

BIOGRAPHIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The 20th Century



An Annotated Bibliography for Elementary and Middle Grades

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Biographies of 20th-Century Americans

The 20th century witnessed the continued and rapid rise of the United States as a world economic, cultural, military and technical power. Early in the century, the Wright brothers took their historic first heavier-than-air flight. Only six decades later, man walked on the moon. At the close of the century, digital technology revolutionized the way the world works and our access to information. Scientists also unraveled the genetic code making possible advances in medicine previously unimagined. In the meantime, the struggle by the disenfranchised, the impoverished and newly-arrived groups to realize the American dream gathered momentum.

Many of the books in this bibliography are about people who challenged the status quo, in some cases risking their lives and livelihoods to help the United States live up to its ideals. Other books tell the stories of those who persevered against the odds in pursuit of personal dreams, and in doing so captured the imagination of the nation and the world. The bibliography highlights heroes in the fight for civil rights and human rights, political leaders, scientists and inventors, athletes, aviators and astronauts. It also includes books about artists, writers and performers who have enriched America's cultural life and helped shape the way we perceive ourselves as individuals and as a society.

Efforts to find accessible, high quality biographies on figures in under-represented groups—including Asian Americans, Latinos, American Indians and Arab Americans—proved challenging. The publishing industry has yet to catch up with the need in this area. Nonetheless, as with the 18th - and 19th-century bibliographies, there are an abundance of books on 20th-century history makers for young readers and those selected for this list are characterized by historical accuracy, lively writing and outstanding design.

The biographies are grouped in the following categories:

Athletes

- Baseball: Hank Aaron, Roberto Clemente, Lou Gehrig, Willie Mays, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson
- Basketball: Michael Jordan
- Boxing: Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis
- Swimming and diving: Gertrude Ederle, Sammy Lee
- Track: Wilma Rudolph, Jim Thorpe

Aviators and Astronauts

- Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins
- Bessie Coleman
- Amelia Earhart
- Charles Lindbergh
- The Wright brothers

Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement

- Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine
- Ruby Bridges
- W.E.B. DuBois
- Martin Luther King
- W. W. Law
- Thurgood Marshall
- Rosa Parks
- Bayard Rustin

Human Rights Activists

- Cesar Chavez
- Marian Wright Edelman
- Lewis Hine
- Mother Jones
- Helen Keller
- Osceola McCarty
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Elie Wiesel
- Booker T. Washington
- Malcolm X

Presidents

- Jimmy Carter
- John Fitzgerald Kennedy
- Theodore Roosevelt

Scientists, Inventors and Environmentalists

- Wilson Bentley
- Rachel Carson
- George Washington Carver
- Albert Einstein
- Philo Farnsworth
- John Muir
- James Watson

Voices: Artists, Writers and Performers

Harlem Renaissance and Beyond

- Marian Anderson
- Maya Angelou
- James Baldwin
- Romare Bearden
- Ella Fitzgerald
- Langston Hughes
- Zora Neale Hurston
- James Weldon Johnson
- Jacob Lawrence

Other Voices

- Architect: Maya Lin
- Composers: George Gershwin, Charles Ives
- Dancers: Alvin Ailey, José Limón, Maria Tallchief
- Photographer: Dorothea Lange
- Musicians: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington
- Poet: Carl Sandburg
- Song writer: Woody Guthrie

Under-represented Americans

This brief section includes the names of several history makers included in series and collected biographies for more experienced readers.

Athletes

Baseball:

Aaron, Henry (1934 – present)

Golenbock, Peter. Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2001; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. An accessible introductory biography enhanced by striking paintings by Paul Lee in a picture storybook format.

Clemente, Roberto (1934 – 1972)

Winter, Jonah. Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates

New York: Atheneum Books for Young People, 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Highly recommended. The stunning illustrations by Raúl Colón capture the hitting and fielding prowess of 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 his place of birth, Puerto Rico.

Gehrig, Lou (1903-1941)

Adler, David. Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1997; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. A very attractive and accessible introductory biography of the famous Yankee.

Mays, Willie (1931 – present)

Mandel, Peter. Say Hey! A Song of Willie Mays

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2000; 32 pages.

Grade 2. The text is a poem that captures the rhythm of baseball vernacular. The story itself is told primarily through the pictures by Don Tate.

Paige, Satchel (1906 – 1982)

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Satchel Paige

Illustrations by James E. Ransome.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. A large format book with saturated color illustrations by James Ransome that beautifully capture the life and career of a pitcher known for his showmanship and sportsmanship on the field. Well-written narrative is fairly lengthy for the picture storybook format.

Robinson, Jackie (1919-1972)

Golenbock, Peter. Teammates

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1990; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. An inspiring story of Jackie's Robinson's perseverance in the face of bias with the support of fellow Brooklyn Dodger Pee Wee Reese.

Robinson, Sharon. Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America

New York: Scholastic Press, 2004; 64 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. Recommended. An excellent photobiography by Robinson's daughter. Narrative made more accessible to younger readers by book design, sidebars, and photographs.

Basketball:

Jordan, Michael (1963 – present)

Cooper, Floyd. Jump! From the Life of Michael Jordan

New York: Philomel, 2004; 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. The focus of this biography is on Jordan's childhood, early success as a basketball player in high school, and his close friendship with his brother Larry. The sepia toned illustrations by the author wonderfully capture the sense of Jordan's physical grace and skill with the ball. Recommended as a read aloud introduction to his life.

Boxing:

Muhammad Ali (1942 –present)

Haskins, Jim. Champion: The Story of Muhammad Ali

New York: Walker and Company, 2002; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. Dramatic, multi-image illustrations by Eric Velasquez accompany episodes from Ali's childhood, career, and conversion to Islam. This biography takes a candid look at his strengths as well as his less admirable personality traits.

Shange, Ntozake. FLOAT Like a Butterfly

New York: Hyperion Books, 2002; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. A dramatic presentation of Muhammad Ali's early life and career enhanced with full color illustrations by Edel Rodriguez and a timeline. A good introductory biography to read aloud.

Louis, Joe (1914-1981)

Adler, David. Joe Louis: America's Fighter

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Books, 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. An exceedingly handsome biography on the childhood and career of Louis. The author's notes provide additional biographical information. The book design and relatively brief narrative lend themselves well to a read-aloud introduction to Louis's achievements and symbolic role in American history.

Swimming and Diving:

Ederle, Gertrude (1905 - 2003)

Adler, David. America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle

San Diego,CA: Harcourt, 2000; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. A lively and accessible account of Ederle's early life as a swimmer and her cross-English Channel swim. Attractively illustrated by Terry Widener with full page paintings.

Lee, Sammy (1920-present)

Yoo, Paula. Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Picture storybook format, with mixed media illustrations by Dom Lee in sepia tones. This is the story of Lee overcoming racial discrimination to become an outstanding Olympic diving champion. A long-awaited addition to biographies about Asian Americans.

Track:

Rudolph, Wilma (1940-1994)

Krull, Kathleen. Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 1996; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. Stunning illustrations by David Diaz make Rudolph's accomplishment all the more compelling in this beautifully designed book. An excellent read-aloud.

Thorpe, Jim (1887-1953)

Bruchac, Joseph. Jim Thorpe's Bright Path

New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004; 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. The narrative and illustrations in picture storybook format tell the story of Thorpe's childhood and early success as an all-around athlete.

Aviators and Astronauts

Aldrin, Buzz (1930 – present)

Aldrin, Buzz. Reaching for the Moon

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005; 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. A picture storybook autobiography by the author tracing his aspirations to excel in all that he took on, his years as a pilot, and his flight to the moon. Very accessible narrative, handsomely illustrated by Wendell Minor. The character building messages are a bit heavy handed.

Armstrong, Neil (1930 – present)

Brown, Don. One Giant Leap: The Story of Neil Armstrong

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1998; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. A picture storybook introduction to Armstrong and his walk on the moon with illustrations by the author. Particularly well-suited as a read aloud.

Coleman, Bessie (1892-1926)

Borden, Louise and Mary Kay Kroeger. Fly High: The Story of Bessie Coleman

Illustrations by Teresa Flavin.

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001; 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Recounts the story of the world’s first licensed black female pilot and the first African American to earn an international pilot’s license. The formatting of the text and the attractive gouache on colored paper illustrations by Teresa Flavin make Coleman’s story accessible for less experienced readers.

Grimes, Nikki. Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman

New York: Scholastic, 2002; 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 5 Coleman’s story is told in poems by people in her life who are at her funeral. The full-page watercolor illustrations by E.B. Lewis opposite each poem add to the distinctive conceptual and visual design of this book.

Joseph, Lynn. Fly, Bessie, Fly

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This fictionalized account is written with a familiar tone and illustrated with attractive watercolors by Yvonne Buchanan. A good read-aloud introduction to Coleman’s life.

Collins, Michael (1930 - present)

Schyffert, Bea. The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins

Translated from German.

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1999; 77 pages.

Grades 3 and up. High interest. This scrapbook style biography won the Batchelder Honor for science writing. It contains fascinating information about the first mission to the moon from the perspective of Michael Collins.

Earhart, Amelia (1897-1937?)

Burleigh, Robert. Free in the Skies

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2003; 48 pages.

Grades 3 - 8. Earhart’s story told in graphic comic book format, using comic book conventions.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride

New York: Scholastic Press, 1999; 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Highly recommended. This book about Amelia Earhart’s friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt is fictionalized to the extent that it is shelved with fictional picture storybooks. The drawings by Brian Selznick were extensively researched, lending authenticity to this story based on an actual incident.

Szabo, Corinne. Sky Pioneer: A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 1997; 64 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. Highly recommended. A beautifully designed presentation with many photographs, quotes and maps accompany a well-written narrative.

Lindbergh, Charles (1902-1974)

Burleigh, Robert. *Flight: The Journey of Charles Lindbergh*

New York: Philomel Books, 1991; unpagged.

Grades 2 – 4. Notable illustrations by Mike Wimmer enhance this narrative account focused primarily on Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight. Winner of the Orbis Pictus Award.

Giblin, James Cross. *Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero*

New York: Clarion Books, 1997; 212 pages.

Grades 6 and above. Skillful and candid storytelling that also addresses Lindbergh's controversial sympathies for the Third Reich. Winner of many awards, including the Orbis Pictus Honor Award.

Wright, Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur (1867-1912)

Collins, Mary. *Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright*

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2003; 63 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. One in an excellent series that combines engaging text with dynamic layout and many photographs.

Freedman, Russell. *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane*

New York: Scholastic, 1993, 1991; 129 pages.

Grades 6 – 12. An excellent, thorough and well-written account. Includes many quotes from the Wrights' own writing and is illustrated with large photographs taken by the Wright brothers themselves.

Jenner, Caryn. *First Flight: The Story of the Wright Brothers*

New York: DK Publishing, 2003; 48 pages.

SERIES: DK Readers

Grades 3 – 6. Part of a series for beginning readers, this is a somewhat more challenging book. However, the text is accessible, and the layout is engaging with many sidebars, photographs and other illustrations.

Maurer, Richard. *The Wright Sister: Katherine Wright and Her Famous Brothers*

Brookfield, CN: Roaring Brook Press, 2003; 127 pages.

Grades 6 – 12. An excellent biography of the Wright brothers' sister, Katherine. She was their main caregiver, managed their affair, and traveled with them. Very accomplished in her own right, she was much better educated than they. Much of our information about the brothers comes from her writings. With many quotes from letters and illustrated with family photographs.

Old, Wendie C. *To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers*

New York: Clarion Books, 2002; 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. A beautiful book – the text, pictures and book design make this an exceptionally fine biography. The watercolor illustrations by Robert Andrew Parker are lively and colorful. Captures the excitement of the story of these two self-taught bicycle mechanics whose technical achievement is one of the most remarkable of the 20th century.

Yolen, Jane. My Brothers' Flying Machine: Wilbur, Orville, and Me

Illustrations by Jim Burke.

New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 2 - 4. This fictionalized account of Katherine Wright's role in her brothers' accomplishments is told in the first person. Handsome full-page oil and pencil illustrations add to this book's appeal as a read-aloud introduction to the story of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement

Bates, Daisy (1914 – 1999)

Fradin, Judith and Dennis. The Power of One. Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine

New York: Clarion Books, 2004; 178 pages.

Grades 6 – 8. An excellent reference for teachers and proficient readers. Illustrated with photographs and primary source documents. Back matter includes extensive notes.

Bridges, Ruby (1954 – present)

Bridges, Ruby. Through My Eyes

New York: Scholastic Press, 1999; 64 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Recommended photobiography. Excellent book design. Narrative told in the first person by Ruby Bridges, supported by photographs, quotes and primary source documents.

Coles, Robert. The Story of Ruby Bridges

New York: Scholastic Inc. 1995; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. The picture storybook format makes this account of the events very accessible to young readers. The afterword describes Bridges's life after the events in the story.

DuBois, W.E.B. (1868-1963)

Troy, Don. W.E.B. DuBois

Mankato, MN: The Child's World, 1999; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom. The African American Library

Grades 3 – 5. Recommended. Handsome book design, photographs, primary source documents and clear narrative characterize this biography of this influential African American scholar and leader who helped found the NAACP.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. (1929-1968)

There are many distinguished, as well as ordinary, biographies of Martin Luther King, Jr. We include several more recent books that are particularly well designed.

Brown, Adele Q. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Milwaukee, WI: World Almanac Library, 2004; 48 pages.

SERIES: Trailblazers of the Modern World

Grades 5 – 8. Straightforward and accessible biography in an attractive format with many sidebars and photos. Includes a timeline and glossary.

Farris, Christine King. My Brother Martin: a Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003; 35 pages.

Grades 2 – 6. A beautiful and powerful picture book in its text, illustrations and design. Written by his sister, this biography of MLK deals mostly with the childhood experiences that shaped him. The text is lovely and poetic; the illustrations by Chris Soentpiet are large, vivid and stunning.

Myers, Walter Dean. I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. A beautiful and powerful picture book. The text is a moving account of MLK's adult life and accomplishments. The paintings by Leonard Jenkins are colorful and vivid.

Rappaport, Doreen. Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2001; 32 pages.

Grades 1 – 6. A beautiful and powerful picture book in its text, illustrations, and design. The text is spare, accessible, and poetic. The author introduces inspirational quotes from MLK. Bryan Collier's collages are stunning.

Law, W.W. (1923 – 2002)

Haskins, Jim. Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights.

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. Recommended. Brief, clearly written narratives of the major events in Law's life and work in civil rights are paired with color, full-page illustrations by Benny Andrews that capture the tone and spirit of Law's work.

Marshall, Thurgood (1908-1993)

Williams, Carla. Thurgood Marshall

Mankato, MN: The Child's World, 2002; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/African American Library

Grades 3 – 5. Another volume in this excellent series characterized by clear narrative, handsome book design, photograph and primary sources.

Parks, Rosa (1913-2005)

Giovanni, Nikki. Rosa

Illustrations by Bryan Collier.

New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. A well-written, slightly fictionalized account of the famous incident that triggered the Montgomery bus boycott. The powerful illustrations are paintings that resemble collage, capturing the events particularly well.

Parks, Rosa with Jim Haskins. Rosa Parks: My Story

New York: Dial Books, 1992; 192 pages.

Grades 5th and above. An autobiography told with Jim Haskins, illustrated generously with black and white photos.

Parks, Rosa with Jim Haskins. I am Rosa

New York: Puffin Books, 48 pages.

Grades 2 -3. This easy-to-read version of Parks's autobiography gives younger readers access to her voice and passion. Water color paintings by Wil Clay enhance the text.

Ringgold, Faith. If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999; 32 pages.

Grades 2 - 5. This fictionalized account of Rosa Parks, told through the eyes of a young girl, provides a good introduction and read aloud. The illustrations are by the author.

Rustin, Bayard (1912-1987)

Haskins, James. Bayard Rustin. Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1997; 121 pages.

Grades 8 and above. This award winning biography is an excellent resource for teachers about this important civil rights leader. The text is continuous with one section of black and white photographs.

Additional Resources on the Civil Rights Movement

Fradin, Dennis and Judith. Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration

New York: Clarion Books, 2003; 181 pages.

Grades 5 - 8. A well conceived photobiography of a less well-known civil rights leader, set in Washington, D.C. Illustrated with photographs and interesting primary source documents.

Hansen, Joyce. Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made a Difference

New York: Scholastic, 1998; 32 pages.

Grades 5 - 8. Double spreads with full-page biographies opposite stunning black and white photographs. The annotated bibliography and "More Women of Hope" extend this valuable contribution to biographical resources for children.

McWhorter, Diane. A Dream of Freedom. The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968.

New York: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004; 154 pages.

Grades 5 - 8. Highly recommended. This prize-winning history of the Civil Rights Movement is beautifully designed with photographs, sidebars, quotes and mini- biographies interwoven in the narrative.

Human Rights Activists

Chavez, Cesar (1927-1993)

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. Cesar. Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!

Illustrations by David Diaz.

New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2004; 48 pages.

Grades 3 - 6. Highly recommended. Cesar Chavez's life story told in a book of poems that use Spanish vocabulary and dichos (sayings). Back matter includes glossary, reference notes, a brief biography, timeline and sources.

Davis, Lucille. Cesar Chavez

Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 1998; 24 pages.

SERIES: Photo-Illustrated Biographies

Grades 3 - 4. One of many biographies about Chavez. Straightforward and accessible due to carefully controlled grammatical structure and well-placed photographs to support the narrative.

Krull, Kathleen. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez

San Diego: Harcourt, 2003; 48 pages.

Grades 3 - 5. Highly recommended. Tells the story of Chavez's life, from age ten when he and his family lived on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers' miserable working conditions. Richly colored acrylic and mixed media illustrations by Yumi Morales enhance the picture book format.

Edelman, Marian Wright (1939 - present)

Burch, Joann J. Marian Wright Edelman: Children's Champion

Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1994; 48 pages.

SERIES: Gateway Biographies

Grades 4 - 6. Accessible narrative accompanied by well-chosen photographs of Edelman, her family and colleagues, set in the context of her work.

Siegel, Beatrice. Marian Wright Edelman: The Making of a Crusader

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995; 160 pages.

Grades 6 - 8. Comprehensive, well-written account of Edelman's life and accomplishments.

Hine, Lewis W. (1874-1940)

Freedman, Russell. Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade against Child Labor

New York: Clarion Books, 1994; 104 pages.

Grades 6 - 8. Recommended. Excellent writing generously illustrated with Lewis Hine's photographs of child laborers presents the compelling story of Hine's campaign to pass laws limiting child labor.

Related book:

Brown, Don. Kid Blink Beats The World

Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 2 - 5. This picture book about child labor makes no mention of Lewis Hine but it depicts the successful strike carried out by newsboys and girls against powerful press barons. Fully illustrated in sepia tones by the author.

Harris, Mary (Mother Jones) (1830-1930)

Kraft, Betsy Harvey. Mother Jones: One Woman's Fight for Labor

New York: Clarion Books, 1995; 116 pages.

Grades 6 – 8. A good reference for teachers and more experienced readers. Written in a lively manner and illustrated with period photographs and primary source documents.

Keller, Helen (1880-1968)

Ford, Carin T. Helen Keller: Meet a Woman of Courage

Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc. 2002; 32 pages.

SERIES: Meeting Famous People

Grades 2 – 4. Accessible to younger readers. Attractive book design using photographs of Keller and the people in her life. Includes a time line, glossary and the Braille alphabet.

Lawlor, Laurie. Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit

New York: Holiday House, 2001; 168 pages.

Grades 6 – 8. Recommended as an excellent resource for teachers. This handsome biography tells a lively story making Keller come alive as a person. Illustrated with black and white photographs and primary source documents.

Sullivan, George. Helen Keller

New York: Scholastic Reference, 2000; 128 pages.

SERIES: In Their Own Words

Grades 3 – 5. Accessible and straightforward account of Keller's life, told using excerpts from her own writings, and illustrated with photographs and a few primary source documents.

McCarty, Osceola (1908 -1999)

Coleman, Evelyn. The Riches of Osceola McCarty

Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company, 1998; 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. Inspiring story of a woman who worked as a laundress all her life yet managed to establish a scholarship fund enabling students from Mississippi to go to college. Told in a straightforward manner, enhanced by distinctive black and white block prints.

Roosevelt, Eleanor (1884-1962)

Cooney, Barbara. Eleanor

New York: Viking, 1996; 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Recommended. Picture storybook about Eleanor Roosevelt's childhood. The author has an ear for anecdotes that will capture the interest of young readers. The illustrations are in the familiar style that many know from Cooney's Miss Rumphius.

Fleming, Candace. Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2005; 176 pages.

Grades 6 and up. Anecdotes, photographs, original documents, quotes, and information about the context of Roosevelt's life and humanitarian activities are arranged in an accessible format that invites browsing.

Freedman, Russell. Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery

New York: Clarion Books, 1993; 198 pages.

Grades 6 – 8. Highly recommended as a resource for teachers and more proficient readers. This photobiography is the definitive children’s biography of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Harness, Cheryl. Franklin & Eleanor

Illustrations by the author.

New York: Dutton Children’s Books, 2004; 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Attractive picture storybook format. Well-written anecdotes will draw in young readers.

Stone, Amy. Eleanor Roosevelt

Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 2005; 32 pages.

SERIES: Raintree Biographies

Grades 2 – 4. Very attractive book design with photographs and sidebars. Subheading titles are as lively as the text.

Washington, Booker T. (1856-1915)

McLeone, Margo. Booker T. Washington. A Photo-Illustrated Biography

Mankato, MN: Bridgestone Books, 1997; 24 pages.

SERIES: Read and Discover, Photo-Illustrated Biographies

Grades 2 – 3. An extremely accessible narrative supported with photographs, a glossary, and a timeline. For less experienced readers.

Troy, Don. Booker T. Washington

Mankato, MN: The Child’s World, 1999; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 3 -6. As in other volumes in the distinguished African American Library, the clear writing and book design provide excellent support for elementary readers.

Wiesel, Elie (1928-present)

Pariser, Michael. Elie Wiesel: Bearing Witness

Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press, 1992; 48 pages.

SERIES: Gateway Biographies

Grades 3 – 5. Clearly written story of this Nobel prize-winner and spokesman for survivors of World War II concentration camps. Illustrated with black and white photographs from the period.

Malcolm X (1925-1965)

Myers, Walter Dean. Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2000; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Tells the story of one of the most influential African American leaders of the 1950s and 1960s. Extremely handsome picture storybook enhanced by multimedia illustrations by Leonard Jenkins. Includes direct quotes incorporated into the story and a timeline.

Presidents

All 20th century presidents' lives, administrations and accomplishments have been documented for young readers by several publishing houses. Most appear as part of series that resemble one another in book design, varying primarily by reading level. The narrative in these biographies is usually quite straightforward and tailored for young readers. The biographies listed here stand apart for the quality of writing, historical research or unique perspective.

Carter, Jimmy (1924-present)

George, Linda and Charles. Jimmy Carter: Builder of Peace

New York: Children's Press, 2000; 48 pages.

SERIES: Community Builders

Grades 2 – 3. The focus of this biography is on Carter as a person who stood up for what was right even in the face of criticism and on Carter's work around the world on behalf of human rights and peace. Illustrated with color and black and white photographs.

Hobkirk, Lori. James Earl Carter: Our Thirty-Ninth President

Chanhassen, MN: The Child's World, 2002; 48 pages.

SERIES: Spirit of America

Grades 3 – 5. A biography that includes Carter's work on treaties for peace and on behalf of human rights. Illustrated with photographs. Sidebars containing "Interesting Facts" add liveliness to the otherwise straightforward approach.

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald (1917-1963)

Cooper, Ilene. Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy

New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2003; 168 pages.

Grades 6 and above. A thorough look at Kennedy's boyhood and early political career, illustrated with black and white photographs and primary source documents such as handwritten letters and report cards. Reasonably lively writing brings Kennedy and his family alive.

Heiligman, Deborah. High Hopes: A Photobiography of John F. Kennedy

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2003; 64 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. Recommended. This handsomely designed biography, generously illustrated with photographs and primary source documents, reveals the impressive accomplishments of Kennedy's abbreviated presidency.

Sommer, Shelley. John F. Kennedy: His Life and Legacy

New York: HarperCollins, 2005; 152 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. With an introduction by Caroline Kennedy and extensive source notes, this biography draws from some of the most reliable accounts of Kennedy's life. Includes interesting anecdotes, archival photographs, noteworthy quotes and the text of Kennedy's inaugural address.

Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919)

St. George, Judith. You're on Your Way, Teddy Roosevelt

New York: Penguin, 2004; 46 pages.

Grades 2- 3. A humorous fictionalized account of Roosevelt's early life. Serves well as a read-aloud introduction to his life.

Scientists, Inventors and Environmentalists

Bentley, Wilson (1865-1926)

Martin, Jacqueline. Snowflake Bentley

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This picture storybook biography of dairy farmer and photographer Wilson Bentley was awarded the Caldecott Medal. The illustrations combine Mary Azarian's wood cuts and Bentley's snow crystal photography.

Carson, Rachel (1907-1964)

Locker, Thomas and Joseph Bruchac. Rachel Carson. Preserving a Sense of Wonder

Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 2- 3. This accessible picture storybook biography is beautifully illustrated with full-color paintings. The narrative is interspersed with memorable quotes from Rachel Carson's writing.

Erlich, Amy. Rachel. The Story of Rachel Carson

San Diego, CA: Harcourt, Inc., 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This biography chronicles Carson's life-long interest in the natural world. Illustrated by Wendell Minor with full-page paintings of Carson in natural settings with chapter headings of individual woodland and ocean species.

Carver, George Washington (1864?-1943)

Carey, Charles. George Washington Carver

Mankato, MN: The Child's World, 1999; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 3 – 5. Another volume in the distinguished and well-designed African American Library series.

Nelson, Marilyn. Carver: A Life in Poems

Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2001; 103 pages.

Grades 5 and above. Highly recommended. This book of original poems based on episodes in Carver's life has won or been a finalist for the Newbery, the Coretta Scott King, National Book, and Boston Globe-Horn Book awards. Illustrated with occasional photographs.

Einstein, Albert (1879-1955)

Brown, Don. *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. This lively picture storybook has relatively little text, but the vocabulary is sophisticated. An excellent introduction to Einstein's early life and achievements, especially suited for reading aloud.

Delano, Marie Ferguson. *Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein*

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2005. 64 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. As is the case with other biographies published by National Geographic, excellent writing and handsome book design reveal Einstein's life and accomplishments in an engaging way.

MacLeod, Elizabeth. *Albert Einstein: A Life of Genius*

Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. A great deal is packed into this book of just 32 pages. Photographs, primary source documents, quotes, a timeline and sidebars accompany the somewhat sophisticated narrative.

Farnsworth, Philo (1906-1971)

Roberts, Russell. *Philo T. Farnsworth: The Life of Television's Forgotten Inventor*

Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2002; 48 pages.

SERIES: Unlocking the Secrets of Science

Grades 4 – 6. A well-written narrative supported by occasional photographs reveals the life, inventions and frustrations of this little known inventor. Russell Roberts has also written a biography of Farnsworth for younger readers for the Robbie Readers series.

Muir, John (1838-1914)

McCully, Emily Arnold. *Squirrel and John Muir*

New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. A fictionalized account of Muir's time in Yosemite Valley enhanced by full color paintings. A very accessible introduction to the famous naturalist whose work led to the establishment of the National Park system.

Watson, James (1928-2005)

Bankston, John. *Francis Crick and James Watson: Pioneers in DNA Research*

Bear, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2003; 56 pages.

SERIES: Unlocking the Secrets of Science

Grades 5 and above. This very well written dual biography of Crick and Watson, who arguably changed the study and practice of biology. Includes a discussion of Rosalind Franklin's contribution to understanding the DNA helix.

Voices: Artists, Writers and Performers

Harlem Renaissance and Beyond

Anderson, Marian (1897-1993)

Freedman, Russell. The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights

New York: Clarion Books, 2004; 114 pages.

Grades 6 – 12. Excellent and thorough biography that uses Anderson’s own writings and other first-person accounts. Examines how she came to represent black artists in the civil rights movement. Illustrated with many photos. Detailed source notes are included.

Meadows, James. Marian Anderson

Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 2002; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 4 – 6. Straightforward and accessible biography in an attractive format with many photos, sidebars and a timeline. Part of a recommended series.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. When Marian Sang

New York: Scholastic Press, 2002; 40 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. An exceptionally beautiful book in picture book format. The text is lively and engaging. The exquisite, painted illustrations by Brian Selznick are powerful and evocative of the time period. The endnotes include additional information, sources and a timeline.

Angelou, Maya (1928- present)

Harper, Judith E. Maya Angelou

Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 1999; 39 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 4 – 6. Straightforward and accessible biography in an attractive format with many photos, sidebars and a timeline. Part of a recommended series.

Kirkpatrick, Patricia. Maya Angelou

Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2003; 45 pages.

SERIES: Voices in Poetry

Grades 5 – 12. This very interesting biography combines many examples of Angelou’s poetry with a recounting of her life. Includes excerpts from her autobiography. Illustrated with paintings by John Thompson and many photographs.

Pettit, Jayne. Maya Angelou: Journey of the Heart

New York: Lodestar Books, 1996; 70 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. An engaging and accessible biography based in great part on Angelou’s autobiography. The endnotes include a timeline and source notes.

Baldwin, James (1924-1987)

Cannarella, Deborah. James Baldwin: African-American Writer and Activist

Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 2004; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library.

Grades 4 – 6. Straightforward and accessible biography in an attractive format with many photos, sidebars and a timeline. What is especially commendable is the way this book addresses Baldwin's homosexuality with honesty and compassion. Part of a recommended series.

Bearden, Romare (1911-1988)

Greenberg, Jan. Romare Bearden: Collage of Memories

New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003; 52 pages.

Grades 3 – 8. An outstanding biography that uses Bearden's own artwork to tell his life story. The text is lively and engaging, the book design is wonderfully colorful and exciting, and Bearden's paintings and collages are powerful and beautiful.

Hartfield, Claire. Me and Uncle Romie: A Story Inspired by the Life and Art of Romare Bearden

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2002; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. A fictional story in picture book format about a boy who travels to New York for a visit with his Uncle Romie (Romare Bearden). With lovely painted illustrations by Jerome Lagarrigue, the book captures a child's awakening interest in art. Includes information on making collages.

Fitzgerald, Ella (1917-1996)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2002; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. This humorous and lively picture book is told from a cat's point of view. The text is energetic and funny; the colorful illustrations by Brian Pinkney are lively and bold. Both capture the energy and rhythms of jazz.

Hughes, Langston (1902-1967)

Burleigh, Robert. Langston's Train Ride

New York: Orchard Books, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. A stunning picture book that captures a turning point in Langston Hughes's life when, during a train trip, he was inspired to write "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," one of his best-known poems. The author imagines Hughes reflecting back on his childhood. The illustrations by Leonard Jenkins are bold and colorful, and the endnotes include the text of the poem and additional information about Hughes.

Cooper, Floyd. Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes

New York: Philomel Books, 1994; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. 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's life.

Hurston, Zora Neale (1891-1960)

Miller, William. Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree

New York: Lee & Low Books, 1994; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. A picture book about writer Zora Hurston's childhood and the people and places that influenced her. The text is spare and moving; the painted illustrations by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu are lovely, and they capture the time and place.

Porter, A. P. Jump at De Sun: The Story of Zora Neale Hurston

Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1992; 90 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. A lively and thorough look at Hurston's fascinating, controversial and troubled life. Includes many quotes from her writing. Illustrated with photos.

Johnson, James Weldon (1871-1938)

McKissack, Pat. James Weldon Johnson: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Chicago: Children's Press, 1990; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 4. In straightforward, simple and accessible text, this biography tells the story of this extraordinary and multitalented figure from the Harlem Renaissance. Illustrated with many photos. Includes words to the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

Lawrence, Jacob (1917-2000)

Duggleby, John. Story Painter: The Life of Jacob Lawrence

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1998; 55 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. A very engaging text with many glorious reproductions of Lawrence's work as well as photographs. This biography documents the issues of race and Lawrence's involvement in the civil rights movement.

Leach, Deborah J. I See you, I See Myself: The Young Life of Jacob Lawrence

Washington, DC: Phillips Collection, 2001; 63 pages.

Grades 3 – 8. A beautifully designed book which tells the story of Lawrence up to the age of 25. Lawrence saw his art as autobiographical, and this book does an amazing job of weaving together his life and art. Each page contains reproductions of his art; there are unusual graphic timelines, a chronology and notes on the artwork.

Collective Biographies of African American Artists, Writers and Performers

Bolden, Tonya. Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of African American Artists

New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2004; 128 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. An exceptionally beautiful book which profiles the life and work of more than thirty African American artists. Includes full-color reproductions of more than 45 works of art in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Hardy, P. Stephen. Extraordinary People of the Harlem Renaissance

New York: Children's Press, 2000; 288 pages.

SERIES: Extraordinary People

Grades 4 – 8. A very thorough and comprehensive collection. Each artist, photographer, choreographer, musician, composer, poet and writer gets a three-to-four page article with a large photo. Includes additional information about the time period.

Haskins, Jim. Black Stars of the Harlem Renaissance

New York: Wiley, 2002; 122 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. Includes articles about 20 people. The articles are two-to-five pages long and include photos. Additional information about the period and a timeline are included.

Hill, Laban Carrick. Harlem Stomp! A Cultural History of the Harlem Renaissance

Boston: Little, Brown, 2004; 151 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. A beautifully designed book which includes a lot of information about the period, profiles of individual artists, quotes, poems, photos and artwork. The layout is exciting and colorful with many sidebars.

Lester, Julius. The Blues Singers: Ten Who Rocked the World

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2001; 47 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. A beautifully designed book which profiles the lives and music of ten Blues singers Bessie Smith, Robert Johnson, Mahalia Jackson, Muddy Waters, Billie Holiday, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Little Richard, James Brown and Aretha Franklin. The writing is very lively and engaging, and the layout is colorful with large illustrations of each singer.

Raatma, Lucia. The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of Creativity

Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 2003; 40 pages.

SERIES: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 3 – 5. A straightforward and accessible introduction to the Harlem Renaissance with short profiles of some of the artists, writers and performers. Attractive layout with many photos.

Shange, Ntozake. Ellington Was Not a Street

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. An exquisite picture book. The text is a short poem about the extraordinary men who visited the writer's childhood home. Serves as an introduction to several important African American achievers. The painted illustrations by Kadir Nelson are delightful and evocative of the time and place.

Other Voices

Architect:

Lin, Maya (1959 – present)

Stone, Amy. Maya Lin

Chicago: Raintree, 2003, 32 pages.

Series: Raintree Biographies

Grades 3 – 5. Recounts the life of sculptor and architect whose design for the Vietnam War Memorial was selected when she was a student at Yale University. The large typeface, liberal use of photographs, sub-headings, text boxes and bold face vocabulary words make the narrative accessible to less experienced readers.

Composers:

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Vernon, Roland. Introducing Gershwin

Parsipanny, NJ: Silver-Burdett, 1996; 32 pages.

Grades 5 - 8. A well-designed biography that reveals as much about the world of entertainers during the 1920s and 1930s as about Gershwin's life and music. Period photographs, sidebars, original documents and text boxes break up the narrative.

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Gerstein, Mordicai. What Charlie Heard

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002; 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 3. The emphasis in this picture storybook about Ives and music is on his alertness to the sounds around him, and how he incorporated those into his musical compositions. Illustrated by the author, Gerstein's lively ink drawings are overlaid with representations of those sounds.

Dancers:

Ailey, Alvin (1931 – 1989)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Alvin Ailey

New York: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 1993; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Full-page illustrations in Brian Pinkney's distinctive style capture a sense of movement particularly well and extend the well-written narrative.

Limón, José (1908-1972)

Reich, Susanna. José! Born to Dance: the Story of José Limón

Grades 2 – 4. In this particularly beautiful picture book biography, both the narrative and the watercolor and pencil illustrations by Raul Colon capture the evolution of José Limon's dance style.

Tallchief, Maria (1925-present)

Tallchief, Maria with Rosemary Wells. Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina

New York: Viking/Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1999; 28 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Highly recommended. An autobiographical account of Tallchief's childhood and early career as a ballet dancer, related in an accessible narrative with exceedingly handsome paintings by Gary Kelley that capture the times and the world of ballet.

Musicians:

Armstrong, Louis (1901- 1971)

Fahlenkamp-Merrill, Kindle. Louis Armstrong

Chanhassen, MN: The Child's World, 2002; 40 pages.

Series: Journey to Freedom/The African American Library

Grades 3 – 5. A full account of Armstrong's life and career. Part of a well-designed and accessibly written series.

Orgill, Roxane. If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. A fictionalized account of Armstrong's childhood and young adulthood in New Orleans focusing on his love of music and attainment of a cornet to play in high school. Very suitable for reading aloud. Mixed media pictures by Leonard Jenkins enhance the narrative.

Ellington, Duke (1899 -1974)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1998; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This picture storybook reveals Ellington's story through full color illustrations by Brian Pinkney that capture the lively nature of his music. Recommended as a read aloud.

Photographer:

Lange, Dorothea (1895-1965)

Partridge, Elizabeth. Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange

New York: Viking, Penguin Putman Books for Young People, 1998; 122 pages.

Grades 6 – 8. Very well-written narrative that integrates anecdotes, quotes from Lange herself, and the photographs that captured key events in American history and the lives of people at the time. Excellent resource for teachers on the era of the Great Depression and beyond.

Poet:

Sandburg, Carl (1878-1967)

Niven, Penelope. Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet

Illustrations by Marc Nadel

Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 4 – 6. Each double spread features an illustrated poem and a full page narrative about a related aspect of Sandburg's life, such as journalist, minstrel, family man, historian, pen pal and storyteller, signal the topic. Pleasingly illustrated by Marc Nadel with pen and ink and watercolor.

Song Writer:

Guthrie, Woody (1912-1967)

Christensen, Bonnie. Woody Guthrie: Poet of the People

New York: Knopf, 2001; 16 pages

Grades 3 – 5. The story of Woody Guthrie with a particular emphasis on his songs of the road, which captured the experience of Americans during the Great Depression. Illustrated by the author with distinctive paintings and famous phrases from his songs. Timeline and the full lyrics of "This Land is Your Land" included.

Of additional interest, or just for the fun of it:

Brown, Don. Mack Made Movies

Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Mack Sennett (1880 – 1960) was a vaudeville comedian who turned to movie-making in the early part of the 20th Century. He established Keystone Pictures, developed slapstick in motion pictures, and launched the career of Charlie Chaplin. Brown has again written and illustrated a lively and humorous account of a little known figure whose work contributed to popular American culture. An author's note provides a fuller account of Mack Sennett's life.

Krull, Kathleen. Houdini: World's Greatest Mystery Man and Escape King

New York: Walker and Co., 2005; 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. The story of Houdini's life and career is interspersed with double spread descriptions of several of his most famous tricks and escapes. Oil paintings by Eric Velasquez provide a stage for the story and the stunts. A terrific and accessible introduction to Houdini and to the art of escape.

Lyon, George Ella. Mother to Tigers

New York: Atheneum Books for Young People, 2003; 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. The story of Helen Martini, a zookeeper who rescued and raised tiger and lion cubs in her New York City apartment to prepare them for living in the Bronx Zoo. Torn paper, charcoal and watercolor illustrations by Peter Catalonotto alternate to capture the sense and spirit of the story.

Under-represented Americans

For the most part, the lives and accomplishments of the figures from the following groups have been published in series or in collective biographies that are rather ordinary. Rather than providing examples of these rather ordinary biographies, we have listed the names of people who have been noted in nonfiction books for children. This list is by no means exhaustive.

Korean Americans

Sarah Chang, concert violinist

Herbert Choy, first Asian American federal court judge

Jay Kim, first Korean American Congressman

Nam June Paik, artist

Japanese Americans

Tetsuo Akutso, contributed to the development of artificial hearts
Leo Esaki, Nobel Prize winner in physics
Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator from Hawaii
Harvey Itano, researcher on sickle cell anemia
Ellison Onizuka, first Asian American astronaut
Ronald Takaki, historian focusing on the Asian American experience
Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympic gold medalist in figure skating

Chinese Americans

Amy Chow, Olympic gold medal gymnast
Steven Chu, Nobel Prize winner in physics
Connie Chung, journalist
Hiram Fong, U.S. Senator from Hawaii
David Ho, medical researcher of HIV/AIDS
Michelle Kwan, Olympic gold medal figure skater
Ang Lee, film director
Tsung Lao Lee, Nobel Prize winner in physics
Gary Locke, first Chinese American governor (Washington)
Yo-Yo Ma, cellist
I.M. Pei, architect
Amy Tan, author
Chen Ning Yang, Nobel Prize winner in physics
Laurence Yep, children's author

Latino Americans

Louis Walter Alvarez, Nobel Prize winner in physics
Judy Baca, muralist, youth activist, community leader
Henry Cisneros, politician
Jaime Escalante, teacher
Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers union
Luis Munoz Marin, governor of Puerto Rico
Ellen Ochoa, astronaut
Severo Ochoa, Nobel Prize winner in medicine
Arturo Salvador Rodriguez, labor union leader
Luis Rodriguez, writer, youth activist, community leader
Luis Valdez, playwright, director, film maker

American Indians

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senator from Colorado
Louise Erdrich, author
Wilma Mankiller, first woman to head the Cherokee Nation
Michael Narajo, sculptor
Susan LaFlesche Picotte, physician
Will Rogers, cowboy and humorist

Arab Americans

Najeeb Halaby, test pilot, head of the FAA, head of PanAm
Ralph Nader, activist
Naomi Shihab Nye, poet, children's book author
Edward Said, professor of literature

EDITORS

Sasha Lauterbach has been a teacher and storyteller. For the past eighteen years she has served as librarian at the Cambridge Friends School, a Quaker school for grades pre-kindergarten through eighth whose mission includes anti-bias work and teaching about social justice. Sasha teaches courses in research, drama, folklore, mythology, biography, and media literacy.

Marion Reynolds, a former elementary teacher, has taught children's literature at Tufts University for more than a decade. Her course focuses on current issues and trends in the field, in particular how books for children are situated in the culture in which they are written, published, distributed and read. Marion also teaches courses in mathematics education and elementary curriculum, and serves as coordinator of the Joint Elementary Licensure Program at Tufts.