I, M) This collection of thirty-six American tales grouped by geographic region is a teacher’s and storyteller’s dream come true. Some traditional tales such as Pecos Bill are included along with regional tales such as Pulling the Rope and Salting the Pudding. Notes. (NKH) I, III, V


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Geography, People and Places


ATLANTIS: THE LEGEND OF A LOST CITY. Christina Balit. Illustrated by the author. Historical note by Geoffrey Ashe. Holt. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-6334-X. $16.95. (P, I) Based on Plato’s Timaeus and Critias, this richly illustrated storybook tells how Poseidon created the island city of Atlantis as a home for his bride, Cleito. For a time the city prospered, until its inhabitants became greedy and ambitious, and Poseidon was forced to drown the city with his sea. A scholarly note provides an important historical context. (NS) VI, V

THE CENTURY THAT WAS: REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST 100 YEARS. Edited and with an introduction by James Cross Giblin. Illustrated with photographs. Atheneum. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-82281-2. $19.95. (M) Eleven noted children’s authors explore a provocative array of topics relating to the history of the twentieth century, from a discussion of the rise in stature of the professional athlete to one author’s chronicling of the ins and outs of fashion through six generations of women. Introduction. For Further Reading. Index. (DWC) II

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT. Francisco Jimenez. Illustrated by Claire B. Cotts. Houghton Mifflin. Trade ISBN 0-395-92869-9. $15.00. (P, I) In a poignant description of a childhood Christmas spent in a farm labor camp, the author shares his remembrances of poverty, the strength of family love, and the true meaning of Christmas. Complemented by sensitive, elegant illustrations, the text is in both English and Spanish. Author’s Note. (OT) I, III, IV

CUBAN KIDS. George Ancona. Illustrated with photographs by the author. Cavendish. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7614-5077-7. $15.95. (P) Cuban kids come in all shapes and sizes as they introduce readers to their country and its contemporary society through the events of their daily lives. Author’s Note. Glossary. Map. (NS) III, I, V

DINOSAURS AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: THE STORY OF THE CENTRAL ASIATIC EXPEDITIONS. Brian Floca. Illustrated by the author. DK Ink. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7894-2539-4. $15.95. (P) The goal of the Central Asiatic Expedition of 1922-1923 was to search for evidence of mankind’s beginnings; the dramatic discovery of dinosaur eggs was the result. Readers experience the adventure of an archeological expedition, learn about the men who led it, and gain new knowledge about dinosaurs in this clear, concise, and well-presented book. A Note on the Story. Map. Time Line. Endpapers with Dinosaur Information. (JAA) II, III, VII
EASTER ISLAND: GIANT STONE STATUES TELL OF A RICH AND TRAGIC PAST. Caroline Arnold. Illustrated with photographs by the author. Clarion. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-89123-X, $17.00. (M, I) This book explores the complex historical and cultural legacies of Easter Island, known for the great stone statues carved by its original inhabitants. Settled by Polynesians in 400 BC, Easter Island has been home to various peoples through the centuries. Glossary. Index. For Further Information. (NS) III, I, VI


MAPPING PENNY’S WORLD. Loren Lesly. Illustrated by the author. Holt. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-6178-9, $17.00. (P) After learning about maps in school, Lisa maps the many different aspects of her world, including a map of her bedroom, her hiking and biking trails, and her dog Penny’s favorite places to hide toys. A fun introduction to mapmaking. (KET) III, I

MISSISSIPPI RIVER: A JOURNEY DOWN THE FATHER OF WATERS. Peter Lourie. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Boyds Mills. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 1-56397-756-7, $17.95. (I, M) This is a beautifully photographed account of the author’s trip by canoe from the source to the mouth of the Mississippi River. Lourie weaves stories of the river’s vibrant past into a telling of his own river adventures. Epilogue. (OWC) III


OUR WORLD: A CHILD’S FIRST PICTURE ATLAS. Editors of National Geographic. Illustrated with maps, illustrations, and photographs. National Geographic. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7922-7576-4, $17.95. (P) This beginning atlas combines basic geography terms, detailed maps, interesting facts, and photographs of people and well-known places. The pages are filled with information that will ignite a child’s interest and stimulate understanding. Family Fun. Glossary. Pronunciation Guide. (DLK) III


REBEL: A TIBETAN ODYSSEY. Cheryl Aybward Whitesel. HarperCollins. 208 pp. Trade ISBN 0-06-61735-7, $15.95. (M) Because of his forbidden contact with a foreign explorer, Thunder is banished from his Tibetan village and sent to a monastery. Life in the monastery proves anything but peaceful and meditative. Thunder is a rebel with whom children can easily identify, and they will enjoy the mystery contained in this story. Afterword. Author’s Note and Bibliography. Glossary. (OTK) II, III, IV

THE SHAMAN’S NEPHEW: A LIFE IN THE FAR NORTH. Simon Tookoome with Sheldon Oberman. Illustrated by Simon Tookoome. Stoddart Kids. 56 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7737-62004, $18.95. (I, M) Unique, informative, and engaging, this biography of one of the last Inuits to live the traditional nomadic life of the Far North not only introduces a special individual, but also describes a way of life that has become nearly extinct. Colorful Inuit drawings enhance the text. Introduction. (TLL) III, I, V

STORIES FROM WHERE WE LIVE: THE NORTH ATLANTIC COAST. (Stories From Where We Live series). Edited by Sara St. Antoine. Illustrated by Trudy Nichollson, with maps by Paul Mirocha. Milkweed Editions. 288 pp. Trade ISBN 1-57131-627-2, $19.95. (M) In this first of an upcoming series about geographic regions of North America, the editor has selected a beautiful collection of essays, poems, and stories to introduce youngsters to the North Atlantic Coast region. Map. Ecology of the North Atlantic Coast. Recommended Reading. (PIN) III, VIII

History, Life and Culture in the Americas


ADALINE FALLING STAR. Mary Pope Osborne. Scholastic Press. 208 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-05847-X, $16.95. (I, M) Rebell ing against the efforts of her white relatives in St. Louis to “civilize” her, Adaline, who is part Arapaho, sets out to be reunited with her father, the famous scout Kit Carson. A survival story based loosely on the life of Carson and his daughter. Author’s Note. Note on Sources. (ADM) IV, V, I

AN AMISH YEAR. Richard Ammon. Illustrated by Pamela Patrick. Atheneum. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-82622-2, $16.95. (P) This is a nicely illustrated evocation of a year in the life of an old order Amish family. Children will grow to appreciate the similarities and differences between Amish life and their own. Author’s note. (DWC) I, III


BLUESTEM. Frances Arrington. Philomel. 144 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23564-7, $16.99. F (Puffin) (M) Facing the harsh realities of life on the open prairie, two sisters fend for themselves when their mother cannot cope with the losses of pioneer life. This is a realistic, unsentimental portrayal of young heroines who pull from their own strengths. Selected Bibliography. (OTK) III, IV, V


CHARLEY WATERS GOES TO GETTYSBURG. Susan Simon. Illustrated with photographs by Dorothy Hood. Millbrook. 48 pp. Library ISBN 0-7613-1575-5, $22.90. (I) Join Charley and his dad as Civil War reenactors to learn more about what life was like for soldiers fighting in the Civil War. History comes alive through the color photographs of this eight-year-old’s participation in the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Glossary. Further Reading. (TLL) II, III, VI


CONESTOGA WAGONS. Richard Ammon. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Holiday House. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1475-2, $16.95. (I) Demonstrating the Conestoga wagon’s important role in American history, Ammon’s highly readable text describes how these massive wagons were built, what they carried, and who drove them. Accurate paintings increase the reader’s comprehension of the historical period and of the wagons themselves. Map. Diagram. References. (TLL) II, VII, VIII
CRAZY HORSE'S VISION. Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson. Lee & Low. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8075-94-9 $16.95. (I) The story of how a young Lakota named Curly grew up to become Crazy Horse, one of the bravest defenders of his people. This vivid revelation of Crazy Horse's life engages the reader through its dynamic illustrations and thoughtful text. Author's Note. Illustrator's Note. (TLL) IV, V


ESPERANZA RISING. Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic Press. 208 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-20441-1 $15.95. (M) Esperanza is destined to control her family's ranch one day—she thinks. This is a moving and eloquent novel of a girl who loses her dreams to the Depression but regains hope through the power of community. Author's Note. (PN) II, I, IV


HANNAH'S JOURNAL: THE STORY OF AN IMMIGRANT GIRL. Marissa Moss. Illustrated by the author. Silver Whistle. 56 pp. Trade ISBN 0-07-202155-8 $15.00. F (Harcourt) (I) Based on characters and events from the author's own family, this is the story of Hannah, a ten-year-old girl who in 1901 emigrates from Lithuania to America with her cousin, fourteen-year-old Esther. The book reads as if it is Hannah's journal, in her handwriting, with lots of her own amusing drawings in the margins. Kids will be encouraged to start and maintain their own journal, and to learn more about the American immigrant experience. Author's Note. I, IV


IMAGINE THAT! Janet Wilson. Illustrated by the author. Stoddart Kids. 36 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7737-32217 $14.95. (I) This charming story combines a hundred-year-old woman’s reflections on “progress” during the twentieth century with fact-filled sidebars encapsulating its history, decade by decade. The illustration-filled pages further chronicle this compendium of entertainment, transportation, invention, science, technology, and social and political events. (DLK) II, VIII, VII

IN THE HOLLOW OF YOUR HAND. Alice McGill. Illustrated by Michael Cummings. Houghton Mifflin. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-85755-4 $18.00. (P, I) This beautiful collection of slave lullabies based on real-life stories emphasizes hope in counterpoint to the hard times, struggles, and sadness from which the songs were born. Background anecdotes accompany each poem, and each is illustrated with expressive quilt collages. Compact Disc. (DLK) I, V


MY BROTHER’S KEEPER: VIRGINIA’S DIARY (My America series). Mary Pope Osborne. Scholastic. 112 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-15307-7, $8.95. (P) This well-written fictional journal reveals the experiences of one girl and her family as they live through the Battle of Gettysburg. This is an excellent transition novel for the student who is moving from learning to read to reading to learn. Historical Note. Author's Note. (TLL) II, III, VI


OUR STRANGE NEW LAND: ELIZABETH’S DIARY (My America series). Patricia Hermes. Scholastic. 112 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-12208-7, $8.95. (I) Young Elizabeth lands at Jamestown, journal in hand. She writes about the events and people of the settlement, including Pocahontas and Captain Smith, as well as expressing her longing for her twin brother who was left behind in England. Easy to read, this book is sure to encourage budding interest in history. Historical Note. Author's Note. (TLL) II, III, VI

PICTURING LINCOLN. George Sullivan. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Clarion. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-91682-8, $16.00. (M) This intriguing look at several of the most famous depictions of Lincoln explains how the images were made and what was happening in Lincoln’s life at the time. Notes. Further Reading. Index. (DWC) III


RUN THE BLOCKADE. G. Clifton Wiker. HarperCollins. 128 pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-16538-9, $15.95; Library ISBN 0-06-029208-3, $15.89. (M) Based on Thomas Taylor’s real-life account of his days as a blockade runner, this book uses a fictional character, fourteen-year-old Henry Severn, to relate the adventures of a British supercargo circumventing the Northern blockade of Southern ports. It is a captivating account of an often overlooked, but significant, aspect of the Civil War. Author’s Note. (TLL) I, II, VIII

SACAJAWEA. Joseph Bruchac. Silver Whistle. 208 pp. Trade ISBN 0-375-202234-1, $17.00. (I, M) Enhanced by authentic excerpts from Clarks journals, this blend of historical fact and fiction is told from the alternating viewpoints of Sacajawea and William Clark, Bruchac, a Native American author, uses a wide array of research sources to accurately portray their voices. Author’s Note. Selected Bibliography. (TLL) I, II, III


SHY MAMA’S HALLOWEEN. Anne Broyles. Illustrated by Leane Morin. Tilbury House. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-88448-219-8, $16.95. (F, P) When Papa gets sick, Mama, who was shy even in the old country, reluctantly accompanies her children on Halloween. Although Mama doesn’t understand “this trick or treat,” she ends the evening dressed in bits of her children’s costumes. A nice addition to immigrant literature and a fresh look at American Halloween customs. (NKH) I, II, III
SKYSCRAPERS: HOW AMERICA GREW UP. John B. Severance. Illustrated with photographs and drawings. Holiday House. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1492-2, $18.95. (M) This is a compelling introduction to the buildings that shape our cities’ skylines, the architects who design them, and the technical difficulties inherent in their construction. Richly illustrated. Notes. Bibliography. Index. (ADM) VII, VIII


SYBIL LUDINGTON’S MIDNIGHT RIDE (On My Own History series). Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by Greg Sheid. Silver Whistle. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-201817-4, $16.00. (P, I) This story tells of Squanto, who was taken captive and sold into slavery in Spain, only to be freed by monks and allowed to return to his home in America. His own people decimated by disease, Squanto eventually agrees to help the English who have arrived on the Mayflower, giving them invaluable help and advice as they brave a harsh winter. Accurate historic details coupled with richly-textured illustrations create a powerful version of the first Thanksgiving. Author’s Note. Glossary. (VDW) II, IV, I


SYBIL LUDINGTON’S MIDNIGHT RIDE (On My Own History series). Marsha Amstel. Illustrated by Ellen Beier. Carolrhoda. 48 pp. Library ISBN 0-57505-213-1, $21.27; Paperback ISBN 0-57505-436-6, $5.95 (First Avenue Editions). (P, I) This is the story of Sybil Ludington’s ride on horseback to rouse American soldiers to fight against the British who were attacking Danbury, Connecticut, during the American Revolution. Author’s Note. Afterward. (KET) IV, VI, III

UPTOWN. Bryan Collier. Illustrated by the author. Holt. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-5721-8. $15.95. (P, I) This wonderfully exuberant tour of Harlem is led by a young boy and features illustrations of Chicken and Waﬄe shops, the Apollo Theater, and luscious (literally) brownstone row houses covered in chocolate. The extraordinary watercolor and collage illustrations are a grand tribute to New York City’s Uptown Neighborhood. Use with all grade levels. (NKH) I, III, IV


A HISTORY OF BASKETBALL FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN: FROM BLOOMERS TO BIG LEAGUES, Joanne Lunnin. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Lerner. 144 pp. Library ISBN 0-8225-3334-6, $26.60; Paperback ISBN 0-8225-3333-8, $9.95 (First Avenue Editions). (M) This well-documented history of women’s basketball from the early twentieth century to the present day introduces readers to high-profile players in the Olympics and on professional teams. Further Reading. Index. (VDW) II, IV, III


TOOTSWORMS AND SPIDER JUICE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF DENTISTRY. Loretta Frances Ichord. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Millbrook. 96 pp. Library ISBN 0-7632-1665-2, $22.40. (M) This survey of dentistry traces its history from ancient civilizations up to the treatments and techniques of modern times. The text is augmented by a fascinating array of illustrations worthy of any curio shop, including a photograph of George Washington’s dentures, with a gold covered palate and a steel spring holding it all together. Source Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. (KET) VIII, II, IX

TOYS! AMAZING STORIES BEHIND SOME GREAT INVENTIONS. Laurie Keller. Holt. 128 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-6197-7, $15.95. (I) This fascinating collection of histories chronicles the invention, development, and success of a variety of toys and games. The inclusion of inventors’ early struggles, alternative toy uses, and sales figures adds to the interesting stories, as do the cartoon-like illustrations. Bibliography. Web Sites. (DLK) VII I


THE LAST BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE. Rodman Philbrick. Blue Sky. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-08758-9, $16.95. (F) Imaginative, intriguing, and engaging, this novel will capture the middle school reader whether read aloud or read alone. In addition to interesting characters and a nonstop plot, the story’s setting and language spark meaningful questions about power, authority, and governance. (TLL) IV, VI, V

THE LEGEND OF FREEDOM HILL. Linda Jacobs Altman. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Lee & Low. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-58439-003-3, $15.95. (I) Two American girls, African American Rosabel and Jewish Sophie, attempt to pan gold in order to buy back Sophie’s mom from slave traders. Amidst the California Gold Rush in the 1850s, the two girls give their town a lesson in what is important in the world. (DK) I, III, IV

Social Interactions and Relationships

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. Michael J. Rosen. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30838-1, $15.00. (I) Determining whether a Jewish boy and his dog should attend a St. Francis festival is the subject of this delightful story. As the boy and his mentors thoughtfully consider the question, strong relationships, respect for others, and stronger self-understandings unfold. (DLK) IV, V, I

BROOKLYN, BUGSY, AND ME. Lynnea Bowdish. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30993-0, $15.00. (I) Nine-year-old Sam moves from West Virginia to Brooklyn, where a growing relationship with his grandfather helps to ease his transition to city life. This easy-to-read chapter book is set in the 1950s. (ADM) IV, III


THE COPPER TIN CUP. Carol Lea Schaefer. Illustrated by Stan Fellows. Candlewick. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-7636-0471-2, $15.99. (P) Beautiful watercolor illustrations blend with simple text in a touching story that traces the ownership of an heirloom cup lovingly made and handed down through four generations. This picture book meaningfully captures the elements of family, love, and legacy. (DLK) IV, III, I

FARAWAY HOME. Jane Kurtz. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Gulliver. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-200036-4, $16.00. (P) Desta doesn’t want her father to return to Ethiopia to see his family and homeland. She seems afraid that he won’t return to his family. (JAA) IX, I, III


HEARTS LIKE HOMES. Linda Jacobs. Illustrated by Fei Wang. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30839-X, $15.95. (I) In the tradition of compare-and-contrast tales, this story explores the differences and similarities between the cultures of two U.S. states. The heartwarming theme of family love and commitment to culture is prevalent throughout the book. (ADM) I, III

Social Interactions and Relationships

THE LAST BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE. Rodman Philbrick. Blue Sky. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-08758-9, $16.95. (F) Imaginative, intriguing, and engaging, this novel will capture the middle school reader whether read aloud or read alone. In addition to interesting characters and a nonstop plot, the story’s setting and language spark meaningful questions about power, authority, and governance. (TLL) IV, VI, V

THE LEGEND OF FREEDOM HILL. Linda Jacobs Altman. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Lee & Low. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-58439-003-3, $15.95. (I) Two American girls, African American Rosabel and Jewish Sophie, attempt to pan gold in order to buy back Sophie’s mom from slave traders. Amidst the California Gold Rush in the 1850s, the two girls give their town a lesson in what is important in the world. (DK) I, III, IV

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World History and Culture


THE BUTTERFLY. Patricia Polacco. Illustrated by the author. Philomel. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23170-6. $16.99. F (Puffin) (P, I) Based on lives of the author’s relatives, this is the story of Sevrine, a young Jewish girl who hides from the Nazis in war-occupied France in the home of Monique and her family. In telling the unique tale of Monique and Sevrine’s friendship, Polacco also portrays the compassion and courage of the French Resistance. Author’s Note. (VDW) IV, II, III


FIREFLIES IN THE DARK: THE STORY OF FREIDL DICKER-BRANDEIS AND THE CHILDREN OF TEREZIN. Susan Goldman Rubin. Illustrated with photographs and prints. Holiday House. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1146-2. $18.95. (I) Photographs and reproductions of artwork created by Freidl and the children she taught depict the story of Terezin, a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia during WWII. Freidl not only taught art but also gave hope to those around her. Though only 100 children of the 15,000 imprisoned at Terezin survived, thousands of their drawings were saved, testimonies to their lives and spirits. References. Index. (VDW) IV, III, II

FORGING FREEDOM. Hudson Talbott. Illustrated by the author. Putnam’s. 64 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23434-9. $15.99. F (Puffin) (I, M) Talbott’s book is a tribute to his friend, Jaap Penraat, who saved over four hundred Jews during the Nazi occupation of Holland. Penraat forged documents and led sham construction crews to France, where the Underground helped the refugees get to Spain. After the war, Penraat was recognized by the Israeli Government with the medal of the Righteous Among the Nations. The illustrations are compelling. Author’s Note. (NKJ) III, V, X

MATILDA BONE. Karen Cushman. Clarion. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-80555-8, $15.00. (M) The often malodorous and roughneck world of medieval England comes to life as an orphan girl raised in the shelter of the church begins her apprenticeship with the town bonesetter. Author’s Note. (PN) II, I, IV


QUEEN’S OWN FOOL: A NOVEL OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS. Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris. Philomel. 416 pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23380-8, $19.99. (M) When twelve-year-old Nicola leaves her family’s traveling street troupe to become an official fool for Mary, Queen of Scots, she experiences the political and religious upheavals in both France and Scotland during the sixteenth century. Author’s Note. (KET) VI, III

SEVEN SPOOLS OF THREAD: A KWANZAA STORY. Angela Shelf Medearis. Illustrated by Daniel Mintzer. Whitman. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 0-8075-7315-9, $15.95. (I) When they are given the task of turning thread into gold, the seven Ashanti brothers learn to get along with each other and thus embody the principles of Kwanzaa. Author’s Note. Cloth WEARING Instructions. (DBK) I, III, IX

A SPECIAL FATE: CHIUNE SUGIHARA: HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST. Alison Leslie Gold. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic Press 176 pp. Trade ISBN 0-590-39525-4. $15.95. (M) Jeopardizing his career and his family’s lives, Japanese Vice Counsel to Lithuania Chiune Sugihara issued illegal visas to Jews desperately seeking to escape the Nazis. Sugihara issued 6,000 visas, and there are now 40,000 living descendents of “Sugihara survivors.” He was honored with Israel’s Righteous Among the Nations medal and by the Japanese government. Two survivors’ stories are included in this powerful and well-written addition to Holocaust literature. Author’s Note. Epilogue. (NKH) III, IV, V, X


THE YELLOW STAR: THE LEGEND OF KING CHRISTIAN X OF DENMARK. Carmen Aga Deedy. Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Peachtree. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 1-56145-208-4, $16.95. (I) Deedy tells a powerful legendary tale of King Christian’s commitment to keeping all Danes safe during Nazi times. Wearing the Yellow Star of David, King Christian and the citizens of Denmark were able to stand together against Nazi injustice in Copenhagen. Author’s Note. (VDW) II, IV, VI

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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 encouragements materials, write to The Children's Book Council, Attn: Catalog, 12 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018.

About National Council for the Social Studies

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/membership on the web.

Visit NCSS Online at www.socialstudies.org

Government and History

A Special Fate Chiune Sugihara: Hero of the Holocaust, written by Carmen Agra Deedy and illustrated by Hervé Tullet, is reprinted herewith by permission of Peachtree Publishers, Ltd.

This is a list of the NCSS-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee. Single copies are available for $2.00 and a self-addressed, 6” x 9”, stamped (3 oz.) envelope from CBC, Attn: Social Studies, 12 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018.

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