Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

2005
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 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 2004 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.

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 PRACTICES

2005 BOOK REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Amy Camardese, assistant professor of education, Westminster College New Wilmington, PA. (AHC)
- Anne Fitzpatrick, consulting teacher, Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, WA. (AEP)
- Barbara A. Gallo, social studies teacher, Marlboro Middle School, Marlboro, NJ. (BAG)
- Joe Gotchy, teacher and senior consultant, Asia Society, Auburn, WA. (JG)
- Eric Chandler Groce, assistant professor at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. (ECG)
- Jean Hefferle Kobeski, fourth grade teacher, Walpole Elementary School, Walpole, NH. (JHK)
- Motoko Lynn Maegawa, middle school social studies teacher at Kingsbury School, Oxford, MI. (MLM)
- Diane McCarty, associate professor of education, Wartburg College, Waverly, IA. (DMM)
- Janine M. Schall, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX. (JMS)
- Paige Lilley Schulte, assistant professor of education, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA. (PLS)
- Karen R. Todorov, social studies education consultant, Michigan Department of Education, Lansing, MI. (KRT)
- Karen Holland Wilkins, middle school teacher, Hillsborough County School District, Tampa, FL. (KHW)

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
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 2005
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 above).
12. Thematic strands of the curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list at left).

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN


The Pied Piper of Hamelin carillon adds to the charm of historic Covington, Kentucky. Author’s Note. Bibliography. (ABM) I, IV

F: (W)
**Biography**


**GARGOYLES, GIRDERS & GLASS HOUSES: MAGNIFICENT MASTER BUILDERS.** Bo Zaunders. Illustrated by Roxie Munro. Dutton Children’s Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 0-525-47284-3, $17.99. F (Puffin Books). (I) From domes to mosques, bridges, towers, and skyscrapers, master builders are behind the creation of the world’s most stunning structures. The author describes the challenges faced by the builders, as well as their genius, obsession, and passion. Bibliography. (JG) III, VIII, IX

**GEORGE WASHINGTON: AN ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY.** David A. Adler. Illustrated with prints. Holiday House. 274pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1838-3, $24.95. (M) This is a comprehensive and copiously illustrated overview of the life and times of America’s first president. Index, Bibliography, Websites, Source Notes, Timeline. (JHK) V

**GRANDMA MOSES.** Written and illustrated by Alexandra Wallner. Holiday House. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1538-4, $16.95. (P, I) The paintings of Anna Mary Robertson, better known as Grandma Moses, were inspired by everyday life. Illustrations that accompany the text of this book are done in Grandma Moses’ same naïve style, adding insight into her life. Author’s Note, Bibliography. (KRT) II, IV

www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable 3
HACHIKO: THE TRUE STORY OF A LOYAL DOG. Pamela S. Turner. Illustrated by Yan Nascimbene. Houghton Mifflin Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-14094-8, $15.00. (P) While this particular story (the tale of a statue and the dog that inspired it) illustrates Japanese culture, it is an excellent starting point for investigating the origins of local or national monuments. The Story Behind the Story (Author’s Note). (MLM) III, IV, I

HELEN KELLER: A DETERMINED LIFE. Elizabeth MacLeod. Illustrated with prints and photographs. Kids Can Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 1-55337-508-4, $14.95. (I). Details beyond the well-known story of Helen Keller’s life create a full image for young students of her extraordinary life. The organizational structure allows this biography to be used as a whole or in parts. Packed with primary documents. Helen’s Life at a Glance, Visit Helen, Index. (MLM) IV, VIII

HENRY WORKS. Written and illustrated by D.B. Johnson. Houghton Mifflin Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-42003-7, $15.00. (P) Henry (Henry David Thoreau) calls his walk in the woods “walking to work.” Though his friends and neighbors don’t see that he is actually doing something, Henry inhales the air, tends to plants, observes the gathering clouds, and simply enjoys his moment in nature. A unique perspective on the meaning of work. Author’s Note. (AHC) III, IV


KNOCKIN’ ON WOOD: STARRING PEG LEG BATES. Written and illustrated by Lynne Barasch. Lee and Low Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 1-58430-170-8, $16.95. F (Lee and Low Books). (P, I) This first-rate biography of Clayton “Peg Leg” Bates (1907-1998), whose leg amputation at the age of 12 did not deter him from becoming an acclaimed tap dancer, vaudevillian, actor, and entrepreneur, underscores the promise and potential of all children. (JG) IV, I


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SQUIRREL AND JOHN MUIR. Written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-33697-0, $16.00. (P, I) Yosemite Valley provides the backdrop for an 1868 encounter between naturalist John Muir and his employer’s daughter who becomes his shadow and pupil. Young Floy Hutchings comes to value her natural surroundings as Muir comes to terms with his mission in the larger world. Author’s Note, Bibliography. (JG) III, IV, X


WALT WHITMAN: WORDS FOR AMERICA. Barbara Kerley. Illustrated by Brian Selznick. Scholastic Press. 56pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-35791-8, $16.95. (I) This beautifully illustrated biography of Walt Whitman portrays his passionate love of country as he seeks out and comforts Civil War soldiers. His poems are woven into the text and enrich the illustrations. Author’s Note, Illustrator’s Note, Note on the Poems, Poems, Sources. (AHC) III, IV, V


A WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT: THE STORY OF VICTORIA WOODHULL. Kathleen Krull. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Walker and Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-8027-8908-0, $16.95; Library ISBN 0-8027-8909-9, $17.85. (I) This is the inspirational story of Victoria Woodhull, a nineteenth century feminist who was the first woman stockbroker on Wall Street, the first woman to produce her own newspaper, and the first woman to run for president of the United States. Beautiful watercolor illustrations. Bibliography, Author’s Note. (AHC) III, II, I
Contemporary Concerns


GLOBAL COUNTERSTRIKE: INTERNATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM (Terrorist Dossiers). Samuel M. Katz. Illustrated with photographs. Lerner Publishing Group. 72pp. Library ISBN 0-8225-1566-0, $26.60. (M) The history, training, organization, and major operations of international counterterrorist units are presented along with photographs, maps, and descriptions of leading events that shaped the creation of these special forces. Timeline, Bibliography, Further Reading and Websites, Index. (PLS) IX, II

HARD HAT AREA. Written and illustrated by Susan L. Roth. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 1-58234-946-0, $17.95. (P, I) Kristen is an apprentice ironworker who helps build a new skyscraper. Readers will learn who works at a construction site and what tools they use. Author’s Note. (JMS) VIII


IN YOUR FACE: THE CULTURE OF BEAUTY AND YOU. Shari Graydon. Illustrated with prints and photographs. Annick Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 1-55037-857-0, $24.95; Paperback ISBN 1-55037-856-2, $14.95. (M) This book describes how messages about beauty are constructed and how they can influence self-concept. Readers are shown how to critically examine the implications of these messages and how to put them into perspective. Index. (PLS) IV, I


REAL TIME. Pnina Moed Kass. Illustrated with photographs. Clarion Books. 192pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-44203-0, $15.00. (H) Multiple perspectives on contemporary Israel are presented in this novel through the voices of a German student, a Jewish kibbutz worker, a Palestinian teen, a Holocaust survivor, and others whose lives are altered in a violent incident. (PLS) IX, IV, II


SPILLED WATER. Sally Grindley. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 224pp. Trade ISBN 1-58234-937-1, $15.95. (I, M) The issue of child labor in modern-day China is brought to life in this novel about 11-year-old Lu Siyan who is sold into slavery after her father dies and the family is plunged into debt. (AEF) I, II, VII


www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable 7
**Folktales**


**DON QUIXOTE AND THE WINDMILLS.** Eric A. Kimmel. Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-31825-5, $16.00. (P, I) In this retelling of the windmill episode from Cervantes’s Don Quixote, Señor Quezada proclaims himself a knight, finds a suit of armor, convinces Sancho Panza to become his squire, chooses his lady love, and sets out on his first adventure against the windmills he thinks are giants. Vibrant illustrations add to the drama. Author’s Note. (JHK) I

**A FINE ST. PATRICK’S DAY.** Susan Wojciechowski. Illustrated by Tom Curry. Random House Children’s Books. 40pp. Trade ISBN 0-375-82386-7, $15.95. (P, I) Every year two Irish towns compete for the best St. Patrick’s Day decorations, and Tralah always wins. This year, however, a tiny man with pointed ears rallies the perennial loser, Tralee, and with very little effort, upsets its neighbor. Vibrant folk-art illustrations add whimsy to this delightful tale about community. (JHK) III, I

**KUMAK’S FISH: A TALL TALE FROM THE FAR NORTH.** Written and illustrated by Michael Bania. Alaska Northwest Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-88240-583-7, $15.95; Paperback ISBN 0-88240-584-5, $8.95. (P, I) This is an original tale of patience, perseverance, and cooperation in an Alaskan Inupiat community. Young children will learn about another culture through comical Kumak and his “amazing hooking stick.” Author’s Note. (DMM) I, III


**Geography, Peoples, and Places**

**ANTARCTICA: JOURNEYS TO THE SOUTH POLE.** Walter Dean Myers. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic Press. 160pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-22001-7, $18.95. F (Scholastic Press). (M) This recounting of Antarctica’s discovery and exploration, interwoven with primary sources and archival illustrations and photographs, begins with James Cook’s 1773 crossing of the Antarctic Circle. The story is a testament to human courage and persistence. Bibliography, Index, Timeline. (BAG) III

**BE MY NEIGHBOR.** Maya Ajmera and John D. Ivanko. Illustrated with photographs. Charlesbridge Publishing. 32pp. Trade ISBN 1-57091-504-0, $15.95. (P, I) Although the neighborhoods are different, all children of the world live in a place they call home. This book illustrates how alike children are. Words of Wisdom from Fred Rogers. (KHW) IX, III, I
**THE COAST MAPPERS.** Written and illustrated by Taylor Morrison. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin Company. 48pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-25408-0, $16.00. (I, M) In 1850, George Davidson and a team of men accepted the job of measuring and charting 3,000 miles of rugged Pacific coastline. After five arduous years their survey was completed and used to create reliable nautical charts. Acknowledgements, Bibliography, Glossary. DMM (II, IV)

**HANNAH IS MY NAME.** Written and illustrated by Belle Yang. Candlewick Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-7636-2223-0, $16.99. (P) Hannah and her family are recent immigrants from Hong Kong. This story details Hannah’s experiences moving to a new country, making friends, attending school, and most importantly, obtaining a Green Card so her parents can secure jobs and make America home. (AHC) I, III, IX


**THE BREAKER BOYS.** Pat Hughes. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 256pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30956-6, $18.00. (M) Readers learn about coal production, child labor in the late 1800s, and social history through Nate Tanner, the 12-year-old son of a wealthy Pennsylvania mine owner. Nate befriends a group of immigrant boys who work sorting coal and gets involved in a dangerous clash between miners, mine owners, and the law. Author’s Note. (JHK) V, VI, III


**History, Life, and Culture in the Americas**


CIRCLE UNBROKEN. Margot Theis Raven. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 48pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-31289-3, $16.00. (P) As a grandmother teaches her granddaughter the art of sewing the sweetgrass baskets of the South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry, readers learn about African American craft, culture, and history. Author’s Note, Bibliography. (BAG) II, IV, I


FIRE IN THE HOLE! Mary Cronk Farrell. Clarion Books. 176pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-44634-6, $15.00. (M) Based on the true events of the Coeur d’Alene silver mine in Idaho (1899), this story supplements studies on industry and labor issues, including the rights of unions and children’s rights. Author’s Note. (MLM) VII, V

GEORGE WASHINGTON, SPYMASTER: HOW THE AMERICANS OUTSPIED THE BRITISH AND WON THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. Thomas B. Allen. Illustrated by Cheryl Harness along with prints and photographs. National Geographic Children’s Books. 192pp. Trade ISBN 0-7922-5126-1, $16.95. (M) This is an appealing, well-documented narrative that describes Washington’s use of espionage in gathering intelligence to defeat the British in the Revolutionary War. Readers learn about codes, invisible ink, and double agents and are challenged to decipher a few codes. Spy Chart, Timeline, Spy Talk, the Code, Text Notes, Quote Sources, Further Reading, Index. (JHK) VI


HOW I FOUND THE STRONG. Margaret McMullan. Houghton Mifflin Company. 144pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-35008-X, $15.00. (M, H) Ten-year-old Frank Russell, known as Shanks, is left to run his family’s small farm when his father and brother go off to fight in the Civil War. Shanks tackles issues of survival, leadership, and slavery in this compelling coming-of-age story. Author’s Note. (AEF) II, IV

MISS BRIDIE CHOSE A SHOVEL.
Leslie Connor. Illustrated by Mary Azarian. Houghton Mifflin Company. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-30564-5, $16.00. (P) Elegant woodcuts illustrate the story of a young immigrant girl who selects a nondescript shovel to accompany her on a voyage to America in 1856. The shovel, a simple tool, provides subsistence, shelter, and safety as it transforms the land and enriches her life. (JG) IV, VII, III

MISSISSIPPI MORNING.
Ruth Vander Zee. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-8028-5211-4, $16.00. (M, H) Set in a small Mississippi town in 1933, this story describes the drastic change that occurs in James Williams’s life as the truth about his town and his father are revealed. Themes are racism, Jim Crow, and the Klan. Picture Book Foreward. (KRT) V, VI, II

POWERFUL WORDS: MORE THAN 200 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY WRITING BY AFRICAN AMERICANS.
Wade Hudson. Illustrated by Sean Qualls. Scholastic Nonfiction/Scholastic Inc. 192pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-40969-1, $19.95. (F) This is much more than a collection of speeches and writings by African Americans; this book includes information about each writer, the context in which the writer lived, and how the speech or writing was received. Author’s Note, Chronology, Sources, Index. (KRT) V

THE QUILT.

REMEMBER: THE JOURNEY OF SCHOOL INTEGRATION.

ROSETTA, ROSETTA, SIT BY ME!
Linda Walvoord. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Marshall Cavendish Children’s Books. 80pp. Trade ISBN 0-7614-5171-4, $14.95. (I) Rosetta, the daughter of Frederick Douglass, is admitted to a private school in Rochester, New York. When she arrives for her first day of school, Rosetta is separated from the other children. When her father finally finds out about the segregation, he writes an article in his newspaper. Important Dates, Author’s Note, Primary Sources, Secondary Sources, Photos and Other Documents. (AHC) II, III, IV, I, VI

WITH COURAGE AND CLOTH: WINNING THE FIGHT FOR A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO VOTE.

YANKEE GIRL.
Mary Ann Rodman. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 224pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-38661-7, $17.00. (M, H) Alice moves to Mississippi in 1964 at the time of the civil rights movement. This is the story of how Alice’s life changes when her new school integrates. Author’s Note. (KHW) X, II, III

Reference


WONDERS AND MIRACLES: A PASSOVER COMPANION. Eric A. Kimmel. Illustrated with prints and photographs. Scholastic Press. 144pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-07175-5, $18.95. (M) An inviting and comprehensive introduction to this Jewish holiday that combines the history and rationale behind the customs of Passover with recipes, traditional songs, and stunning art from the last three millennia. Bibliography, Index. (ECG) I, V

Social Interactions and Relationships


JACKSON JONES AND MISSION GREENTOP. Mary Quattlebaum. Delacorte Books for Young Readers/Random House Children’s Books. 112pp. Trade ISBN 0-385-73114-0, $17.99; Library ISBN 0-385-90139-9, $15.95. (I) Saving a historic, if somewhat neglected, victory garden was not what basketball enthusiast Jackson Jones ever thought he would do. Yet Jackson takes on a property developer while the thorny rosebush Jackson had planted takes on his nemesis. Author’s Note. (KRT) IV, V, VI
THE MILESTONES PROJECT: CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD AROUND THE WORLD. Illustrated with photographs by Dr. Richard Steckel and Michele Steckel. Tricycle Press. 64pp. Trade ISBN 1-58246-132-5, $17.95. (I) This collection of photographs and quotes from children all over the world experiencing similar milestones, such as losing a tooth, helps remind us of our commonalities. Includes milestone recollections by famous children’s authors and illustrators. Biographical Information. (BAG) IX, III


PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL: A STORY ABOUT BRAILLE. Marion Ripley. Illustrated by Colin Backhouse. Dial Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-8037-2900-6, $16.99. F (Puffin Books). (P) Laura is surprised to discover that her Australian pen pal is blind. She decides to learn Braille so that she and her friend can receive letters that they read on their own. Author’s Note. (JMS) III

SAY SOMETHING. Peggy Moss. Illustrated by Lea Lyon. Tilbury House Publishers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-88448-261-8, $16.95. (P, I) Bullying...what can be done about it? The author suggests that “saying something” is the way to make the teasing, the jokes, and the hurtful statements “uncool.” Author’s Note. (DMM) X, V


World History and Culture


ESCAPE TO WEST BERLIN. Maurine F. Dahlberg. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Books for Young Readers. 192pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-30959-0, $16.00. (I, M, H) Thirteen-year-old Heidi is stranded in East Berlin. She must find a way to rejoin her family members who have fled to the West. Fictional account set in August 1961, with accurate details about daily life. (KRT) II, IX


PETALS IN THE ASHES. Mary Hooper. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 192pp. Trade ISBN 1-58234-936-3, $16.95. (M, H) In this sequel to *At the Sign of the Sugared Plum*, Hannah and her sisters must endure the plague and the Great Fire of 1666. Author’s Notes, Recipes. (KHW) I, III

PRIVATE PEACEFUL. Michael Morpurgo. Scholastic Press. 176pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-63648-5, $16.95. F (Scholastic Press). (H) Private Thomas Peaceful stands watch over a World War I battlefield and remembers his family and his older brother, who protected him throughout childhood and into battle. However, his older brother can’t protect Thomas from what will happen at dawn. Author’s Note. (JMS) II, IV
