One Country, Many Voices: Cultural Connections to Our History

An Annotated Bibliography for Grades 3 - 5

Editors

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National History Standards The books listed in this bibliography have content related to the following eras in United States History:

Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754 – 1820s); Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801 – 1861); Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850 – 1877); Era 6: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870 – 1900); Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890 – 1930); Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929 – 1945); Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s); Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

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Introduction

This bibliography was developed with the following questions in mind: What does it mean to have a voice in American history? What does it mean to have a “place” in American history? How did individuals make an impact on the lives of others and on events that changed history?

The question of having a voice in America begins with the country’s founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—in particular, the First Amendment, which states that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The bibliography is organized around historical events and circumstances in which people fought to make their voices heard, often toward fulfillment of the basic promises outlined in constitutional and statutory law.

The books described here tell their stories from a range of world views and life experiences. Presented in a loosely chronological order, they represent a rich sampling rather than an exhaustive list. Several of the titles could easily fit into more than one category.

They range from carefully researched and documented nonfiction accounts, including biographies (also carefully researched if often partially fictionalized), to historical fiction. In making our choices, we relied on criteria, such as that established by the Orbis Pictus Award for nonfiction, recommendations from award-winning author James Cross Giblin in Writing Books for Young People, and drew from the writings of several other authors about the particular challenges of representing history accurately, in a lively manner that is accessible to young readers. Please refer to Resources for Selecting and Evaluating Biographies and Non-Fiction books on the landing page for guidance on selecting books and for suggestions about effectively utilizing them in the classroom.

Americans Who Tell the Truth, in which Robert Shetterly compiled short biographical sketches, salient quotes, and his own portraits of fifty Americans, many of whom spoke out on behalf of others to address injustices, represents the spirit of this bibliography.
In each of the following categories, the titles are arranged under the subheadings of nonfiction, biography, and historical fiction. Many historical novels for children are typically written for 6th grade and up. The historical fiction in this bibliography includes many fully illustrated stories in the picture book format, a few early chapter books, and a few historical novels that proficient middle grade elementary students could read.

- The Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary Era
- Perspectives on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Westward Movement
- From Slave Ship to Freedom Road
- The Civil War Era and the Abolition of Slavery

- Immigration: Coming to America from Europe and the Middle East
- Immigration: Coming to America from the Far East
- Immigration: Latino Perspectives

- The Industrial Revolution, Working Children, and Labor Rights
- Gaining the Right to Vote: the Struggle for the 15th and 19th Amendments
- The Civil Rights Movement

- Resources for Teachers and Proficient Readers

The Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary Era
The Declaration of Independence at the beginning of the American Revolution set forth the premise that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Preamble to the Constitution promises to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. The definition of exactly to whom these promises referred unfolds in the books throughout this bibliography. Those who participated in the American Revolution represented a greater diversity of citizenry than what the signers of the Declaration of Independence suggest.

NONFICTION

New York: Scholastic, 2006; 96 pages.
A portrait of the diversity that existed at the time of the Revolution, and of the people who played leading roles in the struggle for independence. Illustrations, side bars with biographical sketches, quotes from participants, and primary documents contribute to this story.

Fritz, Jean. Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution
Illustrated by Tomie de Paola.
New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1987; 64 pages.
A well-researched and lively account of the debates engaged in during the writing and ratification of the Constitution. Includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Harper, Judith. African Americans and the Revolutionary War
Portrays the treatment and struggles of African Americans during the Revolutionary War and their contributions to the war effort. Maps, original documents, paintings, quotes, photographs, and the well-written text invite the reader into this important story.

Kneib, Martha. *Women Soldiers, Spies, and Patriots of the American Revolution*  
Profiles of women, such as Deborah Sampson, Nancy Hart, Lydia Darragh, Mercy Otis Warren, Esther DeBerdt Reed, Elizabeth Martin, Sybil Ludington, and Margaret Corbin, using many quotes from primary sources.

Stofoff, Rebecca. *Revolutionary War*  
Briefly examines the causes, events, and aftermath of the Revolution. Large maps from the period and the large font help make the text accessible to middle elementary readers.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Fradin, Dennis. *The Founders: The 39 Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution*  
Illustrated by Michael McCurdy.  
Each founder profiled in three pages with woodcut portraits, maps, and representative scenes. This same team has also written and illustrated a companion volume, *The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence*.

Giblin, James. *The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin*  
The book design graphically echoes Franklin’s newspaper. Includes information on important dates, Franklin’s inventions, sayings from Poor Richard’s Almanac, historic sites, and an author’s note. Benjamin Franklin was an early opponent of slavery.

Lasky, Kathryn. *A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet*  
Illustrated by Paul Lee.  
A carefully researched and handsomely illustrated biography of an African girl brought to New England as a slave in 1761. She became famous on both sides of the Atlantic as the first black poet in America.

Maupin, Melissa. *Benjamin Banneker*  
Describes the life and accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker in the fields of science and architecture, as well as his impact as one of the pioneers in promoting equality.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. *George vs. George. The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides*  
HISTORICAL FICTION

There are several well-known titles about the experiences of boys at the time of the Revolutionary War. The following titles each have a female protagonist. The reading levels vary widely. The publishing dates suggest that being alert to bias in characterization would be prudent.

O’Dell, Scott. Sarah Bishop
Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Gauch, Patricia Lee. This Time, Tempe Wick?
A humorous story of Tempe Wick, a spunky girl who exceeds even her own reputation when two mutinous Revolutionary soldiers try to steal her beloved horse.

Collier, James Lincoln. Who is Carrie?
New York: Dell, 1987; 158 pages.
A young black girl living in New York City in the late eighteenth century observes the historic events taking place around her and at the same time solves the mystery of her own identity. This is the third of a trilogy of upper elementary novels about African American young people during the Revolutionary period.

Perspectives on the Westward Movement and the Lewis and Clark Expedition of Discovery
Euro-Americans regarded the territories west of the Mississippi as opportunities to start new lives. The national government sanctioned, even actively encouraged the settlement of the west as the “manifest destiny” of the nation without serious regard for the American Indian nations who had lived there for centuries. Treaties were made and broken, ultimately pushing these people out of their homelands, largely destroying their way of life.

NONFICTION: AMERICAN INDIAN PERSPECTIVES

Patent, Dorothy Henshaw. The Buffalo and the Indians: A Shared Destiny
An excellent exploration of the practical and sacred relationship between the Plains Indians and the buffalo herds. The text weaves together social history and science, and concludes with a candid discussion of how the slaughter of the buffalo herds by Euro-Americans contributed to the destruction of Indian culture.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. The Sioux
Illustrated by Ronald Himler
Identifies the different tribes of the Sioux Indians and their beliefs and traditional way of life. This series includes several titles, including The Cherokees and The Iroquois, about American Indian tribes who were also driven from their lands and traditional ways of life by encroaching white settlers, and US government policies and broken promises.
NONFICTION: EURO-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

Edwards, Judith. The Great Expedition of Lewis and Clark by Private Reubin Field, Member of the Corps of Discovery
Illustrated by Sally W. Comport.
A fictionalized account, told in the words of an actual participant, of the difficulties and wonders that were part of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Erickson, Paul. Daily Life in a Covered Wagon
This large format, generously illustrated book, based on actual Larkin family diaries, which are quoted throughout, follows the experiences of the family along the Oregon Trail in 1853. This book includes a candid look at the impact the Westward Movement had on American Indian peoples along the route and in the west in general.

Freedman, Russell. Children of the Wild West
Historical photographs with explanatory text present life in the American west from 1840 through the early 1900s. Depicts typical lives of white, black, and Indian children and their families.

Porterfield, Jason. The Homestead Act of 1862: A Primary Source History of the Settlement of the American Heartland in the late 19th Century
New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2005; 64 pages.
A candid look at the promise and the hardships of settling the prairie, including brief passages about the Indian Removal Act, and President Jackson’s speech “On Indian Removal” which characterized the “benevolent policy of the Government” as the “happy consummation” of the “removal of Indians beyond the white settlements.”

BIOGRAPHY: AMERICAN INDIAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

Bruchac, Joseph. A Boy Called Slow: the True Story of Sitting Bull
Illustrated by Samuel Byrd.
A slightly fictionalized, fully illustrated biography of Sitting Bull’s childhood and young manhood. An excellent read-aloud for introducing this great Indian chief who refused to cooperate with the American government.

Erdrich, Lise. Sacagawea
Illustrated by Julie Buffalohead.
A slightly fictionalized picture book biography of Sacagawea, a Shoshone, from age eleven when she was kidnapped by the Hitdatsa, through her journey with Lewis and Clark. Told through Sacagawea’s perspective. The author is Ojibway and the illustrator Ponca.

Freedman, Russell. Indian Chiefs
Biographies of six Western Indian chiefs who led their people in a historic moment of crisis, making a decision about fighting or cooperating with white pioneers encroaching
on their hunting grounds. Illustrated with handsome photographs of the chiefs, their family members and Indian life of the era.

Pringle, Laurence. *American Slave, American Hero: York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*
Illustrated by C. Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.
Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek Books, 2006; 40 pages.
The story of York, Clark’s slave, before, during and after he accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition. Based on the premise that the color of York’s skin became an asset on the journey.

Rumford, James. *Sequoyah: the Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*
Translated into Cherokee by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby.
The story of the Cherokee created a writing system for his people with the intention of turning his nation into readers and writers. The story is told in both English and the writing system created by Sequoyah, and enhanced by color-saturated woodcuts.

**BIOGRAPHY: EURO-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES**

Schanzer, Rosalyn. *How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark*
The text is comprised of primary sources – excerpts from letters, notebooks, and journals. The full-color illustrations are large, action-packed and humorous.

**HISTORICAL FICTION: AMERICAN INDIAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES**

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House*
New York: Hyperion, 1999; 244 pages.
This juvenile novel tells the story of Omakayas, an Ojibway girl at the time of the Westward Expansion. This story and two sequels offer an American Indian perspective to the Little House On the Prairie series.

Matthaei, Gay and Jewel Grutman. *The Ledgerbook of Thomas Blue Eagle*
Illustrated by Adam Cvijanovic. Advisor: Arthur Amiotte, Lakota.
A carefully researched story about a Lakota boy’s life before, during and after he attended the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. The drawings are carefully modeled after the traditional pictographs Indian children drew on ledger books at the school.

Lester, Julius. *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses: A True Story*
Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.
A black cowboy is so in tune with wild mustangs that they accept him into the herd, thus enabling him single-handedly to take them to the corral.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Journal of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy*
An accessible account in diary form of the experiences of a sixteen-year-old Black cowboy on the Chisholm Trail in 1871.
Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. Bad River Boys: A Meeting of the Lakota Sioux with Lewis and Clark
Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth.
- The encounter between the Sicangu Lakota with the Lewis and Clark expedition from the perspective of three boys from the tribe. Full page illustrations extend the narrative story.

Yazzie, Evangeline Parsons. Dzani Yazhi Naazbaa’: Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home. A Story of the Navajo Long Walk
Illustrated by Irving Toddy.
- Told in both Navajo and English, this is the story of a girl who endured the Navajo Long Walk with her family and tribal members in the mid-1850’s. This event was part of the U.S. government’s plan to concentrate the Indians of the Southwest on reservations.

HISTORICAL FICTION: EURO-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

Giblin, James Cross. The Boy Who Saved Cleveland
Illustrated by Michael Dooling.
- Based on a true story of a ten-year-old boy who carries and grinds enough corn to feed everyone in the small town of Cleveland in the late 18th century during a malaria outbreak.

Lasky, Kathryn. The Journal of Augustus Pelletier/The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804
- A fictional journal kept by a twelve-year-old boy, the youngest member to accompany the Lewis and Clark expedition. Includes a map of the route and extensive historical notes.

Pringle, Laurence. Dog of Discovery: A Newfoundland’s Adventures with Lewis and Clark
- The Lewis and Clark expedition from the perspective, albeit not the voice, of Lewis’ dog Seaman. Includes sidebars, drawings, quotes from the journals of Lewis and Clark, and is organized as a dated journal.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Little House on the Prairie and sequels
- The chronicle of moving west in a covered wagon was based on the real life experiences of the author and her family. The second page of the first novel states that in the western country “Only Indians lived there.”

From Slave Ship to Freedom Road (from the title of Julius Lester’s book; see below)
There is an exceptionally fine collection of recently published books in picture story book format on the history of slavery including, for example, the Middle Passage and the Underground Railroad. All of the titles in this section are based on actual people and their experiences, albeit fictionalized to varying degrees.

Lester, Julius. From Slave Ship to Freedom Road
Illustrated by Rod Brown.
Describes slaves’ experiences by combining historical narrative and the personal narratives of those who had been slaves. The illustrations are often graphic and not for the faint of heart.

**Levine, Ellen. *Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story of the Underground Railroad***
Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.
Based on the true story of Henry Brown, who escaped on the Underground Railroad by having himself shipped in a box to Philadelphia. A spectacular choice for reading aloud.

**McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington’s Slave Finds Freedom***
A carefully researched, slightly fictionalized account of Oney Judge’s journey to freedom. A good choice for introducing the issue of Founding Fathers as owners of slaves.

**Rappaport, Doreen. *Freedom Ship***
Illustrated by Curtis James.
Based on a true story reconstructed from newspaper accounts, about a fictional family that escapes to a Union ship in the Charleston, South Carolina harbor.

**Rappaport, Doreen. *Freedom River***
Illustrated by Bryan Collier.
Based on the true story of John Parker, an ex-slave, who assisted a family of runaway slaves across the Ohio River to freedom at great risk to himself. The illustrations are particularly evocative.

**Rappaport, Doreen. *No More! Stories and Songs of Slave Resistance***
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.
Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2002; 60 pages.
Short passages of explanatory text accompany the stories and songs that depict slaves’ experiences through the Civil War. Full-page illustrations enhance the accessible narrative.

**Raven, Margot Theis. *Night Boat to Freedom***
Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.
At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life taking runaway slaves across the Ohio River. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.

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**The Civil War Era Through Mid-20th-century America**
**NONFICTION**

**Bolotin, Norman and Angela Herb. *For Home and Country: A Civil War Scrapbook***
Photographs, diary entries, letters, printed wallpapers, news clippings, advertisements, and text describe the experiences, often in frank terms, of the people caught up in the Civil War. This book would make a good companion to Paul Fleischman’s *Bull Run.*
Brezina, Corona. Sojourner Truth’s “Ain’t I a Woman?” Speech: A Primary Source Investigation
A good choice for setting the context for Sojourner Truth’s activism on behalf of abolition of slavery. Primary documents include two versions of the actual speech.

Carey, Charles, Jr. The Emancipation Proclamation: January 1, 1863
Discusses the reasons for Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation and its impact on the institution of slavery and on the course of the Civil War. One of the beautifully conceived and accessible titles in the Journey to Freedom series.

Friedman, Robin. The Silent Witness: A True Story of the Civil War
Illustrated by Claire A. Nivola.
A slightly fictionalized account of the McLean family’s experiences in the Civil War in picture book format. A good read-aloud introduction for middle elementary grades.

Halpern, Monica. Moving North: African Americans and the Great Migration, 1915 – 1930
The story, briefly told, of African Americans moving North during the Jim Crow era to find better lives, an elusive quest after the promise of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Period photographs, quotes, brief profiles of significant leaders, and Jacob Lawrence paintings support the narrative.

Rappaport, Doreen. Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.
Describes the experiences of African Americans in the South, from Emancipation in 1863 to the 1954 Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal. Stories, poems, songs, and the illustrations tell the stories of well-known as well as lesser-known individuals from a range of occupations and pursuits.

BIOGRAPHY

Adler, David. Enemies of Slavery
Illustrated by Donald A. Smith.
A group biography with short introductory profiles of fourteen people, including lesser-known individuals, who represent but a few of the many and diverse people who fought for emancipation.

A beautifully written, illustrated, and designed book about this little-known woman. Includes a lot of information about the Civil War era, free black families, and the New York City Draft riots. For proficient readers.

De Capua, Sarah. Abolitionists: A Force for Change
A group biography describing the accomplishments of American abolitionists from the 17th- through the 19th- centuries in the struggle to end slavery. The dedication is a quote by William Lloyd Garrison: “Every slave is a stolen man; every slaveholder is a man stealer.”

HISTORICAL FICTION

Christ-Evans, Craig. Moon Over Tennessee: A Boy’s Civil War Journal
Illustrated with wood engravings by Bonnie Christiansen.
   The Southern perspective: A thirteen-year-old boy sets off with his father from their farm in Tennessee to join the Confederate forces on their way to fight at Gettysburg. A poem told in the form of diary entries.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Abraham Lincoln: Letters from a Slave Girl
   Although somewhat implausible, this book based on research of plantation slave life features an exchange of letters between the fictional Lettie Tucker and Abraham Lincoln reveal the experience of plantation life for slaves and Lincoln’s thoughts on the matter of emancipation and the Civil War.

Raven, Margot Theis. Circle Unbroken: The Story of a Basket and Its People
Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.
   A picture story book in which a grandmother tells her contemporary granddaughter the tale of Gullahs and their beautiful sweetgrass baskets that keep their African heritage alive.

Taylor, Mildred D. The Friendship
Illustrated by Max Ginsburg.
   The Logan children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi during the Jim Crow era.

Immigration: Coming to America from Europe and the Middle East

NONFICTION

Bial, Raymond. Tenement: Immigrant Life on the Lower East Side
   Period and contemporary photographs from the Lower East Side Tenement Museum enhance this history of immigrants living in New York City from the 1800s to the 1930s.

Freedman, Russell. Immigrant Kids
   Photographs from the era enhance the story of children who arrived with their families to the United States from Europe in the late 1800s and early 1900s, settling in New York City. Quotes from immigrants looking back on their experiences provide authenticity for the narrative.
Levine, Ellen. *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*  
New York: Scholastic, 1993; 80 pages.  
This straightforward account of immigrants’ experiences upon arrival at Ellis Island provides a useful introduction to the history of many people entering the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Meltzer, Milton. *Bound for America: The Story of the European Immigrants*  
The story of the great migration out of Europe to America. Quotes from immigrants and period photographs lend authenticity to the narrative. For proficient upper elementary readers.

Wolf, Bernard. *Coming to America: a Muslim Family’s Story*  
Depicts the joys and hardships experienced by a Muslim family that immigrates to New York City from Alexandria, Egypt, in the hope of making a better life for themselves. Illustrated with many photographs.

**HISTORICAL FICTION: EASTERN EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES**

Lasky, Kathryn. *Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl*  
Twelve year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family’s life on the Lower East Side. For proficient readers.

Moss, Marissa. *Hannah’s Journal: the Story of an Immigrant Girl*  
Based on the story of the author’s grandmother, the diary format on lined paper, in script, with pencil drawings, makes this account of immigrating from Russia to Ellis Island accessible to middle elementary grade readers.

Wells, Rosemary. *Streets of Gold*  
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999; 40 pages.  
Illustrated by Dan Andreasen.  
Based on the memoir of Mary Antin, the story tells of a young girl, her life in Russia, travels to America, and subsequent life in the United States.

Woodruff, Elvira. *The Memory Coat*  
Illustrated by Michael Dooling  
A fully illustrated fictional account of a Jewish family’s journey from Russia to Ellis Island, with extensive author’s notes explaining the background history on which the story is based.

**Immigration: Chinese and Japanese People Coming to Gold Mountain**  
The term “Gold Mountain” originally referred to California during the Gold Rush in the mid-1850s. Gold Mountain is also a generic term used by Asian immigrants for North America.

**NONFICTION**

Hamanaka, Sheila. *The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal*
New York: Orchard Books, 1990; 40 pages. Based on the murals of the author, the text tells the story of Japanese Americans, including the racism they encountered in the early 1900s and during World War II. Provides an excellent introductory overview.


**HISTORICAL FICTION**


Yee, Paul. *Ghost Train* Illustrated by Harvey Chan. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1996, 32 pages. The story of a Chinese girl, whose father has died building the railroads in North America, to which she travels in search of her father’s ghost. While probably set in Canada, the story captures the essence of this aspect of the Chinese immigrant experience.
Yep, Laurence. *The Star Fisher*
Joan Lee and her Chinese American family encounter racism and a difficult adjustment to life in a small Ohio town to which they have moved from West Virginia in the 1920s. For proficient upper-elementary readers.

**Immigration: Latino Perspectives**
Many of the titles in this section represent the experiences of migrant laborers who have immigrated to the United States during the 20th century. These books capture those stories, and the struggle for better working conditions and basic civil rights.

**NONFICTION**

*Anacona, George. Barrio: José’s Neighborhood*
Full-color photographs enhance this depiction of life in the barrio in the Mission District in San Francisco, through the eyes of a child.

*Anacona, George. Harvest*
New York: Cavendish, 2001; 48 pages.
Full-color photographs enhance this depiction of the work and life of campesinos in the Salinas Valley.

*Fraser, Mary Ann. A Mission for the People: The Story of La Purísima*
“An objective historical overview of the settlement of the West,” representing the perspectives of the native Chumash, the Spaniards, the Mexicans, and the Americans of Mission La Purísima near Santa Barbara.

**BIOGRAPHY**

*Bernier-Grand, Carmen. Cesar: Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!*
Illustrated by David Diaz.
Cesar Chavez’s life story told in poetry using Spanish vocabulary and dichos.

*Garland, Sherry. Voices of the Alamo*
Illustrated by Ronald Himler.
New York: Scholastic, 2000; 40 pages.
Sixteen different voices, including that of a Payaya girl from the 1500s, a conquistador, a padre, and well-known historical figures, recount the story of the Alamo and its effect on the history of Texas.

*Krull, Kathleen. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*
Illustrated by Yumi Morales.
Richly colored illustrations enhance the text of this story of Chavez’s life from age ten when his family lived on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against migrant workers’ miserable working conditions.
Winter, Jonah. ¡Béisbol! Latino Baseball Pioneers and Legends
Short sketches of the lives, careers and contributions of fourteen Latino baseball stars.

Winter, Jonah. Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates
Illustrated by Raúl Colón.
Highly recommended. The stunning illustrations capture the hitting and fielding prowess of Puerto Rican baseball star Roberto Clemente. The accessibly formatted text captures him as a fine person who gave much of his money to charities, including building a sports complex for poor children in Puerto Rico.

HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Ada, Alma Flor. Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English
Illustrated by Simón Silva. English translation by Rosa Zubizarreta.
Poetic text and color-saturated paintings celebrate the earth’s bounty and the people who plant, tend and harvest the crops.

Alvarez, Julia. How Tía Lola Came to (Visit) Stay.
New York: Knopf, 2001; 147 pages.
Ten-year-old Miguel has conflicting emotions about the recent arrival of his aunt from the Dominican Republic. (Reviewed by Isabel Schon - see “Resources for Teachers”)

Cohn, Diana. ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can: Janitor Strike in L.A.
Illustrated by Francisco Delgado, with an essay by Luis J. Rodriguez.
Based on the true story of the successful Justice for Janitors Campaign in 2000. Told through the eyes of a young boy whose mother becomes a leader in the strike. The story is told in Spanish and in English. Includes historical notes and biographical sketches.

Mora, Pat. Tomás and the Library Lady
Illustrated by Raul Colón.
A fictionalized event based on the real life story of Tomás Rivera, who became chancellor of the University of California. The story highlights the boy’s relationship with his grandfather and the welcoming librarian in an Iowa farm town.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. Esperanza Rising
New York: Scholastic, 2000; 262 pages.
A chapter book about a Mexican girl and her family who immigrate to California during the Great Depression, and who ultimately get involved in striking for better working conditions as farm workers. For proficient readers.

Thomas, Jane Resh. Lights on the River
Illustrated by Michael Dooling.
Teresa, the young daughter of Mexican-American migrant workers, has a hard life but keeps memories of her grandmother and of Mexico alive in her heart. The tension between the farm owners and the harvesters is palpable.
**Tripp, Valerie. *Again, Josefina!***
Illustrated by Jean-Paul Tibbles.
   This book from the *American Girl* series depicts life on a ranch in the Territory of New Mexico in the early 1800s, as seen through the eyes of nine-year-old Josefina, in an accurate and informative way. (Reviewed by Isabel Schon – see “Resources for Teachers”)

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**The Industrial Revolution, Working Children, and Labor Rights**
The stories of those who struggled to secure decent working conditions and pay for workers provide the focus for this section of the bibliography. Their quest may be viewed in the context of the 1st and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, and statutory laws, such as the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 (see “Resources for Teachers”). Many of the children and adults who worked in the factories were recent immigrants.

**NONFICTION**

**Brenzina, Corona. *The Industrial Revolution in America: A Primary Source History of America's Transformation into an Industrial Society***
New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2005; 64 pages. Primary Source series.
   This overview of the shift from an agricultural economy to an industrialized society pulls together the history of factories, the rise of the machine, advances in communications, immigration and the labor movement. Illustrated with primary documents, photographs, and drawings from each period.

**Flanagan, Alice. *The Lowell Mill Girls***
Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2006; 48 pages. We the People series.
   Life as a mill girl in the 19th century, seen through the story of Lucy Larcom, who documented her experiences in *A New England Girlhood*. Illustrated with documents and images from the period.

**Gourley, Catherine. *Good Girl Work: Factories, Sweatshops, and How Women Changed Their Role in the American Workforce***
   The well-researched story of how working girls fought against unfair and unsafe labor practices in the 18th- and 19th- centuries, from the perspective of the girls themselves as recorded in their diaries.

**Saller, Carol. *Working Children***
   Short text passages and photographs describe the various jobs which children performed during the early 20th century and the reasons for their employment, as well as working conditions, the efforts of reformers, and child labor today.

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**BIOGRAPHY**

**Brown, Don. *Kid Blink Beats The World***
   The text in this picture book and the author’s note describe the successful strike carried out by newsboys and newsgirls against powerful press barons.

**Colman, Penny. *Mother Jones and the March of the Mill Children***
This book focuses on the life and work of Mary Harris Jones, known as Mother Jones, in particular her effort to secure better working conditions for child laborers. The Fair Labor Standards Act, setting limitations on child labor, was passed eight years after her death.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Armstrong, Jennifer. Theodore Roosevelt: Letters from a Young Coal Miner
   A fifteen-year-old Polish immigrant boy exchanges letters with Theodore Roosevelt about conditions in the mines. Based on careful research, the fictionalized story brings to life the miners’ experience, along with Roosevelt’s thinking on the issue.

Littlefield, H. Fire at the Triangle Factory

McCully, Emily Arnold. The Bobbin Girl
   This historically-based picture story book tells the story of Rebecca, a ten-year-old bobbin girl working in a textile mill in the mid 1830s, and of her difficult decision to participate in the first workers’ strike in Lowell. The author’s note describes the story of Harriet Hanson Robinson, on whom Rebecca’s story is based.

Gaining the Right to Vote: The Struggle for the 15th and 19th Amendments
The 19th Amendment grants that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex, thus ensuring women would finally have a voice in the democratic process. The women activists in the stories in this section participated or led the struggle to gain that right by law. The stories of gaining the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, as guaranteed in the 15th Amendment, are in the Civil Rights section of this bibliography.

BIOGRAPHY

Christensen, Bonnie. The Daring Nellie Bly: America’s Star Reporter
   Introduces the life of Nellie Bly, reporter for the New York World newspaper in the late 1880s, who championed the rights of women and working class people throughout her life.

Fritz, Jean. You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?
Illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan.
   The slightly fictionalized story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who traveled the country speaking out about women’s suffrage and equality for everyone, regardless of race or gender.

Krull, Kathleen. A Woman for President: the Story of Victoria Woodhull
Illustrated by Jane Dyer.
A picture book with a fair amount of text and lovely, colorful illustrations. The story of this extraordinary and little-known woman is well told. The author’s note provides more background information. Great for reading aloud.

**White, Linda Arms. I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote**
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.
A fictionalized, lively and fast-paced picture book. The illustrations, which are humorous and witty, capture life in the American West. Includes information about Morris’ early life before she traveled to Wyoming. A great read-aloud.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

**McCully, Emily Arnold. The Ballot Box Battle**
A young girl witnesses an example of courage through her friendship with a neighbor, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who stood up for women’s right to vote. A good read-aloud for introducing the struggle for women’s suffrage.

**Oneal, Zibby. A Long Way to Go**
Illustrated by Michael Dooling.
An 8-year-old girl learns about the women’s suffrage movement as World War I is raging. An accessible introduction through the eyes of a fictional character.

**The Civil Rights Movement**

**NONFICTION**

**Bolden, Tonya. Tell All the Children Our Story: Memories and Mementos of Being Young and Black in America**
Arranged as a scrapbook with photographs, letters, diary excerpts, art, illustrations, and narrative text, this is the story of African American children’s experience from the time of the Jamestown colony to present day America. For proficient readers.

**McWhorter, Diane. A Dream of Freedom: the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968**
New York: Scholastic, 2004; 160 pages.
A comprehensive overview of the major events and figures of the Civil Rights Movement. The large font, many photographs, and short sections of text provide an accessible format for proficient and highly interested young readers.

**Morrison, Toni. Remember: the Journey to School Integration**
A photo essay which includes several well-known black and white photographs. The short narratives accompanying the photographs imagine what the children in the pictures might have been thinking and feeling.

**Welch, Catherine A. Children of the Civil Rights Era**
The experiences of African American children throughout the struggle for basic civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s, told with dramatic photographs, quotes from the children
looking back as adults, and short passages of text. A good introductory book to this history.

BIOGRAPHY: A SAMPLING

Cooper, Floyd. *Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes*
A beautiful picture biography that explores the childhood experiences that formed the poet. The text and exquisite illustrations are evocative of the times and places in Hughes’ life.

Duggleby, John. *Story Painter: The Life of Jacob Lawrence*
A very engaging text with many glorious reproductions of Lawrence’s work and photographs. This biography covers his entire life and documents issues of race and Lawrence’s involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

Giovanni, Nikki. *Rosa*
Illustrated by Bryan Collier.
A fresh version of the familiar story set in the larger context of the Women’s Political Council which helped to organize the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The collage and watercolor illustrations dramatize the story.

Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*
Illustrated by Paul Bacon.
An inspiring introduction to Jackie Robinson’s perseverance in the face of bias with the support of Pee Wee Reese, fellow Brooklyn Dodger.

Hansen, Joyce. *Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made a Difference*
Each double spread features a full-page narrative highlighting each woman’s life and accomplishments, opposite stunning black and white photographs. The annotated bibliography and “More Women of Hope” extend this valuable contribution to biographical resources for children. For proficient readers.

Haskins, Jim and Kathleen Benson. *John Lewis in the Lead: A Story of the Civil Rights Movement*
Illustrated by Benny Andrews.
The story of the civil rights leader who was the son of an Alabama sharecropper and grew up to change the world. John Lewis represents Georgia in the United States Congress.

Myers, Walter Dean. *I’ve Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*
Illustrated by Leonard Jenkins.
A beautiful and powerful picture book. The text is a moving account of King’s adult life and accomplishments. The paintings are colorful and vivid.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *When Marian Sang*
Illustrated by Brian Selznick.
An exceptionally beautiful book in picture book format. The text is lively and engaging. The exquisite, painted illustrations are powerful and evocative of the time period. The endnotes include additional information, sources, and a timeline.

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963***  
The Watson family heads to Birmingham, Alabama, arriving shortly before the infamous bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which the four girls to whom the book is dedicated died. The engaging storytelling and high interest topic lend accessibility to upper elementary readers.

**Little Sugar, Amy. *Freedom School, Yes!***  
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.  
A fictionalized version of a real event that took place during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom School Summer Project. The story focuses on a family whose house is attacked because the mother volunteered to take in the young white woman who has come to teach black children at the Freedom School.

**Mitchell, Margaree King. *Granddaddy’s Gift***  
Illustrated by Larry Johnson.  
When her grandfather registers to vote while living in segregated Mississippi, an African-American girl begins to understand why he insists that she attend school.

**Wiles, Deborah. *Freedom Summer***  
Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue.  
After the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, best friends, one white and the other black, discover that racial prejudice still exists when they swim at a city pool.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side***  
Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.  
Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.
Resources for Teachers and Proficient Readers

DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY: CONSTITUTION AND STATUTORY LAW

To access the documents below visit www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php
This National Archives website contains 100 milestone documents from U.S. History and provides background information and lesson plans.

Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, . . .”

Preamble to the Constitution: “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The Bill of Rights, which contains the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was adopted in 1791.

First Amendment (including freedom of speech and the right to assemble)
“Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Fifth Amendment (just compensation for seizure of property)
“No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

Thirteenth Amendment (abolishing slavery)
“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to its jurisdiction.”

Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection of the laws)
“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Fifteenth Amendment (granting the right to vote regardless of race)
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Nineteenth Amendment (granting the right to vote regardless of gender)
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”
The National Labor Relations Act of 1935: “Experience has proved that protection by law of the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively safeguards commerce from injury, impairment, or interruption, and promotes the flow of commerce by removing certain recognized sources of industrial strife and unrest, by encouraging practices fundamental to the friendly adjustment of industrial disputes arising out of differences as to wages, hours, or other working conditions, and by restoring equality of bargaining power between employers and employees.”

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed “to enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, and for other purposes.”

REFERENCE BOOKS

For proficient upper elementary readers and teachers. This excellent resource describes the relationships between workers and industries from 1750 through 1929. Extensively illustrated with primary documents, sidebars, and photographs.

Freedman, Russell. Indian Chiefs
Biographies of six Western Indian chiefs who led their people in a historic moment of crisis, making a decision about fighting or cooperating with white pioneers encroaching on their hunting grounds. Illustrated with handsome photographs of the chiefs, their family members and Indian life of the era.

Hunter, Miranda. Latino Americans and Immigration Laws: Crossing the Border
Discusses the history of immigration law and policy, the experience of Latino immigrants, and related issues, through narrative text, primary documents, photographs, framed through the eyes of one family. Other titles of interest in this series include The Story of Latino Civil Rights: Fighting for Justice, and Latino Migrant Workers: America’s Harvesters.

Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, 2003; 269 pages.
An excellent resource for identifying fiction, nonfiction, and biography about Latino people and cultures from around the Spanish-speaking world for K-12 students. The bibliographical list is arranged by country, and includes stand-alone titles as well as series. An author index, subject index, title index, and suggested grade level index enhance the usefulness of this reference.

Takaki, Ronald. Journey to Gold Mountain: The Chinese in the 19th Century
An important overview of the two waves of Chinese immigration to North America, related by a leading expert on the topic.