



PENGUIN YOUNG READERS GROUP

NONFICTION

AND THE COMMON CORE:

A RESOURCE GUIDE TO USING INFORMATIONAL
TEXTS IN THE CLASSROOM

GRADES K-12



Dear Educator:

Nonfiction for children and teens has it all: Alligators, dinosaurs, and wolves. Inventions and disasters. Ecology and astronomy. Presidents and scientists, baseball players and boxers. Children who crossed the ocean for a better life and teens who faced violence to protest injustice. Whether for science, biography, history, or social studies, you'll find a host of outstanding books that will engage and inspire your students.

In the past few decades, nonfiction for young people has greatly expanded in quantity and quality. Excellent research, writing, and visual elements make the books a pleasure to read, while also serving as models for student research and writing. The Common Core State Standards' new emphasis on informational texts offers a great opportunity for you and your students to explore what experts consider the Golden Age of Nonfiction.

These nonfiction books fit into key curriculum areas where they lend themselves perfectly to the Common Core requirements for students to analyze central ideas and structure of texts, to identify the author's purpose or point of view, and to examine different aspects of language and its uses. It's easy to incorporate technology, another emphasis of Common Core, into student responses to nonfiction with projects like creating digital timelines or videos with historic photographs.

But be sure to have your students also try a variety of nonfiction in their independent reading. Add nonfiction books to school and classroom libraries, and put them on summer reading lists. Your students who already prefer nonfiction are in for a treat, but you'll also capture the interest of kids who had no idea that appealing nonfiction exists on so many subjects.

The brochure is organized by overlapping grade bands: K–4, 4–8, and 7 up. Within each section, you'll find an annotated list of outstanding books with an activity for each book related to a specific Common Core Standard. You'll also find additional annotated book selections and a text set about a curricular or thematic area. Keep in mind that an activity suggested for one book or at one level might be useful for other books or levels. For example, the suggestion to focus on nonfiction authors for author studies, mentioned for primary grades, lends itself to older grades, too. The graphic organizer given for an eighth-grade book also works with upper elementary and middle-school students. One of the middle-grade ideas about evaluating the structure of a collective biography is an approach that could be used for a collective biography at any level. The basic standards, called anchors, which emphasize central ideas, structure, vocabulary, argument analysis, and so on are the same across the K–12 levels (corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/R). So no matter which level you teach, look through the whole brochure for ideas.

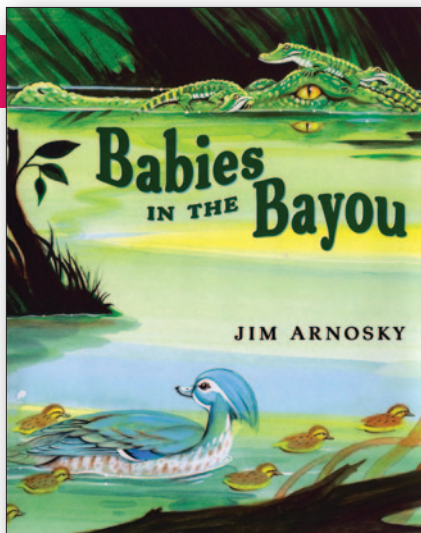
-Penguin School & Library

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This guide was prepared by Kathleen Odean. Kathleen, who was a school librarian for more than fifteen years, now presents all-day workshops on new books for young people, including one that focuses on Common Core nonfiction. Kathleen served as **Chairperson of the 2002 Newbery Award Committee and on the 1996 Caldecott Award Committee**. She's the author of four guides to children's books including *Great Books for Girls*, *Great Books for Boys*, and *Great Books About Things Kids Love*, all of which recommend nonfiction as well as fiction. Kathleen reviews young people's nonfiction for *Kirkus Reviews*.

SCIENCE

**Babies in the Bayou**

By Jim Arnosky

9780399226533 (HC) \$16.99 · 9780142414637 (PB) \$6.99

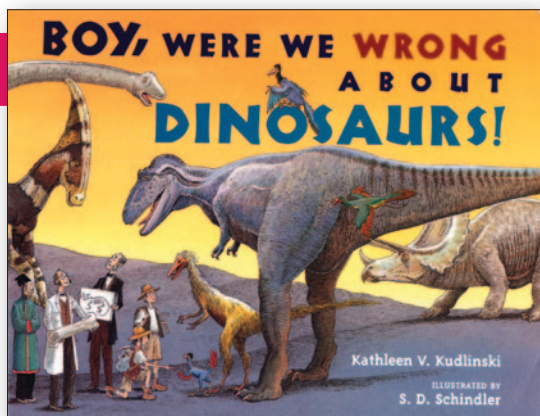
Grades PreK-1 · ATOS: 2.5

"In the bayou, where hanging moss droops from the trees and white birds wade in shallow water, an alligator floats near her babies, all sleeping on a log." So opens this lyrical, informative picture book about life in the bayou. The simple story continues by introducing other animal families nearby—raccoons, turtles, and ducks—and how they interact. Full-color illustrations add details about the bayou, its lush vegetation, and the animals who share the ecosystem.

RI 1.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text. Read this aloud to your class, showing them the pictures. Then read it again without showing the pictures and stop after each page to have

students identify information given in the text about the setting and animals with phrases like "hanging moss," "shallow water," and "black and yellow tails." Write these details on a flipchart or whiteboard. Then have the class divide into pairs or small groups with copies of the book. Have them study the pictures to find new information that isn't in the text, such as the presence of fish and a snake. Be sure to have them look at the illustrations on the book cover, title page, dedication page, and final wordless page. They could write down the details or report them as a group for you to write on a flipchart or whiteboard. Then as a group, review what the words provide, what the pictures provide, and which information appears in both places.

Author Tie-In: Jim Arnosky has written and illustrated other books perfect for introducing the natural world to primary students: *Raccoon on His Own*, *Otters Under Water*, *Every Autumn Comes the Bear*, and more. Consider using him for author studies, the Author of the Month, or other displays.



SCIENCE

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!

By Kathleen V. Kudlinski · Illustrated by S. D. Schindler

9780525469780 (HC) \$15.99 · Grades 1-4 · ATOS: 5.0

Did you know that scientists used to think dinosaurs were gray but now believe they had colorful patterns? In many fields of science, new discoveries over the years have changed what scientists think. This thought-provoking book presents that sophisticated concept to children in terms they can understand. It looks at beliefs scientists once held about dinosaurs and how each belief has changed based on newly found fossils or new ideas.

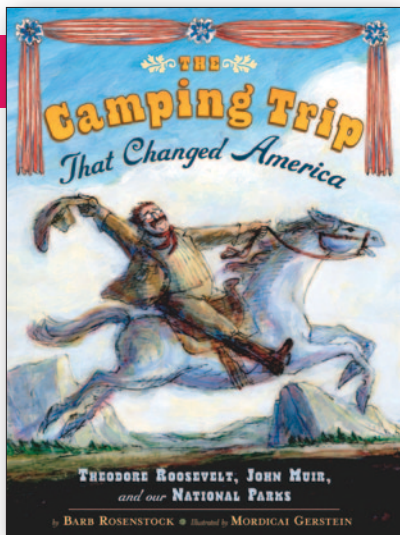
RI 2.8 Describe how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text. Start by reading the book aloud. Then, as a class, in pairs, or in small groups, create a graphic organizer with three sections: What We Used to Think, What We Think Now, and Reason(s) It Has Changed. Have students go through the book and identify old beliefs, new beliefs, and what caused the change in thinking. One of the main ideas in the book is that there's still a lot to learn about dinosaurs. Below the graphic organizer, have students record areas about which scientists still disagree and areas in the study of dinosaurs that are still uncertain. As a group, discuss words and phrases in the text that point to uncertainty, such as *seem*, *may have been*, *if scientists are right*, and *we can only guess*.

Author Tie-In Pair this with the author's similar book, *Boy, Were We Wrong about the Solar System!*, which explores past ideas such as the belief that the sun revolved around the earth and how those beliefs have changed.

Poetry Tie-In Introduce your students to the humorous, science-oriented poems in *Science Verse*, written by Jon Scieszka and aptly illustrated by Lane Smith.



HISTORY



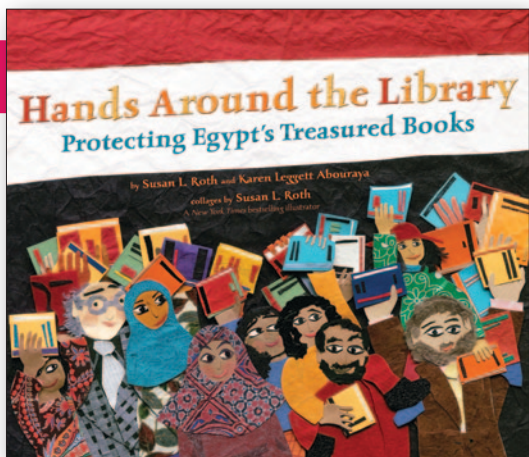
The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Our National Parks

By Barbara Rosenstock · Illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein
9780803737105 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades 1–3 · ATOS: 5.0

“Teedie and Johnnie didn’t have much in common—but they shared a love of the outdoors. They both loved a good story, too. And that was enough to change America.” Teedie was President Theodore Roosevelt; Johnnie was naturalist and wilderness advocate John Muir. In 1903, when Roosevelt was president, he visited California, where Muir took him camping in the beautiful Yosemite Valley. While they rode horses and traded stories, Muir persuaded the president to help save the wilderness. And when Roosevelt returned to the White House, that’s just what he did.

RI 3.2. Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text. The title gives one of the main ideas of the book, that the camping trip changed America. The subtitle alludes to the second main idea, that everyone benefits from preserving the wilderness in the form of national parks. Have students consider the importance of the title and subtitle in conveying main ideas. Start a classroom list or bulletin board of other book titles that convey main ideas, having students add titles from their own reading. Divide students into small groups or pairs to go through the text to find details that support the main ideas. What did Muir believe needed changing? Why did he believe it matters to preserve the wilderness? What role did stories play in the camping trip? What role did seeing Yosemite play in persuading the President?

Resources The author’s website includes a teacher’s guide and more at www.barbrosenstock.com/html/books.html.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books

By Susan L. Roth and Karen Leggett Abouraya
9780803737471 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades 2–4 · ATOS: 5.1

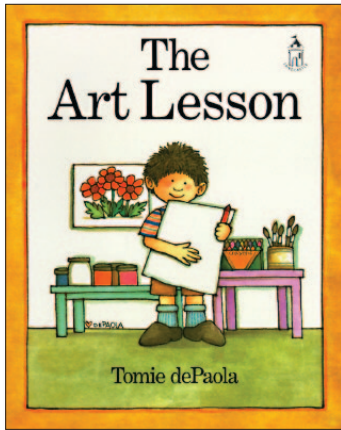
In early 2011, the people of Egypt gathered together in marches and protests to demand more freedom. During that time, some violent protestors threatened to loot the national library in Alexandria. In response, a group of people, many of them young, defended the library by holding hands to form a chain around it. Striking cut-paper and collage illustrations combine with a moving text to tell this important true story.

RI 3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers. This inspiring contemporary event lends itself to analysis using the Five W’s: *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *Why*. Read the text aloud to the class, showing them the pictures as you go. Then create a large chart with the five questions on it and read through the book slowly, having students identify details that fit under each question. Students can expand on the categories with additional questions such as *Why was the library in danger?* and *Why was the narrator worried?* Have a map of Egypt ready to show *Where* and use this link to show the library, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (www.bibalex.org/imagegallery/BA_Gallery_EN.aspx). The answer to *Why* concerns defending books and libraries. This can serve as an effective springboard to a host of activities. Have students write about why they would defend a certain book, books and libraries in general, or a cause about which they care. Invite them to stand in a circle, like the protestors did, and read their writing aloud. Or create a bulletin board with the writing, decorated with your students’ artwork modeled on the book’s illustrations of children or patterned squares.

Resources The authors’ website for this book has many activities and links at www.handsaroundthelibrary.com/educators-and-librarians/activities.

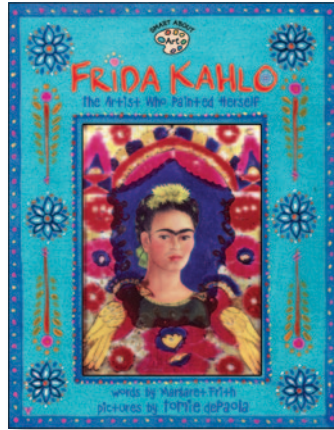


PICTURE BOOK TEXT SET: ART & ARTISTS



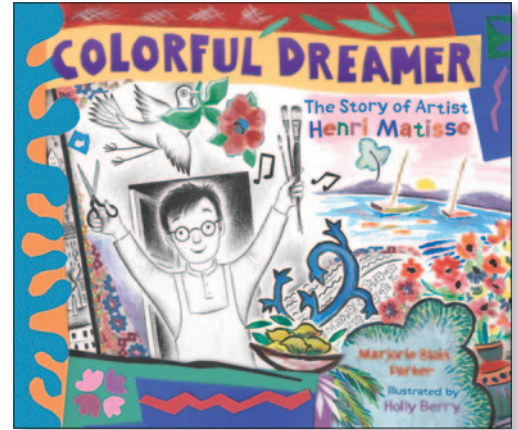
The Art Lesson

By Tomie dePaola
 9780399216886 (HC) \$17.99
 9780698115729 (PB) \$6.99
 Grades K-2
 ATOS: 3.6



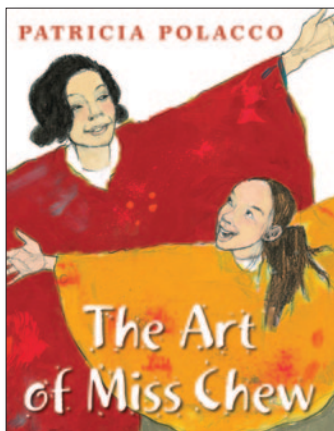
Frida Kahlo: The Artist Who Painted Herself

By Margaret Frith
 Illustrated by Tomie dePaola
 9780448426778 (HC) \$5.99
 Grades 2-5
 ATOS: 3.4



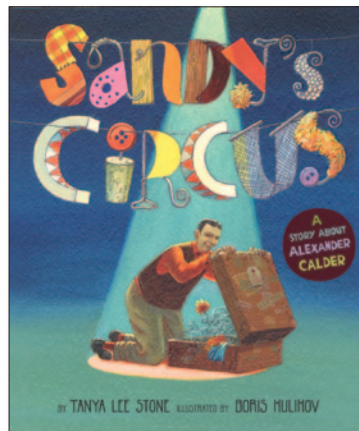
Colorful Dreamer: The Story of Artist Henri Matisse

By Marjorie Blain Parker
 Illustrated by Holly Berry
 9780803737587 (HC) \$16.99
 Grades 1-4
 ATOS: ?



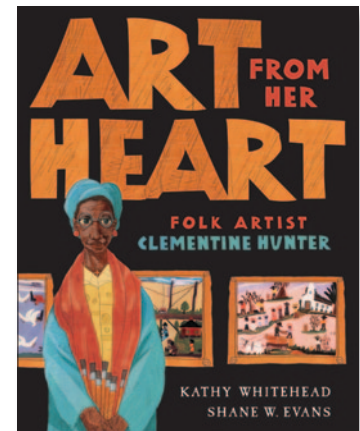
The Art of Miss Chew

By Patricia Polacco
 9780399257032 (HC) \$17.99
 Grades 2-4
 ATOS: 3.6



Sandy's Circus: A Story about Alexander Calder

By Tanya Lee Stone
 Illustrated by Boris Kulikov
 9780670062683 (HC) \$16.99
 Grades 1-4
 ATOS: 3.6

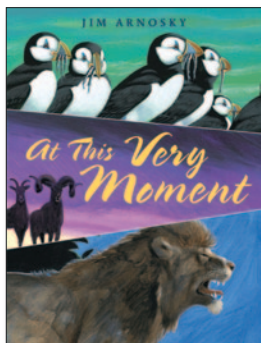


Art from Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter

By Kathy Whitehead
 Illustrated by Shane W. Evans
 9780399242199 (HC) \$16.99
 Grades 2-5
 ATOS: 5.3

Using text sets on a specific topic allows readers different entry points into a particular area of study, and offers a variety of perspectives on that same topic. By collecting material in a range of formats, teachers provide students with multiple ways of approaching their subject matter: from full color illustrations or black and white photographs, to books dense in text.

MORE PICTURE BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM

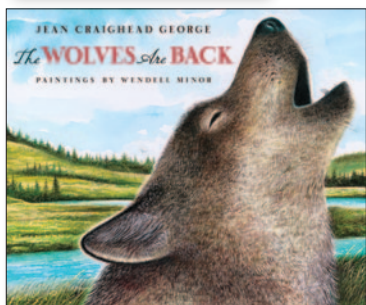


At This Very Moment

By Jim Arnosky

9780525422525 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades Pre-1 · ATOS: 3.6

Go on a journey around the world just as your day is dawning. Vibrant full-page paintings show what different animals—from bears to lions to pelicans—are doing around the globe.



The Wolves Are Back

By Jean Craighead George · Illustrated by Wendell Minor

9780525479475 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades 1-4 · ATOS: 3.6

What happened when wolves, nearly gone from our country, were restored to Yellowstone National Park? In lyrical prose and gorgeous paintings, this informative book shows how the ecosystem gained balance from their return.

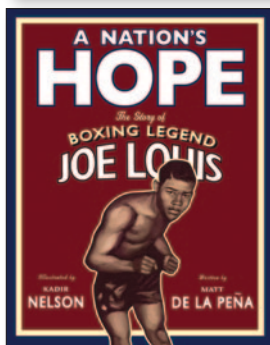


The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

By William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer · Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

9780803735118 (HC) \$15.99 · Grades 1-3 · ATOS: 5.3

William Kamkwamba's family and village were running out of water and food in Malawi. Based on books he read, the fourteen-year-old vowed to build a windmill out of trash. This is his heroic story, captured in glowing oil paint and cut-paper illustrations.

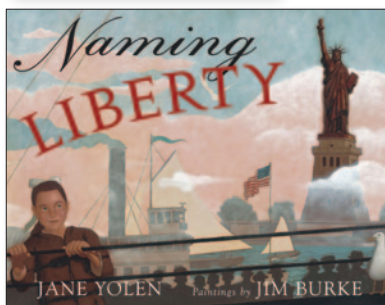


A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis

By Matt de la Peña · Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

9780803731677 (HC) \$17.99 · Grades 2-5 · ATOS: 4.9

The boxer Joe Louis stood tall as the hope of African-Americans in 1938 when he fought German Max Schmeling. This gripping narrative with its powerful paintings tells of Louis's life, building suspense that culminates in the big fight.



Naming Liberty

By Jane Yolen · Illustrated by Jim Burke

9780399242502 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades 1-3 · ATOS: 4.8

Two stories unfold side-by-side in this moving book about immigration to our country. In one, a girl relates the sorrow and excitement of leaving Russia for America to seek a better life. In the other, a sculptor pursues his goal of creating the Statue of Liberty to honor America.

SCIENCE



Giants of Science: Marie Curie

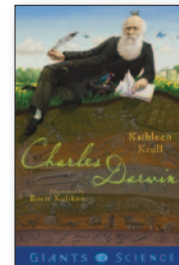
By Kathleen Krull · Illustrated by Boris Kulikov
9780142412657 (PB) \$5.99 · Grades 4-8 · ATOS: 8.3

Brilliant and brave, Marie Curie, the most famous female scientist in history, was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. She was also a war hero. Married to a fellow scientist, she raised two daughters, one of whom became the second woman to win a Nobel Prize in chemistry. This lively biography filled with anecdotes, apt quotations, and intriguing details introduces readers to concepts in physics and chemistry while conveying the fierce joy Marie Curie took in her dangerous, groundbreaking work.

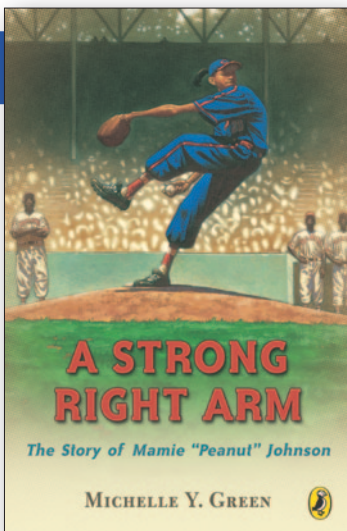
RI 7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings. Use this multi-faceted biography to analyze language on different levels, starting with scientific terms such as *atom*, *electron*, and *theory*, all explained in the text. Have students take special note of terms created by Marie Curie (*radioactive*) and

her colleagues (*half life*). Curie had the privilege of naming two chemical elements; have students research the naming of other elements in the periodic table. The introduction opens with a famous metaphorical quote from Isaac Newton; the book ends with a quote from Curie that uses the simile "like a fairy tale." Have students analyze these and other imagery, and connotative language, such as Pasteur's quoted description of a laboratory as a "sacred place."

Series Tie-In This is one entry in Krull's Giants of Science series that includes *Isaac Newton*, *Charles Darwin*, *Leonardo da Vinci*, and *Sigmund Freud*. Have students compare the writing and approaches in the different biographies, and the accomplishments and experiences of the scientists.



BIOGRAPHY

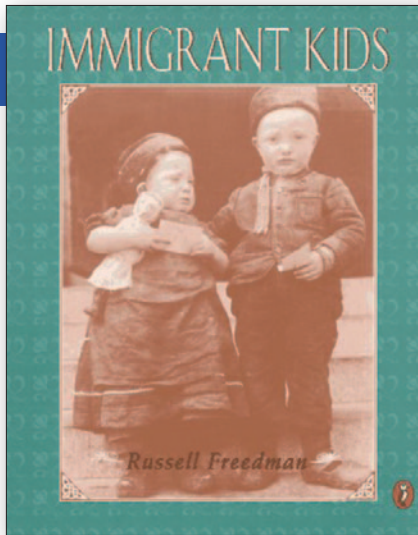


A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson

By Michelle Y. Green
9780142400722 (PB) \$5.99 · Grades 4-7 · ATOS: 5.1

Mamie "Peanut" Johnson pursued a dream against daunting odds. The child of a single mother, Mamie often lived with other relatives, where she put her energy into baseball and became an impressive pitcher. Her skill and persistence won her a place on a Police League all-white all-boys team in New Jersey in the 1940s. Turned away from tryouts for All-American Girls League because she was black, Johnson was finally recruited and played three years in the Negro Leagues. Based on multiple interviews, this inspiring biography uses Johnson's first person voice to tell the story of her remarkable achievements.

RI 5.2 Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text. The main idea in this biography revolves around the power of following a dream. Important related ideas are that Mamie Johnson had to overcome racism and sexism to achieve her goals. As students read this biography, have them keep journals in which they note examples of how Johnson dealt with sexism and racism. Have the students use their notes to write a profile of Johnson, such as a magazine or newspaper might print, that summarizes the main points of the text and her life. Before they write the profile, show them this video clip of Johnson from the Negro Baseball League museum/Kansas State University website: <http://www.coe.ksu.edu/nlbemuseum/reslib/clips/johnsonwomenvid.html>.



HISTORY

Immigrant Kids

By Russell Freedman

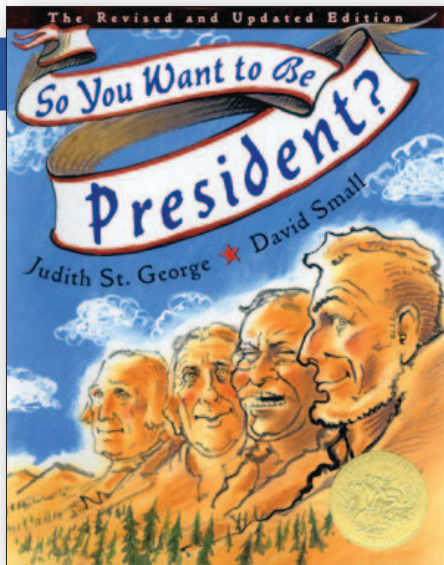
9780140375947 (PB) \$8.99 · Grades 4–7 · ATOS: 6.9

In the early 1900s, immigrants poured into the United States, hoping to build better futures. Freedman brings immigrant children from that time to life by exploring their homes, neighborhoods, schools, jobs, and games. Carefully chosen, evocative photographs transport readers into the past, conveying personalities as well as multiple details about time and place. The inviting narrative quotes the immigrants about their experiences and memories.

RI 6.7 Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea. After reading the book, have students discuss how much information is conveyed by the photographs versus the text. Have them compare what each offers that the other doesn't. How effective would

the book be without the photographs? Or without the text? Have each student choose a photograph to study closely and list the details it provides in terms of clothing, home, neighborhood, emotion, and other content.

Speaking/Listening 6.5 Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify information. Using technology to respond to this book, have students create slide-show presentations or short videos incorporating historical photographs of children. One useful online tool for making videos is Animoto (<http://animoto.com/education>). An excellent source for photographs that don't have copyright restrictions is "The Commons" section of Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/commons>). Combining the search terms "Lewis Hine" and "child labor" results in dozens of photographs that can be incorporated into digital assignments. For another multimedia response, have students use the free online educational tool, Museum Box, in which students can insert photographs, other images, video, and text (<http://museumbox.e2bn.org>).



SOCIAL STUDIES

So You Want to Be President?

By Judith St. George · Illustrated by David Small

9780399243172 (HC) \$17.99 · Grades 3–7 · ATOS: 4.8

What kind of men have become President of the United States? There's no one answer! President Woodrow Wilson liked to dance a jig. Chester Arthur played the banjo. Benjamin Harrison had a goat. Calvin Coolidge had a pet raccoon. This Caldecott Medal winner brims with fascinating facts and stories about Presidents and their surprising lives in the White House.

RI 4.5 Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text. Most collective biographies are arranged chronologically with a section for each person. St. George takes a different approach in introducing U.S. Presidents. She uses a series of topics such as the Presidents' looks, personalities, and family backgrounds.

First read the book aloud to the class. Then have students read it again in small groups, stopping on each page to identify, record, and discuss each topic. Have the small groups consider how each topic is related to the one before and after it. Then brainstorm as a class why the author chose this structure over a more traditional one. Another focus for small group or class discussion is what effect the structure had on the illustrations. How would the illustrations have been different with a more traditional structure?

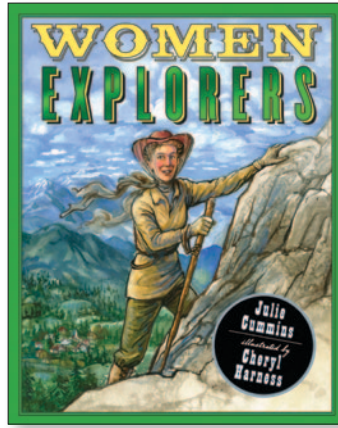
Author Tie-in Students may follow up the class activity by reading *So You Want to Be an Inventor?* and *So You Want to Be an Explorer?* by the same author and illustrator team and reporting back about their structure and content.



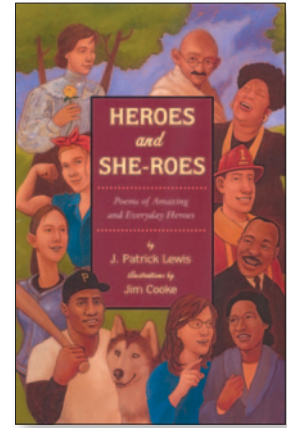
MIDDLE GRADE TEXT SET: HEROES



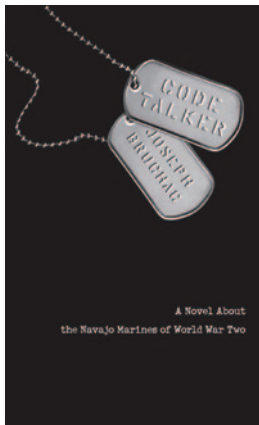
**Electric Ben:
The Amazing Life
and Times of
Benjamin Franklin**
By Robert Byrd
9780803737495 (HC) \$17.99
Grades 4-7
ATOS: 7.7



**Women Explorers: Perils,
Pistols, and Petticoats**
By Julie Cummins
Illustrated by Cheryl Harness
9780803737136 (HC) \$17.99
Grades 4-7
ATOS: 7.9



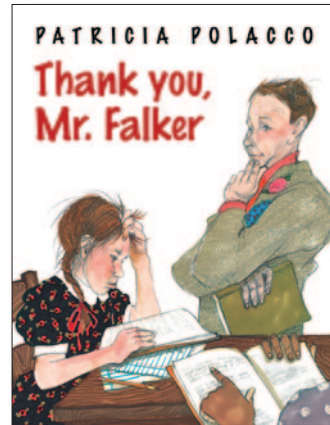
**Heroes and She-Roes:
Poems of Amazing and
Everyday Heroes**
By J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrated by Jim Cooke
9780803729254 (HC) \$16.99
Grades 4-7
ATOS: 6.4



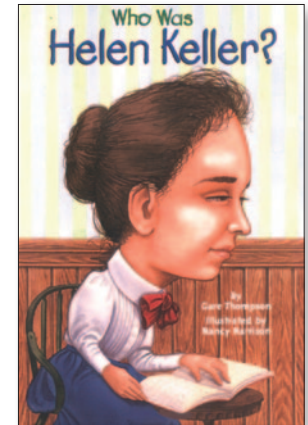
Code Talker
By Joseph Bruchac
9780142405963 (PB) \$7.99
Grades 4-7
ATOS: 6.4



**Parzival: The Quest of
the Grail Knight**
By Katherine Paterson
9780141305738 (PB) \$5.99
Grades 5-8
ATOS: 6.0



Thank You, Mr. Falker
By Patricia Polacco
9780399231667 (HC) \$17.99
Grades 3-6
ATOS: 4.1



Who Was Helen Keller?
By Gare Thompson
Illustrated by Nancy Harnson
978044843144 (PB) \$4.99
Grades 3-6
ATOS: 4.1

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MORE MIDDLE LEVEL FOR THE CLASSROOM

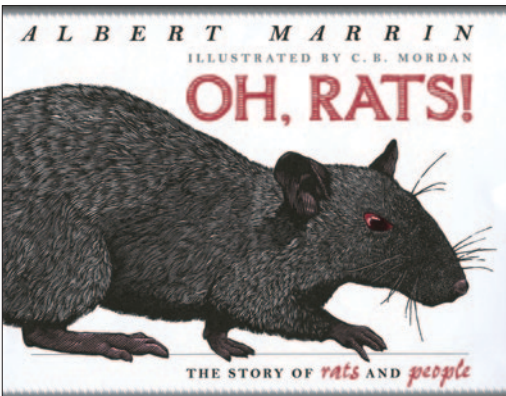


United Tweets of America

By Hudson Talbott

9780399245206 (HC) \$17.99 · Grades 3–5 · ATOS: 4.9

Take a trip state by state through this colorful book and learn about the state birds, state mottos, and state nicknames, plus intriguing details about different states: Arkansas's state instrument (fiddle), Nevada's state reptile (desert tortoise), and much more.

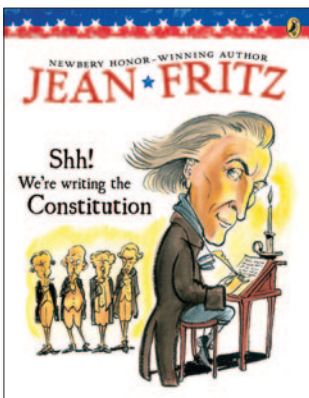


Oh, Rats! The Story of Rats and People

By Albert Marrin · Illustrated by C. B. Mordan

9780525477624 (HC) \$16.99 · Grades 4–6 · ATOS: 6.2

Rats can "squeeze through a pipe the width of a quarter" and "scale a brick wall, straight up." These are only two of the fascinating facts on all aspects of rats, who are brilliant at surviving, and their place in our world now and in the past.

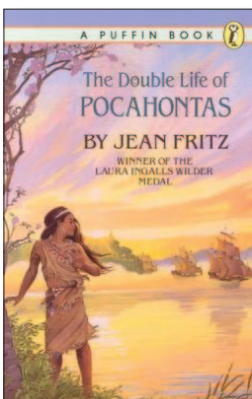


Shh! We're Writing the Constitution

By Jean Fritz · Illustrated by Tomie dePaola

9780698116245 (PB) \$6.99 · Grades 3–6 · ATOS: 7.1

No one makes history come to life like Jean Fritz. Get the inside scoop on how our founding fathers argued, struggled, and compromised in writing the Constitution, depicted in charming illustrations by Tomie dePaola.



The Double Life of Pocahontas

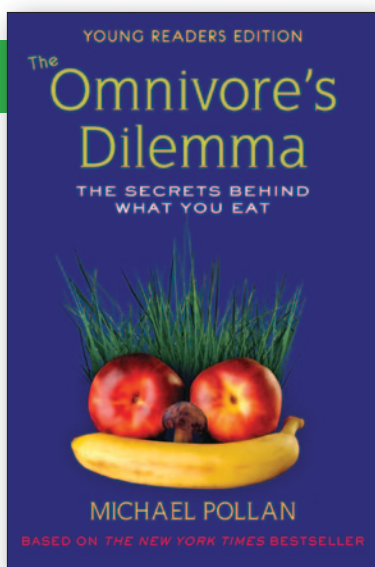
By Jean Fritz

9780698119352 (PB) \$5.99 · Grades 4–7 · ATOS: 5.9

Don't settle for the Disney version of Pocahontas. Get a sense of the real person behind the popular image with this engaging biography that examines her life in her tribe, with English settlers, and, eventually, in England. Fritz combines verified facts with thoughtful speculation to give the sense of a remarkable, complex personality.



SCIENCE



The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat

By Richie Chevat and Michael Pollan

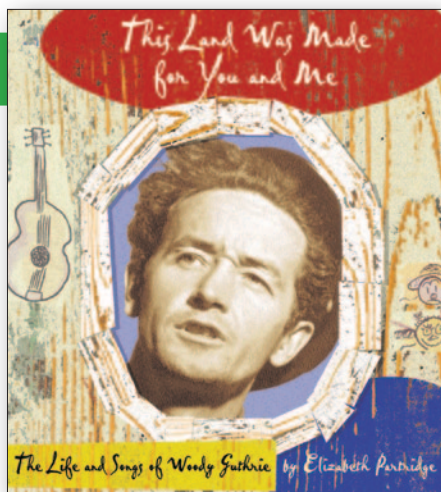
9780803734159 (HC) \$17.99 · 9780803735002 (PB) \$9.99 · Grades 7 up · ATOS 6.8

Where does the food you eat come from? Nearby or far away? From a mammoth industrial farm? Or a small local one? Is it time to change the way you eat? Best-selling author Michael Pollan addresses these questions in a conversational account of his journey to find out more about what he eats. Become a food detective along with Pollan—what you find out may surprise you!

RI 7.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas. Pollan organizes his text into four parts, each of which reflects a different food chain: industrial, industrial organic, local sustainable (on a small farm), and the author's personal experience of hunting, gathering, and

gardening. Have students discuss why Pollan used this order to develop his ideas. Could he have put the first part last? Three of the parts, not including "industrial organic," end with a meal. Does this repeated motif add to the effectiveness of his argument? After the main parts comes an afterword, "Vote with Your Fork," a section of tips for eating, and a question and answer section with Pollan. What do these sections contribute to the whole?

Resources Find a discussion and activity guide for this book at www.us.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/tl-guide-omnivores-dilemma.pdf.



BIOGRAPHY

This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie

By Elizabeth Partridge

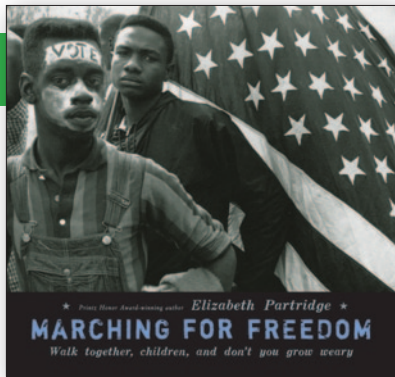
9780670035359 (HC) \$21.99 · Grades 7 up · ATOS: 7.0

Folk-singer Woody Guthrie was the voice of his times, singing about the pain and despair of the Great Depression, tempered by hope for the future and belief in the strength of Americans. Guthrie knew sorrow firsthand from tragedies that repeatedly hit close to home, conveyed in this dramatic but balanced biography (which appears in Common Core's Appendix B list of exemplar texts). Yet he turned his pain into art, inspired his listeners, and changed American music with his thousands of songs.

RI 8.3 Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea. This biography is enriched by visual images including photographs, artifacts, and Guthrie's own black-and-white sketches. Have students take notes as they read the biography on how the graphics add information and emotion. Listening to some of Guthrie's music adds another medium to have students consider. What are the advantages of listening to his music versus only reading about him? Printed lyrics for many of his songs are at www.woodyguthrie.org/Lyrics/This_Land.htm. Finally, show your class the much-lauded 1976 film about Guthrie, *Bound for Glory* (PG rated), and have students reflect on the differences between the biography and the film. A preliminary exercise that would enhance this activity is to have students create a timeline of Guthrie's life as presented in the biography and compare it to the film's content. Free timeline tools on the Internet include www.dipity.com and www.xtimeline.com.

Poetry tie-in Guthrie continued writing and singing folk music through the 1940s. Compare his music and style to the 1940s swing band featured in Marilyn Nelson's stellar poetry collection, beautifully illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, *Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World*.





HISTORY

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary

By Elizabeth Partridge

9780670011896 (HC) \$19.99 · Grades 6 up · ATOS: 6.6

"The first time Joanne Blackmon was arrested, she was just ten years old," opens this dynamic narrative about young people who participated in the Civil Rights movement. Blackmon was arrested with her grandmother who was trying to register to vote as an African-American in Selma, Alabama, in 1963. After opening with this dramatic incident, Partridge takes readers to 1965, when Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Selma to further the cause. Based on extensive interviews, the book richly documents the role of children and teenagers who practiced nonviolence in protest marches where they were attacked with dogs, tear gas, and clubs. Their fear and determination come across in the narrative, quotations, and photographs.

RI 8.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text. As the title indicates, the importance of young people in the Civil Rights Movement, and specifically in Selma, is one idea central to this account. Partridge develops this idea through focusing on specific young people, describing their roles, and quoting from interviews with them. As the author reveals, the decision to let young people participate in such dangerous protests was controversial. Another central idea is that spirituals and protest songs were vital to keeping up the spirits of the young protestors. Have students use a graphic organizer, such as the pyramid notes chart posted by the Greece (NY) School District (www.greece.k12.ny.us/files/filesystem/pyramidnotes.pdf) to record a central idea, provide supporting details and quotes, and discuss how those details relate to the central idea, concluding the chart with a summary paragraph.

Resources The Greece (NY) School District provides dozens of printable graphic organizers for 6–12 grade reading and writing: www.greece.k12.ny.us/files/filesystem/mainideanotes.pdf.

Fiction Tie-in Steer fiction fans to Chris Crowe's *Mississippi Trial, 1955*, a powerful novel that shows the kind of racism blacks were facing and its tragic consequences for a teenage boy named Emmett Till.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us

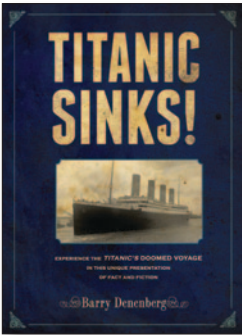
By Tanya Lee Stone

9780670011872 (HC) \$19.99 · Grades 6 up · ATOS: 7.5

Whether you love her or loathe her, Barbie is undoubtedly an American icon. Author Tanya Lee Stone explores all aspects of the popular doll in this lively chronicle of her place in American culture: her history, commercial success, and her influence on fashion. Lots of photographs, including a color inset, show international and ethnic versions of Barbie, while numerous quotations capture memories of those who played with her—not always gently—when they were children.

RI 9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. This even-handed text examines many facets of the cultural impact of Barbie. As students read the book, have them take notes on the main points of each chapter, including the author's note, acknowledgments, and the Source Notes introductory paragraph. After finishing the book, each student can choose a substantial analytical point to write about, explaining Stone's claim and laying out the evidence, she provides (Writing standard 9-10.9b). Evidence could include examples, quotations, visual evidence such as photographs, and other references or facts that support the claim. The student should then evaluate the quality of the evidence. One point to address is the use of quotations from children and adults who are identified with only their first names; how effective are these as evidence? In what ways do they add to the text and its argument?

MORE YOUNG ADULT BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM

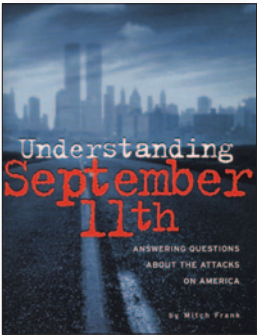


Titanic Sinks!

By Barry Denenberg

9780670012435 (HC) \$19.99 · Grades 5–8 · ATOS: 8.2

Join S.F. Vannie, a correspondent for the fictional *Modern Times*, as he reports about his trip on the luxurious *Titanic*, followed by the tragedy of its sinking. Designed to look like a magazine, this captures readers with its exciting facts and excellent visual elements.

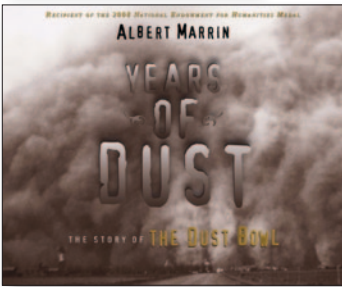


Understanding September 11th: Answering Questions About the Attacks on America

By Mitch Frank

9780670035878 (PB) \$8.99 · Grades 7 up · ATOS: 8.1

A question-and-answer format delves into many aspects of September 11th. The author, a reporter, gives an overview of the tragedy, which he experienced himself. He defines terms such as *terrorism* and *jihad*, gives information about Islam, and discusses the causes and consequences of the terrible event. The text is supplemented with black-and-white photos, maps, index, and glossary.



Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl

By Albert Marrin

9780525420774 (HC) \$22.99 · Grades 6 up · ATOS: 7.4

This absorbing history of the Dust Bowl draws from memories and writings of those who experienced it. High-quality black-and-white photographs, sidebars, maps, and other illustrations add to the information. Marrin covers the ecology of the Great Plains, the role of Native Americans and white settlers, the New Deal, and more.

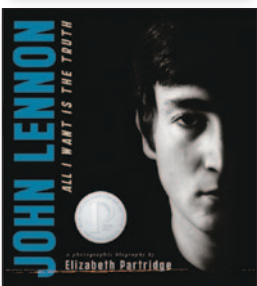


The Mayflower and the Pilgrims' New World

By Nathaniel Philbrick

9780399247958 (HC) \$19.99 · 97801424144583 (PB) \$8.99 · Grades 7 up · ATOS: 8.3

When the Pilgrims arrived in what would become New England, the native people helped them survive. But after fifty years, that tentative peace disappeared, replaced by the brutal King Philip's War. Meet the people on both sides of the war and learn from an outstanding writer about what went wrong and why.



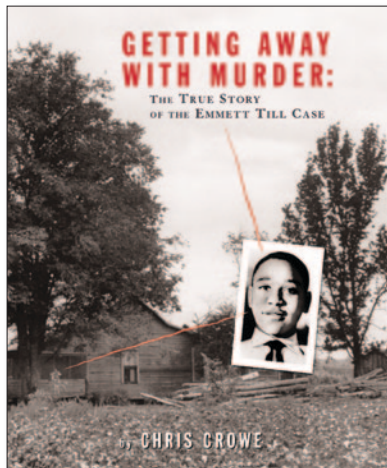
John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth

By Elizabeth Partridge

9780670059546 (HC) \$24.99 · Grades 7 up · ATOS: 7.4

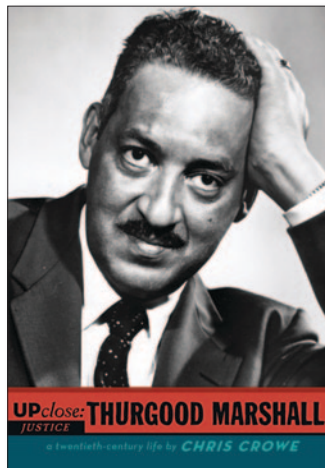
Award-winning biographer Elizabeth Partridge dives into Lennon's life from the night he was born in 1940 during a World War II air raid on Liverpool, deftly taking us through his turbulent childhood and his rebellious rock 'n' roll teens to his celebrated life writing, recording, and performing music with the Beatles. Partridge chronicles the emotional highs and paralyzing lows Lennon transformed into brilliant, evocative songs. With striking black-and-white photographs spanning his entire life, *John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth* is the unforgettable story of one of rock's biggest legends.

YOUNG ADULT TEXT SET: CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



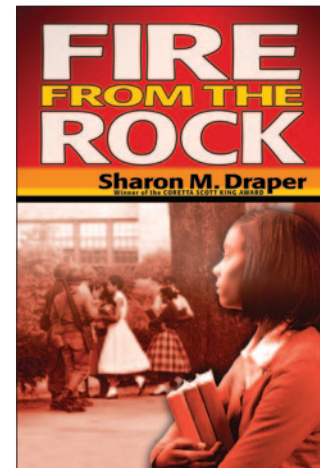
**Getting Away with Murder:
The True Story of the
Emmett Till Case**

By Chris Crowe
9780803728042 (HC) · \$18.99
Grades 7 up
ATOS: 8.7



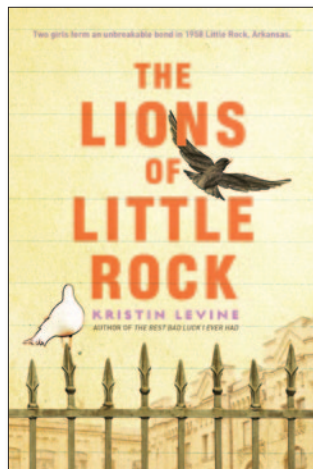
**Thurgood Marshall: A
Twentieth-Century Life**

By Chris Crowe
9780670062287 (HC) · \$16.99
Grades 6 up
ATOS: 9.4



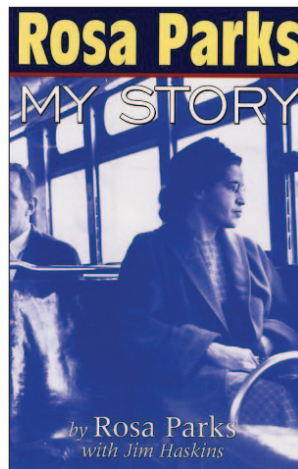
Fire from the Rock

By Sharon M. Draper
9780142411995 (PB) · \$7.99
Grades 7 up
ATOS: 5.0



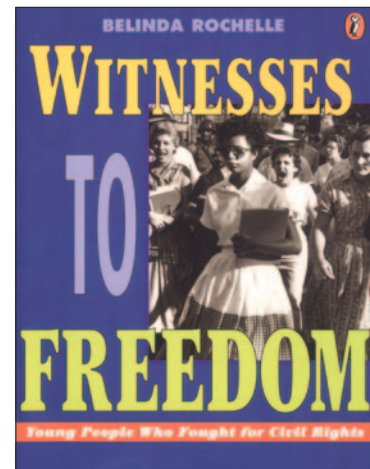
The Lions of Little Rock

By Kristin Levine
9780399256448 (HC) · \$16.99
Grades 5–8
ATOS: 4.1



Rosa Parks: My Story

By Rosa Parks, with Jim Haskins
9780141301204 (PB) · \$6.99
Grades 6 up
ATOS: 6.2



**Witnesses to Freedom:
Young People Who
Fought for Civil Rights**

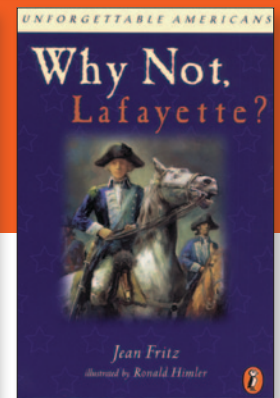
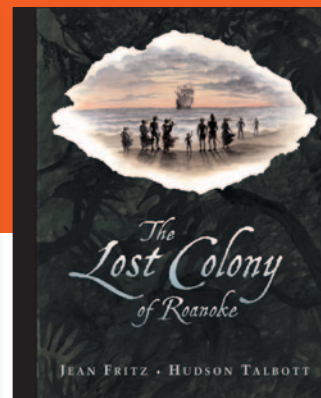
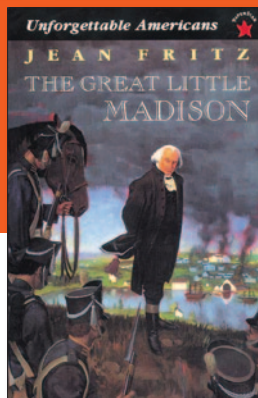
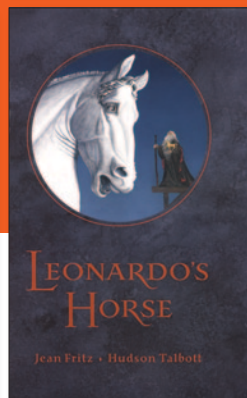
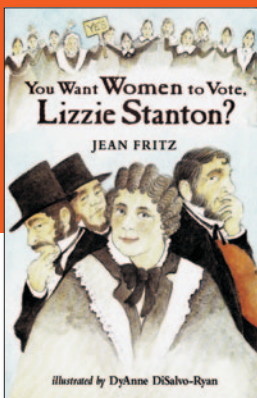
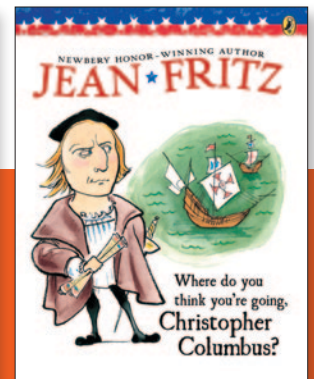
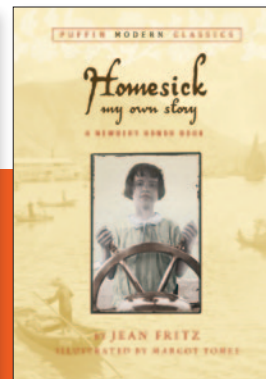
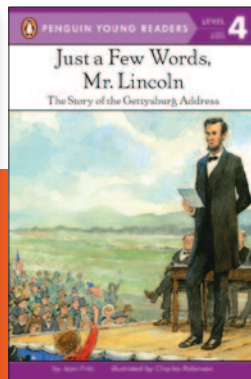
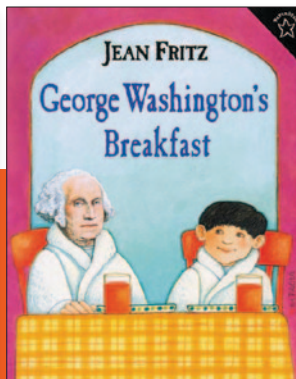
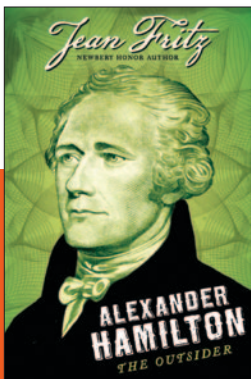
By Belinda Rochelle
9780140384321 (PB) · \$7.99
Grades 5–8
ATOS: 7.0

Using text sets on a specific topic allows readers different entry points into a particular area of study, and offers a variety of perspectives on that same topic. By collecting material in a range of formats, teachers provide students with multiple ways of approaching their subject matter: from full color illustrations or black and white photographs, to books dense in text.

Author Study

JEAN FRITZ

Known for their lively writing, Jean Fritz's books can be used in multiple ways that reflect the Common Core Standards. For example, they are a perfect fit for having students look at the role of language. Fritz often uses questions in her titles and goes on to use them effectively throughout the biographies. Have students compile a list of questions from one of her books and analyze how she uses them to engage readers. Students can also evaluate Fritz's use of quotations and humor to see how they enhance the narratives. In looking at structure, another Common Core emphasis, have students create a timeline to reflect the chronology of one of her biographies. Or have them create a timeline of the many historical figures in relationship to each other and to major events such as the landing of the *Mayflower* or the writing of the Constitution, two of her other book topics. Illustrations play an important role in many of Fritz's biographies. Have students note what details and emotions the illustrations add and compare the style and effectiveness of the different illustrators. Finally, consider reading aloud Fritz's fictionalized account of her childhood in China, *Homesick*, a wonderful Newbery Honor book that can inspire thoughtful discussion.





PENGUIN YOUNG READERS GROUP

NONFICTION AND THE COMMON CORE:

A RESOURCE GUIDE TO USING INFORMATIONAL TEXTS IN THE CLASSROOM

GRADES K-12



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