### 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 2011 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.cbcbooks.org/about/ourmembers. 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 *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**

### Parts of a Notable Listing

1. The titles marked with the green binoculars 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 2012
9. Reading levels:
   - P: Primary (K-2)
   - I: Intermediate (3-5)
   - M: Middle (6-8)
   - H: High (9-12)
10. They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles.
11. Brief descriptive annotation, plus notations of the presence of additional textual materials, if any.
12. Initials indicating the reviewer responsible for the annotation (see list at right).
13. Thematic strands of the curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

#### 2012 Book Review Committee Members

- **Chair**, Gregory Martin Imbur, Assistant Professor of Education, Goshen College, Goshen, Ind. (GMI)
- Kevin Michael Brown, Third Grade Teacher, West Street School, Granby, Mass. (KMB)
- Kristy Brugar, Doctoral Candidate in Curriculum, Teaching, and Policy at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. (KAB)
- Cynthia Grady, Head Librarian, Sidwell Friends Middle School, Washington, D.C. (CG)
- Eileen Veronica Hilke, Professor Emerita, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisc. (EVH)
- Kathleen Kavet, Social Studies Department, John F. Kennedy High School, Denver, Colo. (KK)
- Jennifer Lawless, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo, Ohio (JEL)
- Kim O'Neil, Third Grade Teacher, Liverpool Elementary, Liverpool, N.Y. (KON)
- Doug Selwyn, Professor, Plattsburgh State University, Plattsburgh, N.Y. (DS)
- Glenda Armand Sheppard, Teacher Librarian, David Starr Jordan High School, Los Angeles, Calif. (GAS)
- Scott Waters, Professor, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kans. (SW)

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<th>Title</th>
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<th>Author(s)</th>
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<td>Buffalo Sisters.</td>
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Biography

Diego Rivera: His World and Ours. Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-9731-8, $16.95. (P, I) This story chronicles the life of Diego Rivera as a young boy in Mexico City, his study of art in Spain and France, and the inspirations throughout his travels in Mexico for his world famous murals. Illustrations are inspired by Rivera’s murals. 2012 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Winner. Author’s Note, Bibliography, Glossary, “Some of the Places Where You Can Find the Work of Diego Rivera,” References. (KAB) 1, 2, 4, 9

Drawing from Memory. Allen Say. Scholastic Press. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-17686-6, $17.99. (M, H) This memoir, which is both narrative history and graphic novel, weaves together original cartoons, maps, paintings, and photographs, to recount Allen Say’s challenging path to becoming an artist in post-World War II Japan and the United States. Author’s Note. (KAB) 1, 9


The House Baba Built: An Artist’s Childhood in China. Ed Young as told to Libby Koponen. Illustrated by Ed Young, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-07628-9, $17.99. (I) Caldecott winner Ed Young’s childhood home, built by his father, becomes a refuge for friends and relatives in Shanghai during Japan’s invasion. All during the war, the home provides a sense of security and imagination for the young artist. Afterword, Author’s Note, Timeline. (KMB) 2, 3, 4


www.socialstudies.org/notable 3
**Me … Jane.** Patrick McDonnell. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-04546-9, $15.99. (P, I) This wonderful depiction of Jane Goodall's childhood—her love of nature and her curiosity about animals—is depicted in simple text fitting for younger readers. The final picture of Jane in Africa highlights for children that with enough determination, dreams can come true. Note about Jane Goodall, A Message from Jane. (GMI) 4, 8, 9

**Marco Polo: History's Great Adventurer.** Clint Twist. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-5286-9, $19.99. (I, M) Through the use of primary source documents and lift-the-flaps, the wondrous adventures of Marco Polo come to life. The unique format offers a creative approach for introducing readers to the world-renowned traveler's experiences along the Silk Road to medieval China. Primary source documents, foldouts, maps. (KON) 2, 9


**Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, A Civil War Hero.** Marissa Moss. Illustrated by John Hendrix. Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS. 48pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8109-9735-6, $18.95. (I, M) With large typography and bold, acrylic wash painting, Moss and Hendrix convey the incredible life story of Sarah Edmonds, who fought for the Union army disguised as a man and later became the only woman recognized as a Civil War veteran. Author's Note, Artist's Note, Glossary, Bibliography. (CG) 4


Contemporary Concerns


Environment/Energy/Ecology


Folktales


Geography/People/Places


History/Life & Culture in the Americas


Chasing the Nightbird. Krista Russell. Peachtree Publishers. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-56145-597-3, $15.95. (M, H) In 1851, New Bedford, Massachusetts, a diverse town of Cape Verdeans, Quakers, enslaved Africans, whalers, and others, a young boy befriends an escaped slave who is being pursued by slave hunters. The Fugitive Slave law is in effect and Quakers and other abolitionists are active in helping the enslaved get to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Author’s Note. (DS) 2, 4, 10


Good Fortune in a Wrapping Cloth. Joan Schoettler. Illustrated by Jessica Lanan. Shen’s Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-885008-40-4, $17.95. (P, I) Ji-su is determined to master the art of sewing bojangi, or Korean wrapping cloths, so that she can join her mother as a royal seamstress. Rich in cultural details with delicate paintings in warm hues. Glossary, Author’s Note. (CG) 1, 3, 4


**Illegal.** Bettina Restrepo. Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins publishers. 272pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-06-195342-2. (M, H) When her father does not return from the United States as promised, a Mexican girl convinces her mother that they should go to look for him. They soon learn what it means to be “illegal.” Glossary. (GAS) 1, 4, 3

**Jefferson’s Sons.** Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 368pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3499-9, $17.99. (M) Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, was a slave owner and is believed by most historians to have fathered children with one of those slaves. This work of historical fiction tells the story of life on Jefferson’s plantation through the eyes of slaves that were his children. Solidly researched, well narrated. Author’s Note. (DS) 2, 3, 4, 7, 10


**The Little Black Dress and Zoot Suits: Depression and Wartime Fashions from the 1930s to the 1950s.** Alison Marie Behnke. Twenty-First Century Books. 64pp. Library ISBN 978-0-7613-5892-3, $31.93. (M) Colorful photographs and informative commentary offer students a closer look at how fashion both reflects and influences culture. Timeline, Glossary, Notes, Bibliography, Further Reading, Websites and Films. (JW) 2, 3

**Lunch-Box Dream.** Tony Abbott. Frances Foster Books / Farrar Straus and Giroux, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group. 192pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-34673-7, $16.99. (I, M) Narrated from different perspectives, this is a moving tale about the North and South during the era of Jim Crow, through the experiences of two young boys, one white and one black. Author’s Note. (JW) 1, 2, 3
Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women’s Suffrage. Claire Rudolf Murphy. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Peachtree Publishers. 36pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-56145-593-5, $16.95. (P, I, M) This story is based on the real experiences of a 10-year-old girl’s political awakening after being introduced to Susan B. Anthony at a suffrage tea. Author’s Note, California Suffrage Campaign, Suffrage History, Further Resources. (KON) 2, 5, 6, 10

My Name is Not Easy. Deby Dahl Edwardson. Marshall Cavendish Children’s Books. 352pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7614-5980-4, $17.99. (M, H) Three Inupiaq children in Alaska are sent to a Catholic boarding school. Part of the school’s mission is to force them to abandon their language, spirituality, and cultural values. This is their story of resistance and struggle to return home. Based on the story of the author’s husband and his family. Author’s Note. (DS) 1, 5, 4, 2


The Town that Fooled the British: A War of 1812 Story. Lisa Papp. Illustrated by Robert Papp. Sleeping Bear Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58536-484-8, $16.95. (I) The War of 1812 has raged for a year, and now the shipbuilding town of St. Michaels, Maryland, is in the cross hairs of the British fleet. A young boy has an idea to fool the enemy and save his Chesapeake Bay town. Author’s Note. (SDW) 2, 3, 4


Reference


Social Interactions/Relationships


F is for Friendship: A Quilt Alphabet. Helen L. Wilbur. Illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. Sleeping Bear Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781585365326, $16.95. (I, M) This book examines the subject of quilting, as an art form as well as an item of utility. Topics include patterns, inventions, fabric choices, and many historical facts. Author’s Note, “Quilt Quiz.” (SDW) 1, 3


Phantoms in the Snow. Kathleen Benner Duble. Scholastic Press. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-19770-0, $17.99. (M, H) A fresh and engaging look into the legendary achievements of the Colorado 10th Mountain Division as soldiers rally against Hitler’s forces and fraternally adopt an orphan boy named Noah, who had been raised pacifist. Author’s Note, References, About the Author. (KK) 3, 4, 5


Wonderstruck. Brian Selznick. Scholastic Press. 656pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-02789-2, $29.99. (I, M) Parallel stories of hearing-impaired characters are set 50 years apart. The journeys of these two characters are chronicled in unique and creative ways. One journey is told through prose while the other is described by exceptional illustrations. Bibliography. (EVH) 4

World History & Culture


Between Shades of Gray. Ruta Sepetys. Philomel Books, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 344pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-25412-3, $17.99. (H) A vivid story about Stalin’s deportation of millions during World War II, as told through the eyes of a young Lithuanian girl who struggled to survive at a labor camp in Siberia. This story offers details about a period in history that should never be forgotten. Author’s Note. (JEL) 2
**Breaking Stalin’s Nose.** Eugene Yelchin. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group. 160pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-9216-5, $15.99. (M, H) An insightful story about living in the Soviet Union and the choices citizens faced on a daily basis. This is a story of how a young boy begins to question everything he had previously understood to be true about “Comrade Stalin” and the Soviet government. Author’s Note. (JEL) 2, 5, 6


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**Megan’s Year: An Irish Traveler’s Story.** Gloria Whelan. Illustrated by Beth Peck. Sleeping Bear Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58536-449-7, $16.95. (I) This fictional story of an itinerant family represents the 25,000 people in Ireland, known as travelers, who were thrown off their lands decades ago and have been roaming ever since in search of work. Told through the eyes of a young girl, it explores the culture of “the travelers”—the discrimination and the challenges. Author’s Note, Glossary. (DS) 1, 7, 3

**Mysterious Bones: The Story of Kennewick Man.** Katherine Kirkpatrick. Emma Stevenson. Holiday House. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-2187-9, $17.95. (M, H) Kennewick Man, one of the oldest and most complete human skeletons found on the North American continent, was discovered in 1996. An extended court case raised questions about anthropological and scientific gains versus respecting Native customs. The story is well told, and well documented. Glossary, Bibliography, Research and Source Notes, Timeline, Author’s Note, and In-Text Information Boxes. (DS) 2, 1, 8


**One Million Things: Ancient History.** DK Publishing. 128pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7566-8259-0, $18.99. (I, M, H) Supplements the ancient and world history standards; overflowing with fascinating details about artifacts and monuments that could spark independent research projects for inquisitive students. Timeline, Glossary, Photographs. (GAS) 1, 2, 3


**Terezín: Voices from the Holocaust.** Ruth Thomson. Candlewick Press. 64pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-4963-0, $18.99. (M, H) This is the story of Terezín, a town in Czechoslovakia, which the Nazis turned into a ghetto and then a camp where they imprisoned Jews during World War II. A moving and powerful story, told through the diary entries and artwork of those who were imprisoned. Timeline, Glossary, Sources, Index. (DS) 2, 5, 1


**Titanic Sinks!** Barry Denenberg. Viking, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 72pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-670-01243-5, $19.99. (M) In this portrayal of the Titanic and its doomed voyage, a series of original articles from 1908 to 1912 promote historical thinking and analysis. Author’s Note, Closing Note from Publisher, Photo Credits, and Bibliography. (GMI) 2, 3, 8

**The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic.** Allan Wolf. Candlewick Press. 480pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7636-3703-3, $21.99. (H) Poetic narratives by doomed passengers of the Titanic recreate the emotional impact of that fatal event. Additional narratives from the ship’s rat, from an undertaker, and from the iceberg add a unique perspective to this tragic event. Author’s Note, Bibliography. (EVH) 2

**Words in the Dust.** Trent Reedy. Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. 256pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-26125-8, $17.99. (I, M, H) Readers follow the story of Zulaikha, a 13-year-old Afghan girl with a cleft lip, who does not know how to read, as she strives to overcome physical and cultural obstacles. Pronunciation Guide, Glossary, Author’s Note, Recommended Reading List. (GAS) 1, 3, 4
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. The CBC offers children's publishers the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, literacy advocacy, and collaboration on development projects with other national organizations including NCSS. Every Child a Reader, the CBC Foundation, is responsible for managing Children's Book Week.

Other bibliographies on which the CBC 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. Send orders to the Children's Book Council, attn: Outstanding Science, 54 West 39th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10018. This list can also be found online at www.cbcbooks.org/reading lists/outstandingscience.

Children's Choices
Reprinted from the October issue of The Reading Teacher, a joint project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the CBC. Single copies are available for $1.00 and a self-addressed stamped 9×12 envelope. For multiple copies of annotated lists, send $9 for 10 copies, $50 for 100 copies, or $185 for 500 copies. All prices include shipping and handling. Checks, payable to the International Reading Association, should be sent to IRA. Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139.

Visit the CBC online at www.cbcbooks.org.

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 their membership benefits, NCSS members receive a subscription to Social Education or Social Studies and the 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.

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, 54 West 39th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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/notable.

For information on membership and services, e-mail membership@ncss.org, call 301-588-1800, or visit www.socialstudies.org/membership. NCSS is located at 8555 Sixteenth Street, Suite 500, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Visit NCSS online at www.socialstudies.org.

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Associate Editor: Jennifer Bauduy
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Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2012