Notable Social Studies
Trade Books for Young People

Supplement to Social Education, The official Journal of National Council for the Social Studies

2008
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 2007 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 may be downloaded at www.cbbooks.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 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 PRACTICES

Parts of a Notable Listing
1. The titles marked with the key icon 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 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 2008 | 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 curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

2. Buffalo Sisters. 3. Jim Morrison. 4. Illustrated with various photographs.
8. $12.89.
9. (M, H)
11. (ABM)
12. III, V

2008 Book Review Committee Members
Chair, Kim D. O’Neil, Teacher, Liverpool Elementary School, Liverpool, N.Y.; Outreach Teacher Liaison, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University (KON)

Ann Claunch, Ph.D, Director of Curriculum, National History Day, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. (AC)

Nancy Fisher, Teacher, Kaposia Education Center, South Saint Paul, Minn. (NBF)

Beth Shroyer Fortino, 5th Grade Teacher, New Boston, Mich. (BSF)

Linda K. Graham, Library/Media Specialist, Clark Elementary School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cleveland, Ohio (LKG)

Lisa Lea Hardey, Library Media Teacher, Sprague High School, Pottstown, Penn. (LLH)

Terri L. Koehler, Assistant Principal, Pottsgrove Middle School, Pottstown, Penn. (TLK)

George B. Lipscomb, Assistant Professor, Education Department, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. (GBL)

Pat Nickell, NCSS President 1996–97, Writer and Curriculum Consultant, Austin, Tex. (PN)

Linda Tripp, retired elementary educator, Albuquerque, N. Mex. (LLT)

Matt Wachel, Kindergarten Teacher, Alexander Doniphan Elementary, Liberty, Mo. (MWW)

Marilyn J. Ward, Professor of Education, Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisc. (MJW)
Biography

Campy: The Story of Roy Campanella.

Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell, the One-Armed Explorer.
Written and illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-31838-3, $17.00. (I) This colorfully illustrated story details the experiences of a post-Civil War explorer of the American West. Excerpts from Powell’s own journal enrich the account. Author’s Note, Bibliography, Chronology. (GBL) II, III, IV

Frida: ¡Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!

Giants of Science: Marie Curie.

Jeannette Rankin: Political Pioneer.
Gretchen Woelfle. Illustrated with photographs. Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, Inc. 104pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59078-437-2, $18.95. (M) This story chronicles the life and evolution of America’s first congresswoman. Rankin, who underscored the importance of organizing, waged a tireless fight for peace, women’s suffrage, and social justice. Timeline, Bibliography, Source Notes, Index. (BSF) X, VI, V

Nothing But Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson.


Civic Ideals and Practices

978-157565-247-4, $5.95. (P, I) When one student accuses another of stealing his cupcake, the teacher sets the matter for Student Court. This book is filled with examples and definitions that will make your students want to have their own student court to resolve disputes. Publisher’s Note, Definitions, Making Connections. (MWW) X

**Contemporary Concerns**

**Being Bee.** Catherine Bateson. Holiday House. 136pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-2104-6, $16.95. (I, M) A wonderful story about Bee’s struggle to adjust to her widowed dad’s new girlfriend, Jazzi, and all the changes that Jazzi brings. (AC) IV

**Camel Rider.** Prue Mason. Charlesbridge. 208pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-314-5, $15.95. (M) When terrorists attack Adam’s city, he leaves the escape caravan and encounters Walid, who was sold into slavery as a camel rider. The story of their friendship, formed despite both language and cultural barriers, is narrated through alternating points of view. Introduction, Author’s Note. (NBF) VI, I

**Dear Author: Letters of Hope.** Top Young Adult Authors Respond to Kids’ Toughest Issues. Edited by Joan F. Kaywell. Philomel Books, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-23705-8, $14.99. (M, H) Fictional stories often mirror the trials and tribulations of growing up. This compilation of authentic fan mail to young adult authors, and their responses, illuminates the importance of the real issues portrayed in books. (AC) IV, V, VI


**Hair for Mama.** Kelly A. Tinkham. Illustrated by Amy June Bates. Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-2955-1, $16.99. (P, I) A beautifully illustrated story describes a family struggling to deal with Mama’s cancer and a little boy’s plan to give his mother his hair. The matter of chemo-induced baldness and a family photograph is addressed with heart-wrenching realism. (PN) I, V

**How to Steal a Dog.** Barbara O’Connor. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 176pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-33497-0, $16.00. (I, M) Told through the voice of young Georgina, who becomes homeless one day with her mother and brother, this story describes the hardship and struggle, and offers lessons about right and wrong. The plot is believable, and ultimately hopeful. (PN) I, V

**In the Name of God.** Paula Jolin. Roaring Brook Press. 208pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-211-6, $16.95. (M, H) A 17-year-old girl living in Damascus, Syria, Nadia is forced to make hard decisions when she finds herself drawn into the frightening world of militant Islamic fundamentalism. (TLK) I, IV, V


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**Economics**


**Environment/ Energy/Ecology**


**Folktales**


**Geography/People/Places**


History/Life and Culture in the Americas


Dadblamed Union Army Cow. Susan Fletcher. Illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-1578-9, $16.99. (I, M) Yes, it’s true! The author retells the humorous tale (with creative liberty) of a “celebrated cow” that marched with the Union Army during Civil War campaigns. Based on actual newspaper accounts. Author’s Note. (KON) V


Fire from the Rock.

Five Little Gefiltes. Written and illustrated by Dave Horowitz. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-24608-1, $12.99. (P) In this parody of Five Little Ducklings, five little gefilte fish (a traditional Jewish dish) set off on adventure as they explore their surroundings, in spite of their mother’s protests. Offers humorous insight into Yiddish culture. Glossary. (GBL) I, V

Gibson Girls and Suffragists: Perceptions of Women from 1900 to 1918


The Impossible Patriotism Project. Linda Skeers. Illustrated by Ard Hoyt. Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3138-7, $16.99. (P, I) Caleb struggles to come up with an idea for his patriotism project before Parents’ Night. He overcomes his disappointment that his dad won’t be present to see the project, but becomes inspired by the reason for his dad’s absence. (NBF) X


Pappy’s Handkerchief. Devin Scillian. Illustrated by Chris Ellison. Sleeping Bear Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-5853-6316-2, $17.95. (I) This story follows the difficult journey of young Moses and his family as they travel from
Maryland to Oklahoma in 1889, in anticipation of the opening of the territory. Author’s Note. (GBL) II, III, IV


**The Real Benedict Arnold.** Jim Murphy. Illustrated with archival prints. Clarion Books. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-395-77609-4, $20.00. (M) This thoughtful profile of the man whose name is synonymous with “traitor” forces readers to question Arnold’s reputation and consider the simplistic manner in which history is often portrayed. Bolstered by Arnold’s letters, writings, and documents of the time. Notes, Sources, and Related Asides, Index. (BSF) IV, V, II


**Who Was First? Discovering the Americas**, Russell Freedman. Illustrated with archival prints and photographs. Clarion Books. 96pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-66391-0, $19.00. (M, H) Archaeology, ruins, and legends appear to indicate that Columbus was not the first to encounter the Americas. Excellent research and wonderful photos help Freedman tell the story of other early explorers to America. Chapter Notes, Selected Bibliography. Index. (LKG) X, I

**Why?: The War Years** (A 26 Fairmount Avenue Book). Written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 26pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-24692-0, $14.99. (P, I) This addition to dePaola’s 26 Fairmount Avenue series explores World War II’s effects on American family life. Despite tragedy and sacrifice, a young boy learns that smiles and laughter still come quickly and often. (PN) II, IV, X


**Social Interactions/Relationships**


World History and Culture


Four Feet, Two Sandals. Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed. Illustrated by Doug Chayka. Eerdmans Books
for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-08028-5296-0, $17.00. (I) Two girls, whose families have fled Afghanistan and are living in a border refugee camp, each find one sandal from a clothing delivery. The sandals come to embody friendship, everyday life in camp, and separation. Author’s Note. (NBF) IX


Revolution is Not a Dinner Party. Ying Chang Compestine. Henry Holt and Company. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8207-4, $16.95. (I, M) A young girl comes of age in Mao’s China during the Cultural Revolution. The author draws on her own childhood experiences to immerse the reader in the events, fears, and hopes of this turbulent period. Author’s Note, Historical Background. (LLT) VI, I, IX


Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood. Ibtisam Barakat. Melanie Kroupa Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 192pp. 978-0-374-35733-7, $16.00. (H) In this powerful, eye-opening memoir, Ibtisam Barakat recounts vivid details of her life as a child whose world is broken by the Six-Day War. Throughout the chaos, she finds comfort in language and literacy. Historical Note, Map, Author’s Note, Annotated Resources, Websites. (MJW) II, I, IV

The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain. Written and illustrated by Peter Sis. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 56pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-34701-7, $18.00. (I, M) A wonderful memoir that tells of the struggles of growing up in the Cold War era of Communist Czechoslovakia. The simple text is enhanced with Sis’s journal entries and powerful illustrations. Author’s Note. (MWW) II, VI


www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable
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 and the Social Education, Social Education, 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.

The Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council is a not-for-profit trade association of publishers of trade books for children and producers of book-related materials for young people. CBC is the official sponsor of Children's Book Week. It cooperates on reading development projects with several national associations including NCSS. Other bibliographies on which the Children's Book Council cooperates are: Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Reprinted from the March issues of Science and Children, Science Scope, and The Science Teacher, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. Single copies are available for $5.00 Send orders to the CBC, attn: Outstanding Science, 12 W. 37th St., Floor 2, New York, N.Y., 10018. The list can also be found online at www.cbcbooks.org.

Children's Choices

Reprinted from the October issue of The Reading Teacher, a project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the CBC. Single copies are available for $1.00 and a self-addressed, 9" x 12", stamped (3 oz.) envelope from IRA, Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139. The reprint includes prices for bulk orders. Make checks payable to "International Reading Association." Visit CBC online at www.cbcbooks.org

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 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 available at www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable.

For information on membership and services, write to NCSS, 855 Sixth Street, Suite 500, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, call 301 588-1800, or visit www.socialstudies.org/membership. Visit NCSS online at www.socialstudies.org.

NCSS Publications

Director of Publications: Michael Simpson
Associate Editor: Jennifer Bauduy
Art Director: Rich Palmer
Publications Assistant: Chyi Yang

This list is a joint project of the NCSS and the Children's Book Council. Single copies are available from CBC for $5.00. Send orders to the Children's Book Council, attn: Social Studies, 12 West 37th Street, Floor 2, New York, NY 10018.

The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse by J. Patrick Lewis illustrated by various Civil War photographers, ©2007, used with permission of National Geographic Society.
Camping: The Story of Roy Campanella by David A. Adler, Gordon James, ©2007, used with permission of Viking Children's Books, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group.
M these Anaerobic Bacteria by G. Sr. W. B. Brown, ©2007, used with permission of Atheneum Books for Young Readers. This list is available online to NCSS members at members.ncss.org; prior year lists are available at www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable.

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