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 2018 and were written for children in grades K-12. The Book Review Committee looks for books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity of groups and are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality, have a pleasing format, and, where appropriate, include illustrations that enrich the text. Each book is read by several reviewers, and books are included on the list by committee assent; the annotations do not necessarily reflect the judgment of the entire committee.

Publishers’ addresses are available in standard reference works such as Children’s Books in Print (R.R. Bowker) and Literary Market Place (R.R. Bowker), and from CBC. CBC’s Members List is available at www.cbcbooks.org/membership/member-list.

Titles are arranged by broad subject categories. Although many are appropriate for more than one category, they have been placed where their usefulness in social studies education appears greatest. Annotators have also indicated the thematic strands (shown below) from National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, to which the book relates.

Thematic Strands of the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

1. CULTURE
2. TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
3. PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
4. INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY
5. INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
6. POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE
7. PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION
8. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY
9. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
10. CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

Key to a Notable Listing
1. The titles marked with an asterisk are Selectors’ Choices—books that individual committee members responded to with particular enthusiasm. 2. Title: Subtitle 3. Author(s) 4. Illustrator 5. Publisher. 6. Number of pages 7. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) 8. Price as of January 2019 9. Reading levels: P: Primary (K-2), I: Intermediate (3-5), M: Middle (6-8), H: High (9-12). They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles. 10. Brief descriptive annotation, plus notations of the presence of additional textual materials, if any. 11. Initials indicating the reviewer responsible for the annotation (see list at right). 12. Thematic strands of the national curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People Reviewers

Jen Reiter (Chair), Third Grade Teacher, Gilman School, Baltimore, Md. (JR)
Beverly Milner (Lee) Bisland, Associate Professor, Queens College of the City University of New York, Flushing, N.Y. (BMB)
Tina Buster, Teacher Librarian, Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, Wash. (TB)
Eric Groce, Professor, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. (EG)
Wendy Harris, Social Studies Teacher, Metro Deaf School, St. Paul, Minn. (WH)
Kim Heckart, Third Grade Teacher, Prairie Ridge Elementary, College Community School District, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (KH)
Kurt Johnson, Program Director, Teacher Education, Brigham Young University–Hawaii, Laie, Hawaii. (KJ)
Jennifer (Vandenberg) Pontius, World History Teacher, Mariner High School, Everett, Wash. (JP)
Ritu Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, N.Y. (RR)
Bethany L. Scullin, Assistant Professor of Literacy, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga. (BLS)
Holly Hilboldt Swain, Program Coordinator for Early Childhood and Elementary Education and Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (HHS)
The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor

Betty Before X.

Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery

The Big, Bold, Adventurous Life of Lavinia Warren.

Bloom: A Story of Fashion Designer Elsa Schiaparelli

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13

Elizabeth Warren: Nevertheless, She Persisted
Susan Wood. Illustrated by Sarah Green. ABRAMS Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781419731624, $18.99. (I, M) This biography chronicles the life of Elizabeth Warren, from school girl to senator, including her family’s economic struggles. Along the way, she developed a deep conviction in using the power of words to fight for those in need. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography. (KH)  

Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, A Monumental American Man
Tonya Bolden. ABRAMS Books for Young Readers. 208pp. Trade ISBN 9781419725463, $19.99. (I, M) This engaging biography, filled with period photography, quotes, and other primary sources, goes beyond many of the usual descriptions and anecdotes to reveal the breadth of Frederick Douglass’s service and persona. Includes Author’s Note, Poem by Robert Hayden, Timeline, Notes, Selected Sources. (ECG)  

First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great
of 36 immigrants and refugees who have shaped the United States in meaningful and impactful ways. Includes Illustrator’s Note, Ways to Be a Trailblazer, Resource List, Bibliography. (KJ) 

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams. Lesa Cline-Ransome. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing/Paula Wiseman Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781452148571, $17.99. (P, I) This unique biography presents background information and several viable options for 10 key decisions in Lincoln’s life. The reader is encouraged to select one, then Lincoln’s actual decision is revealed. Includes Timeline, Additional Resources, Recommended Reading and Websites, Authors’ Note. (WH) 


History vs Women: The Defiant Lives that They Don’t Want You to Know. Anita Sarkeesian and Ebony Adams. Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Feiwel & Friends. 144pp. Trade ISBN 9781250146731, $19.99. (H) A thoughtful collection of women’s biographies, spanning centuries and the globe. Includes “Ruthless Villains” to “recognize that women are fully human and are ... capable of the heights of heroism ... or the depths of wickedness.” Includes Introduction, Afterword, Source Notes, Bibliography. (WH) 


Irving Berlin: The Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing. Nancy Churnin. Illustrated by James Rey Sanchez. Creston Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781939547446, $17.99. (I) This is an inspiring rags-to-riches story of “a homeless boy who came to America with nothing but music in his heart” and wrote many iconic songs including “God Bless America.” Includes Author’s Note, Timeline. (ECG) 

It’s Up to You, Abe Lincoln. Tom and Leila Hirschfeld. Random House Children’s Books / Crown BYR. 304pp. Trade ISBN 9780553509533, $16.99. (I, M) This unique biography presents background information and several viable options for 10 key decisions in Lincoln’s life. The reader is encouraged to select one, then Lincoln’s actual decision is revealed. Includes Timeline, Additional Resources, Recommended Reading and Websites, Authors’ Note. (WH) 


Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotten. Laura Veirs. Illustrated by Tanya Fazlalizadeh. Chronicle Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781452148571, $17.99. (I) This picture book biography chronicles the life of Elizabeth “Libba” Cotten, whose childhood dream of playing guitar and being a songwriter was deferred until her 50s. She recorded her first album in her 60s. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography. (TB) 


Someday is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins. Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich. Illustrated by Jade Johnson. The Quarto Group / Seagrass Press. 36pp. Trade ISBN 9781633224988, $17.95. (I) Clara Luper grew up in “separate not equal” times and vowed to change them. As a teacher, she led students in peaceful demonstrations to integrate lunch counters in Oklahoma City. Includes More about Clara Luper, Steps of Nonviolent Resistance, Glossary. (ECG)  

Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Environmental Movement. Stephanie Roth Sisson. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781626728196, $17.99. (P) Rachel Carson, a writer and scientist who studied the interconnectedness of all living things, showed that humans and the chemicals they use have a tremendous effect on the environment. Her dedication and perseverance led to the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Includes Author's Note, Notes, Bibliography, Source Notes. (BLS)  


www.socialstudies.org/notable


What Would She Do?: 25 True Stories of Trailblazing Rebel Women. Kay Woodward. Illustrated by various illustrators. Scholastic Press. 112pp. Trade ISBN 9781338216400, $16.99. (I, M) What can we learn from incredible women throughout history? This informational biography not only shares the stories of 25 trailblazing women, such as Marie Curie, Malala Yousafzai, and Frida Kahlo, but also helps young readers think, “What would she do?” Includes Timeline, Index. (KJ)  

When Angels Sing: The Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana. Michael Mahin. Illustrated by Jose Ramirez. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Atheneum BYR. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781338440413, $17.99. (I, M) As a boy, when Carlos Santana listened to his father play violin, it was like hearing angels sing. As he grew up, he played different instruments in search of the sound that could “make angels sing.” Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography, Further Listening. (DTG)  

Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present. Jamia Wilson. Illustrated by Andrea Pippins. The Quarto Group / Wide-Eyed Editions. 64pp. Trade ISBN 9781786031587, $22.99. (I) A vibrantly illustrated, inviting collection of stories about inspiring changemakers of color, including well known figures such as Nelson Mandela and Maya Angelou, and others who are little known. Perfect to use as a springboard for deeper research. Includes Glossary. (ECG)  

CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS


Blended. Sharon M. Draper. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Atheneum BYR. 320pp. Trade ISBN 9781442495005, $16.99. (M) This timely book highlights the experiences of an eleven-year-old child, with a black father and white mother, as she deals with divorce, racism, and police brutality. Includes Author’s Note. (WH)  

Blood Water Paint. Joy McCullough. Penguin Young Readers / Dutton Books for Young Readers. 304pp. Trade ISBN 9780735232112, $17.99. (H) In the 1600s, at a time when female painters were not widely accepted, Artemisia Gentileeschi became one of the most accomplished painters of her generation. She is also known for having participated in the prosecution of a painter who raped her. This is a historical novel with a strong message of female empowerment. Includes Afterword, Resources for survivors of sexual violence. (JR)  


Escape from Aleppo. N. H. Senzai. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Paula Wiseman Books. 336pp. Trade ISBN 9781481472173, $16.99. (M) Fourteen-year-old Nadia is forced to flee war-torn Aleppo and is separated from her family. This novel personalizes the current international refugee crisis and illuminates the culture and history of a country in conflict. Includes Author’s Note. (KJ)  


Ghost Boys. Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 224pp. Trade ISBN 9780316262286, $16.99. (I, M) In this powerful history-blending narrative, 12-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer. He joins several other ghost boys whose deaths were connected to racial bigotry, including Emmett Till. Includes Afterword, Discussion Questions, Resources. (TB)  

www.socialstudies.org/notable


I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor’s Story of Sexual Assault, Justice, and Hope. Chessy Prout with Jenn Abelson. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing/ Margaret K. McElderry Books. 416pp. Trade ISBN 9781534414433, $18.99. (H) Chessy Prout tells the story of being sexually assaulted by another student during her freshman year of high school. She sheds light on the institutions that enabled her assault, documents court cases, and chronicles the backlash from her boarding school. Includes Author’s Note, Letter From Susan and Alex Prout (Chessy’s parents), Additional Resources. (JP) 000

Illegal. Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Illustrated by Giovanni Rigano. Sourcebooks / Jabberwocky. 144pp. Trade ISBN 9781492665832, $19.99. (M) Poignant graphic novel that traces 12-year-old Ebo’s journey from Ghana to Europe in a struggle to join his sister in safety. The authors have worked hard to ensure the accuracy of this work of fiction. Includes Map of Ebo’s Journey, Creator’s Note, Helen’s Journey, Sketchbook. (JR) 000


Love Is Love. Michael Genhart, PhD, Ken Min. Sourcebooks / Little Pickle Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 981939775139, $18.99. (P, I) A straightforward story demonstrating that gay families and straight families and everything in between are simply different kinds of normal. What makes a family real is the love that is shared. Includes Note to Kids, Note to Parents and Caregivers, Questions, Author’s Note, Additional Resources. (KH) 000

Marvelous Maravilloso: Me and My Beautiful Family. Carrie Lara, Psy.D. Illustrated by Christine Battuz. Magination Press. 32pp. Trade 9781433828560, $16.99. (P) Told from the point of view of an interracial child exploring the colors of the world and what color means with regard to race, ethnicity, and culture. Includes a note to parents and caregivers to help with conversations of skin color and discrimination. (KH) 000


Miss Pinkeltink’s Purse. Patty Brozo. Illustrated by Ana Ochoa. Tilbury House Press. 36pp. Trade ISBN 9780884486268, $17.95. (I) Told in rhyming text, Miss Pinkeltink presents a way to introduce kids to charity, social outreach, and homelessness. Includes Resources. (KH) 000


My Life as a Diamond. Jenny Manzer. Orca Book Publishers. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9781459818316, $10.95. (I, M) Caz Cadman is a baseball ace and a transgender boy. With support from his family, he confronts the issues and decisions he must make as he transitions into his new identity. (BMB) 000

Nevertheless, We Persisted: 48 Voices of Defiance, Strength, and Courage. Foreword by Senator Amy Klobuchar. Random House Children’s Books / Alfred A. Knopf BYR. 320pp. Trade ISBN 9781252477196, $18.99. (H) Listen to the voices of 48 individuals who recount not only challenges and hardships but the ways they stood strong in the face of adversity. Includes About the Contributors, Discussion Questions. (DTG) 000


Someone New. Written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O’Brien. Charlesbridge. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781580898317, $16.99. (P, I) Three students try to understand three immigrant students: Maria from Guatemala, Jin from South Korea, and Fatimah from Somalia. The book presents perspectives on immigrant experiences and offers early readers an opportunity to learn about diversity, inclusion, and developing friendships. Includes Author’s Note. (RR) 


A Story Like the Wind. Gill Lewis. Illustrated by Jo Weaver. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 80pp. Trade ISBN 9780802855145. $16.00 (I, M) While a group of refugees are adrift in the Mediterranean, one boy with a violin weaves a tale with music about a horse whose freedom cannot be taken from him. A story of hope, faith, and the search for freedom. (BMB) 

Undocumented: A Worker’s Fight. Written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. ABRAMS / Abrams ComicArts. 26pp. Trade ISBN 9781419728549, $19.99. (H) This unique graphic novel is told in ancient Mixtec codex, accordion fold style. Juan arrives in the United States as an undocumented worker and goes on to lead the fight for equal rights for all his fellow restaurant workers. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography. (BMB) 

We Are All That’s Left. Carrie Arcos. Penguin Young Readers / Philomel Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780399175541, $17.99. (H) A bomb explosion at a farmers’ market leaves Zara with PTSD and searching for answers about her family history, while her mother is in a coma. Addresses the Bosnian war and generational effects of trauma. Includes Author’s Note, References, Glossary. (WH) 


GEOGRAPHY/PEOPLES/PLACES

Outside My Window. Linda Ashman. Illustrated by Jamey Christoph. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780802854650, $17.00. (P) This charming book shows the connections between kids from around the world, highlighting that we all see different things outside our windows, but we also share many things in common. Includes Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Locations. (DTG) 

Saffron Ice Cream. Written and illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh. Scholastic / Arthur A. Levine Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781338105020, $17.99. (P) An Iranian girl is excited and nervous for her first beach trip in her new home. Based on the author’s childhood, this colorful picture book shows that fun and friendship can be found anywhere. (KJ) 

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY/ECOLOGY

**The Dam.** David Almond. Illustrated by Levi Pinfold. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763695972, $17.99. (P, I) A father and daughter visit a scenic valley one last time, before it is intentionally flooded by a dam. Based on actual events, this wistful picture book pays homage to “loss, hope and the power of folk music to transcend time.” Includes Author’s Note. (KJ)

**The Fishing Lesson.** Heinrich Böll. Illustrated by Emile Bravo. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 44pp. Trade ISBN 9780802855039, $17.00. (P) While photographing a fisherman napping in a boat, a tourist imagines the business possibilities if only the fisherman went out for a second, third, or fourth catch. The fisherman, however, has other priorities. (JP)

**I Wish It Would Snow!** Written and illustrated by Sarah Dillard. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Aladdin. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9781534406766, $17.99. (P) A bunny wishes for snow when there is none and no snow when there is a lot. The message is to be careful what you wish for and to enjoy the moment. (BMB)


**National Parks of the U.S.A.** Kate Siber. Illustrated by Chris Turnham. The Quarto Group / Wide-Eyed Editions. 112pp. Trade ISBN 9781847809766, $30.00. (I) Big, beautiful, and bursting with facts! This informational text features nostalgic illustrations and descriptions of the geography, flora, fauna, and notable features from each national park. Includes You Can Help the National Parks, Index. (ECG)


**FOLKTALES**


**HISTORY/LIFE & CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**


**Blacklisted!: Hollywood, the Cold War, and the First Amendment.** Larry Dane Brimmer. Boyds Mills Press / Calkins Creek. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9781620916032, $17.95. (M) A well-researched informational account of the Hollywood Ten and their battle against Congress for their First Amendment rights during the Cold War. Includes Author’s Note, Bibliography, Source Notes. (ECG)

**Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam.** Elizabeth Partridge. Penguin Young Readers / Viking BYR. 224pp. Trade ISBN 9780670785063, $22.99. (H) Powerful informational text and photos teach about the Vietnam War through the stories of those involved—from American soldiers, nurses, refugees, leaders, protest singers, to the designer of the monument. Language appropriate to the era is used in primary source references. Teachers should make note of a typo on page 93 regarding Nixon’s first day in office. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography. (JR)

**Capsized! The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster.** Patricia Sutton. Chicago Review Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9781613739433, $17.99. (I, M) This book reveals the little-known historical event of a ship that capsized in 20 feet of water while it was moored to the dock in the middle of Chicago, taking more lives than the Titanic tragedy. Includes Epilogue, Author’s Note, Notes, Bibliography. (ECG)
Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr's Assassin. James L. Swanson. Scholastic Press. 384pp. Trade ISBN 9780545723336, $19.99. (M, H) Published in the 50th anniversary year of Dr. King’s assassination, this book offers an informational and contextual account of the event and subsequent manhunt. Primary documents help elucidate events prior to, during, and post-assassination and highlight the impact of Dr. King’s murder on American history. Includes Foreword by Congressman John Lewis, Bibliography, Additional Resources. (HHS) ☀️☀️


The Eye That Never Sleeps: How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln. Marissa Moss. Illustrated by Jeremy Holmes. ABRAMS Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9781419730641, $17.99. (I) This visually appealing nonfiction book introduces young readers to one of America’s greatest detectives, Allan Pinkerton. Among his accomplishments: protecting Lincoln on the way to his 1861 inauguration. Includes Timeline, Artist’s Note, Author’s Note, Endnotes, Bibliography, Index. (JR) ☀️


Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America’s First Bookmobile. Sharlee Glenn. ABRAMS Books for Young Readers. 56pp. Trade ISBN 9781419728574, $18.99. (I) Unconventional and unavering in her commitment, the local librarian, Miss Titcomb, decided to bring books to people in rural Washington County, Maryland, by way of a revolutionary “book wagon,” changing libraries forever. Includes Author’s Note, Notes, Select Bibliography. (ECG) ☀️☀️

Martin and Bobby: A Journey Toward Justice. Claire Rudolf Murphy. Chicago Review Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9781641600101, $17.99. (M) Informational text follows the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, showing how the two became allies in the fight against racism and poverty. Young readers will appreciate the pages filled with primary source photos. Includes Author’s Note, Timeline, Places to Visit, Notes, Bibliography. (JR) ☀️☀️


The School’s on Fire!: A True Story of Bravery, Tragedy, and Determination. Rebecca C. Jones. Chicago Review Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 9780912777627. $17.99. (M) This is a gripping room-by-room account of a large school fire that became the impetus for changes in fire laws. Explains the origin for current U.S. fire safety laws and practices. Includes What to Do in Case of Fire, Learn More, Notes. (WH) ●●


Skyward: The Story of Female Pilots in WWII. Sally Deng, Nobrow / Flying Eye Books. 88pp. Trade ISBN 9781911171881, $24.00. (I) The story of three women who, separated by borders, shared the same dream—to help their country in World War II as pilots. Subtle pastel illustrations complement the intertwined biographies of ladies who overcame obstacles to become heroines. Includes Author Notes, Bibliography. (ECD) ●●●

Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America. Gail Jarrow. Boyds Mills Press / Calkins Creek. 144pp. Trade ISBN 9781629797762, $18.95. (M) This nonfiction book explores the production and aftermath of Orson Welles’s airing of War of the Worlds, which convinced thousands of people that aliens were invading. A riveting read in this age of fake news. Filled with primary sources. Includes Timeline, Additional Resources, Author’s Note, Source Notes, Bibliography. (DTG) ●●

The Survivor Tree: Oklahoma City’s Symbol of Hope and Strength. Gaye Sanders. Illustrated by Pamela Behrend. The RoadRunner Press. 44pp. Trade ISBN 9781937054496, $20.00. (I) Accompanied by beautiful pictures, this is a touching story of a witness to a tragic event in U.S. history—one that shows that love will always conquer hate. Includes In Memoriam. (DTG) ●●

Two Roads. Joseph Bruchac. Penguin Young Readers/ Dial Books. 320pp. Trade ISBN 9780735228863. $16.99. (M) This compelling story of a Creek boy and his World War I veteran father during the Great Depression addresses racism, the Bonus Army, homeless culture, the positives and negatives of Indian Schools, and Indian history. Includes Afterword. (WH) ●●
Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth. Sheila O’Connor. Penguin Young Readers / G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers. 368pp. Trade ISBN 9780399161933, $16.99. (M) This unique snapshot of the Vietnam War era shows a young girl’s correspondence with the town recluse as she wrestles with different perspectives on war, the effects of the draft, and the meaning of nonviolence. Includes Author’s Note, Resources. (WH) ☞

The War Outside. Monica Hesse. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 336pp. Trade ISBN 9780316316699, $17.99. (H) In an internment camp for enemy aliens, Margot, a German American, and Haruko, a Japanese American, worry about each of their fathers’ wartime sympathies, while debating whether to deny or give in to the friendship growing between them. Includes A Note on Historical Accuracy. (JP) ☞


SELF-IDENTITY

The ABCs of What I Can Be. Written and illustrated by Caitlin McDonagh. Holiday House. 40pp. Trade ISBN 9780823437825, $17.99. (P) This alphabet picture book for early readers showcases a wide variety of gender-neutral careers. Children will notice an array of occupations while seeing themselves reflected in engaging illustrations. A is for archeologist, U is for upholsterer, and Z is for Zumba instructor! Includes Author’s Note. (HHS) ☞

Alma and How She Got Her Name. Written and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763693558, $15.99 (P) Alma thinks her name is too long! Her father shares the origins of Alma’s six names through family history which helps her understand how she is shaped by those who came before her and that she will add to their stories with her own. Includes Author’s Note. (HHS) ☞


Imagine. Juan Felipe Herrera. Illustrated by Lauren Castillo. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763690526, $16.99. (P) Dedicated to “All dreamers,” this text serves as an illustrated poem of hope and potential. U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera tells his personal history with a repeated phrase, illuminating the opportunities we all have awaiting us if we only dare to imagine. (HHS) ☞

Perfectly Norman. Written and illustrated by Tom Percival. Bloomsbury’s Children’s Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9781681197852, $16.99. (P) Norman always thought he was normal until he grew wings! Fearful of being different, he struggles to accept himself. This delightful picture book celebrates accepting differences and recognizes that there is no such thing as normal. (BLS) ☞

Picture Us in the Light. Kelly Loy Gilbert. Disney-Hyperion. 368pp. Trade ISBN 9781484726020, $17.99. (H) Having accepted a scholarship to art school while also struggling with his identity, Danny discovers the shocking truth about his family’s past: his sister was left behind in China. He must confront what was given up for his life in the United States. Includes Resources for Suicide Prevention. (JR) ☞

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS/RELATIONSHIPS


Captain Superlative! J.S. Puller. Disney-Hyperion. 256pp. Trade ISBN 9781368004275, $16.99. (I, M) Every middle school needs a superhero who does good deeds! Happy to remain in the shadows, Janey comes outside of her shell as a trusty sidekick. When she learns of her superhero’s terminal illness, she faces her insecurities and becomes a hero herself. (JR) ☞


Merci Suárez Changes Gears. Meg Medina. Candlewick Press. 368pp. Trade ISBN 9780763690496, $16.99. (I, M) The love of her Cuban American family sustains Merci through the challenges of being a scholarship student in a private school and the heartbreaking illness that is changing her beloved grandfather. Includes Author’s Note. (TB)  


Phone Call with a Fish. Silvia Vecchini. Illustrated by Sualzo Vincenti. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 9780802885107, $17.00. (P, I) A boy sits in class at the desk near the window and doesn’t speak. Told from the perspective of a girl in his class who tries to understand why he stays silent. A school trip to the aquarium reveals that there are other ways to communicate. (RR)  

A Quiet Kind of Thunder. Sara Barnard. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Simon Pulse. 400pp. Trade ISBN 9781534402416, $18.99. (H) Sara Barnard introduces the reader to two high school students—Steffi and Rhys (one selective mute and one deaf)—who find their “voices” through the relationship they form with each other. Includes Author’s Note. (DTG)  


WORLD HISTORY & CULTURE

1968: Today’s Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution, and Change. Edited by Marc Aronson and Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Candlewick Press. 208pp. Trade ISBN 9780763689933, $18.99. (M, H) 1968 was a year of historical significance with lasting impacts. Several authors explore significant events while including their own experiences and perceptions of a part of history that is often overlooked in textbooks and traditional readings. Includes Author Notes, Source Notes, Selected Bibliography. (RR)  


The Island at the End of Everything. Kiran Millwood Hargrave. Random House Children’s Books / Alfred A. Knopf BYR. 256pp. Trade ISBN 9780553535327, $16.99. (M) Born on Culion Island to a mother with leprosy, Amihan is untouched by the disease. When quarantine policies change, she is sent away by an evil government worker, but Amihan must get back to her mother. Includes Author’s Note.


Mapping the Bones. Jane Yolen. Penguin Young Readers / Philomel Books. 432pp. Trade ISBN 9780399257780, $17.99. (H) Poland in 1942 is not a safe place for Jewish twins. This intense historical fiction details how, despite the brutality and despair of the Holocaust, love between a brother and sister can flourish. Includes Author’s Note, Map.


Ramadan: The Holy Month of Fasting. Ausma Zehanat Khan. Orca Book Publishers. 88pp. Trade ISBN 9781459811812, $24.95. (I, H) Ramadan is a Muslim holy month that involves the religious practice of fasting. The author provides a thoughtful overview of what Ramadan is, the stages, the spirit, and traditions around the world. Filled with colorful photographs, recipes, and individual stories. Includes Glossary, Resources.


Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Albert Marrin. Random House Children’s Books / Alfred A. Knopf BYR. 208pp. Trade ISBN 9780763694999, $16.99. (I, H) This book introduces readers to the Wurundjeri people, who believe people are part of the land and that the land is part of them. Both author and illustrator are members of aboriginal communities in Australia. They use their experiences and insight to depict the rich and artistic culture of the Wurundjeri. (RR) 4 4 4 4 4

Welcome to Country: A Traditional Aboriginal Ceremony. Aunty Joy Murphy. Illustrated by Lisa Kennedy. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 9780763694999, $16.99. (I, H) This book introduces readers to the Wurundjeri people, who believe people are part of the land and that the land is part of them. Both author and illustrator are members of aboriginal communities in Australia. They use their experiences and insight to depict the rich and artistic culture of the Wurundjeri. (RR) 4 4 4 4 4


The Children’s Book Council
The Children’s Book Council is the nonprofit trade association of children’s book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children’s publishers the opportunity to work together on issues important to the industry at large, including educational programming, literacy advocacy, and collaborations with other national organizations including NCSS. The Children’s Book Council helps instill a life-long love of reading in children as a major donor to Every Child a Reader, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which administers Children’s Book Week, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Program, and the Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards. Learn more at cbcbooks.org.

Other bibliographies on which the CBC cooperates:

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students
Reprinted in the June issues of Science and Children, Science Scope, and The Science Teacher, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. For information on how to obtain a copy of this booklet, contact the Children’s Book Council at cbc.info@cbcbooks.org. This list can also be found at www.cbcbooks.org/outstanding-science.

Best STEM Books for K-12 Students
Published in the March issues of NSTA’s K-12 journals and online, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. For information contact CBC at cbc.info@cbcbooks.org. This list can also be found at http://www.cbcbooks.org/best-stem/.

Children’s Choices
Reprinted in the June issue of The Reading Teacher, a joint project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the CBC. Annotated lists are available online at www.cbcbooks.org/childrens-choices.

National Council for the Social Studies
National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) is a professional, non-profit association for social studies teachers and educators at all levels from early childhood through college. It engages and supports teachers in strengthening and advocating social studies.

NCSS publishes two major journals. Social Education addresses all levels of the profession, offering articles whose subjects range from the latest research to practical classroom ideas. Social Studies and the Young Learner is devoted to K-6 social studies education, meeting teachers’ needs for new information and effective teaching activities. Middle Level Learning, which provides ideas and activities for the middle grades, is an online supplement to NCSS periodicals published three times a year.

As part of membership benefits, NCSS members receive a subscription to Social Education or Social Studies and the Young Learner. All members can access the online NCSS newsletter, The Social Studies Professional, with professional news, opportunities, resources for teachers, workshops, travel and study programs, and NCSS activities. NCSS developed and published the national social studies standards, 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 free 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.

This list is a joint project of NCSS and the Children’s Book Council. Single copies are available from the Children’s Book Council, attn.: Social Studies, 54 West 39th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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