Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times: New and Noteworthy Biographies For Young Readers

An Annotated Bibliography

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Prepared for
We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times
A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians

Presented by the Department of Education and Public Programs at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

www.jfklibrary.org

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Introduction

This bibliography was prepared for the conference, *We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times* at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. It is a resource for classroom teachers and librarians working with students in grades 3 – 8.

The biographies in this bibliography are about extraordinary people who faced their own challenges and worked to bring social justice and opportunity to others. The books were published between 2017 – 2019.

In this bibliography are:

- An annotated list of thirty books that represent the excellence and breadth of biographies written for children and that are relevant to the theme of the conference.
- A further list of twenty recommended titles that would also be of great value to teachers and librarians.
- Recommended resources for finding books and other materials that relate to the theme of the conference.

The criteria for selecting books for the bibliography include:

- Books published in the past two years, from 2017 – 2019;
- Books about activists and innovators whose lives and work had a significant impact on the times in which they lived and on history, in the areas of social activism, politics, the sciences, the arts, and sports;
- Books with appeal to children or young adults through the originality and excellence of the content, writing style, illustrations, format, and design;
- Books that represent diversity of race, ethnicity, and gender among those profiled;
- Books that represent people from different time periods in history.

A note about picture books and suggested grade levels:

There are many excellent biographies now being published, particularly in picture book format - these books are wonderful for reading aloud to students of all ages. There are not as many biographies being published for older students, other than those that are part of publishers’ series, and these are often not exceptional or noteworthy. However, picture book biographies are often quite sophisticated and are valuable in using with older students, both for reading aloud and for independent reading:

- Picture books can be used to introduce the study of biography and the contributions of specific people, especially of lesser-known figures.
- Students can read more than one picture book biography about the same person and compare different approaches in presenting a person’s life and achievements.
- When preparing to write their own reports, students can learn from picture books techniques for selecting from a wealth of information, creating a specific focus, and engaging readers.
- Reading books aloud to a group creates shared background knowledge and a common reference point for class discussions, and the illustrations convey important historical context and emotional truth. Picture books are for everyone!
Annotated Bibliography of New and Noteworthy Biographies,
Published 2017 - 2019

Ernie Barnes (1938 - 2009)
   Grades 4 – 6. Young Ernie Barnes loved to draw, but growing up in the segregated South, he couldn’t make a living as an artist. First, he became a football star and eventually an artist whose work influenced a generation of painters and illustrators; his work is now in many museums and collections. The powerfully evocative illustrations incorporate some of Barnes’ original artwork. The back matter includes historical notes, author and illustrator notes, and internet links for seeing more of Barnes’ work.

Pura Belpré (1899 – 1982)
   Grades 2 – 4. Storyteller, puppeteer, and New York City’s first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré came to America in 1921, bringing with her the cuentos folkloricos of her Puerto Rican homeland. At the New York Public Library, she championed bilingual literature. Her stories and legacy have continued to delight generations of children and storytellers. In this biography, the text and illustrations capture the joy of sharing stories with others. Additional biographical information and a listing of some of Belpré’s own stories are included.

Jo Ann Allen Boyce (1941 - )
Boyce, Jo Ann Allen and Debbie Levy. This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality.
   Grades 5 – 8. In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock Nine into Central High School, Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. At first things went smoothly, but then outside agitators interfered, pitting the townspeople against one another. Jo Ann became the spokesperson of the group: this is the powerful story of her four months in the national spotlight and the aftermath of this crucial moment in civil rights history. The story is told as a memoir-in-verse. Back matter includes photos, archival materials and notes from the authors on the co-writing process.

Frederick Douglass (1818 - 1895)
Bolden, Tonya. Facing Frederick: the Life of Frederick Douglass, a Monumental American Man.
   Grades 4 – 8. This biography incorporates new research into one of America's most influential people. After freeing himself from slavery, Douglass became an abolitionist, newspaperman, women’s rights activist, diplomat, public servant, and author; he also had an appreciation for travel, music, literature, and photography. Many photographs, engravings, and other primary
sources support the engaging and powerful text. See also: the picture-book biography: *Frederick Douglass: the Lion Who Wrote History* by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

**Gertrude Ederle (1906 - 2003)**


*Grades 3 – 6.* This book captures a defining moment in sports history. It is the story of Gertrude Ederle and her 1926 swim across the English Channel. She overcame difficult environmental, physical, and cultural challenges to become the first woman to do so. The visually stunning illustrations make all the dangers of the journey come alive. In the afterword, the author notes that Ederle’s life continued to be challenging and inspiring.

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933 - )**


New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017. 40 pages

*Grades 3 – 6.* This biography is structured as a court case in which the reader is presented with evidence of the injustices that Ginsburg faced in her life, education, and career. Despite discrimination against Jews, women, and working mothers, Ginsburg went on to become Columbia Law School's first tenured female professor, a judge for the US Court of Appeals, and, finally, a Supreme Court Justice. With powerful and sometimes humorous illustrations. See also: the biography for older students: *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Young Readers' Edition* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik with Kathleen Krull.

**Elizabeth Jennings Graham (1827 - 1901)**


*Grades 5 – 8.* This is the story of a little-known figure in US history. In 1854, one hundred years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus, a young African-American woman named Elizabeth Jennings refused to leave a segregated streetcar in the Five Points neighborhood of Manhattan. Represented by a young lawyer named Chester A. Arthur (future president of the United States), she won her case, marking a major victory in the fight to desegregate New York City's public transportation. The text is supported by archival maps, photos, and primary source documents. The author also provides important historical context, a listing of websites, books, newspapers, and journals, and a detailed description of how she did her research. A highly recommended book for teaching the art of writing biography.

**Katherine G. Johnson (1918 - )**

Becker, Helaine. *Counting on Katherine*. Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk.


*Grades 3 – 6.* This book traces Johnson's early beginnings as a gifted and determined student through to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, when she not only calculated the course of moon landings but also saved lives and made enormous
The narrative details both Johnson's joyful childhood, her fury at segregated public schools, and the sexism she faced at NASA. The illustrations help to clarify scientific principles. The endnotes include additional information about Johnson's life. See also: the collective biography in picture book format, *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conklin, illustrated by Laura Freeman.

Barbara Jordan (1936 - 1996)


Grades 3 – 6. This picture book biography of African-American lawyer, educator, politician, and civil rights leader Barbara Jordan begins with her childhood in Texas and continues on through her political career, with special attention given to the role she played as a member of the 1974 US House Judiciary Committee, which worked on the impeachment of Richard Nixon. Throughout her career, she persevered through adversity and fought for civil rights, equality, and justice. The text features lyrical, inspiring language, and the mixed-media illustrations are bold and colorful. Includes a detailed timeline of Jordan’s life and achievements.

Ona Judge (c.1773 – 1848)


Grades 5 – 8. This is the story of Ona Judge, an enslaved woman who ran away from the household of George and Martha Washington. Taken to New York and Philadelphia by the family, she met free black people and learned about new abolition laws. In May 1796, the 22-year-old Judge walked out of the Washingtons' mansion in Philadelphia and onto a ship that would take her to New Hampshire. She refused to go back to a life of slavery - no matter how determined the Washingtons were to return her to it. The story conveys the harsh realities of enslavement and gives another perspective into the lives and actions of the first First Family. This is a young readers’ edition of Dunbar's National Book Award-nominated *Never Caught: the Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge.*

Ernest Everett Just (1883 – 1941)


Grades 3 – 6. Pioneering scientist Ernest Everett Just persisted in his research despite the discrimination and limitations imposed on him as an African American. Curiosity and a strong work ethic propelled him to success as a professor and embryologist: his observations of sea creatures revealed new insights about egg cells and the origins of life. The text and illustrations work together to vividly present Just’s life and accomplishments. The back matter includes additional information and a detailed timeline of Just’s life and scientific contributions.
Fred Korematsu (1919 - 2005)
Atkins, Laura. Fred Korematsu Speaks Up. Illustrated by Yutaka Houlette.
Berkeley, California: Heyday, 2016. 102 pages.
Grades 4 – 8. Fred Korematsu, American citizen and child of Japanese immigrants, was
imprisoned for resisting when the US government forced people of Japanese ancestry to leave
their homes on the West Coast and move to prison camps during World War II. In 1944, his case
was brought before the US Supreme Court, which upheld the constitutionality of the executive
order that interned Japanese Americans. After the war, Korematsu continued his fight against
discrimination. The text of the book is enhanced by photographs from the camps, family
portraits, illustrations and letters from prisoners, and government documents.

William Lewis (1810 – 1896)
Hubbard, Rita L. Hammering for Freedom: the William Lewis story. Illustrated by John
Holyfield.
Grades 3 – 6. William Lewis was born into slavery in Tennessee, and he developed exceptional
skills as a blacksmith. He persuaded his owner (and probable biological father) to allow him to
keep some of the money he earned working for others. Over many years and by extraordinarily
hard work and determination, Lewis eventually was able to buy freedom for his wife and
himself, as well as their child and other family members. The text and illustrations provide
insight into the heartbreaking effect of enslavement on families, and the author’s note provides
additional biographical information.

Maya Ying Lin (1959 - )
Rubin, Susan Goldman. Maya Lin: Thinking With Her Hands.
Grades 4 – 8. Maya Lin is most known for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, designed while she
was an undergraduate college student, but this biography gives a fuller picture of Lin’s early life
and later achievements. She was born in the United States to Chinese parents, and she faced
considerable challenges as a young Asian woman entering into the architectural and design
professions. Each chapter focuses on a specific project and includes Lin’s planning and thought
processes. The layout of the book is very appealing with text, family photos, and striking color
images of her designs, and includes Lin’s work from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial up to her
current involvement with What Is Missing?, a project bringing attention to endangered species.
See also: the picture book biography: Maya Lin: Artist - Architect of Light and Lines by Jeanne
Walker Harvey, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk.

Ada Lovelace (1815 – 1852)
Grades 5 – 8. This sophisticated biography delves into the exhilarating and troubled life of Ada
Byron Lovelace. Daughter of the poet Lord Byron, she never knew him – her mother left him
when Lovelace was an infant, and he died soon after. Her mother was controlling and critical,
but she provided Lovelace with a stimulating education that helped her to develop a love and an
aptitude for mathematics and scientific discovery. Lovelace’s collaborations with inventor
Charles Babbage resulted in ideas that anticipated computer programming by a century. While her life was tragically short, she is now generally acknowledged as the first computer programmer. The book includes clear and detailed explanations of the science and math involved, many archival images, and appendices that further explore Lovelace’s achievements. See also: the picture book biography: *Who Says Women Can’t Be Computer Programmers: the Story of Ada Lovelace* by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman.

Miriam Makeba (1932 – 2008)

Grades 3 – 5. Miriam Makeba used her voice, both in songs of protest and in speeches, to raise awareness and help fight the system of apartheid in her native South Africa. She spoke out against injustices in Johannesburg, then, in exile, at a rally beside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and before the United Nations. The text highlights how important Makeba’s music was to the anti-apartheid movement. With striking and boldly colored illustrations; the back matter includes an extensive author’s note, a glossary, and a timeline that integrates events in Makeba’s life, the anti-apartheid movement, and the civil rights era in the United States.

Wilma Pearl Mankiller (1945 - 2010)

Grades 3 – 6. When she was a child, Native American Wilma Mankiller and her family moved from Oklahoma to San Francisco as part of a federal relocation act. There, she worked to strengthen the local Native community and championed Native political activists. Returning to Oklahoma with her daughters, Mankiller dedicated herself to serving her people, and she was elected the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. The text incorporates many quotes from Mankiller herself, and the vivid illustrations are detailed and informative. Also included are a timeline, a pronunciation guide, a bibliography, and source notes.

José Martí (1853 - 1895)

Otheguy, Emma. *Martí's Song for Freedom / Martí y Sus Versos por la Libertad. Illustrated by Beatriz Vidal; Spanish translation by Adriana Domínguez.*
Grades 3 – 6. This bilingual biography of José Martí, one of Latin America's most important historical and literary figures, is written in verse with excerpts from his own work. In his native Cuba, Martí witnessed the cruelties of slavery and colonialism, and he began to fight for the abolishment of slavery and for Cuban independence from Spain through his writing. At age seventeen, Martí was declared an enemy of Spain and was forced to leave his country. He traveled extensively, spreading his message of social justice, freedom, and peace. He returned home years later to fight in the war of independence and died soon after. The illustrations reflect the harsh history and brilliant colors of Cuba.
Maria Sibylla Merian (1647 - 1717)

Grades 4 – 8. Artist and scientist, Maria Merian was known for her meticulous observations of insects and her exquisite depictions of them in their natural habitats. Born in seventeenth-century Germany, she discovered the truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind it. She challenged convention in the pursuit of knowledge and traveled to Suriname in South America, in the company of her daughter. The text is enhanced by photographs, etchings, maps, paintings, and reproductions of Merian's botanical art. The author also provides background information about topics that influenced Merian's life, such as art, engraving, printing processes, religion in the 1600s, and slavery in Suriname.

Harvey Milk (1930 - 1978)

Grades 3 – 5. This book traces the life of the Gay Pride Flag, which began when Harvey Milk became one of the first openly gay people to be elected to public office in the US. In 1978, Milk asked Gilbert Baker to create a symbol to be used in marches to protest inequality and unfair laws. The text and illustrations explore how the flag has become a symbol of equality and pride. The back matter also includes two timelines and biographical notes with more information on the flag, Milk, and Baker.

Chester Nez (1921 – 2014)

Grades 3 – 6. As a boy, Chester Nez was taken from his family and his home on the Navajo reservation by missionaries and brought to a boarding school. There he was told that his native language and culture had no value. He was later called on to use his Navajo language to help create an unbreakable military code during World War II. The text draws a parallel between the trauma of indigenous boarding schools and war, and the illustrations capture both the harsh atmosphere of war and the warmth of community and camaraderie. The back matter includes an author's note, a timeline, and a portion of the actual Navajo code.

Jadav Payeng (1963 - )

Grades 2 – 5. As a boy, Jadav Payeng was distressed by the destruction of animal and plant life that deforestation and erosion were causing in his island home in India’s Brahmaputra River. In 1979, he began planting trees and devising a watering system; soon, birds, snakes, rhinos, and elephants returned. What began as a small thicket of bamboo grew over the years into 1,300 acre forest. Payeng’s story demonstrates the difference a single determined person can make. The
illustrations show the transformation of the island from barrenness to a lush, living forest. The back matter includes instructions for “Planting a Forest of Your Own.”

Jackie Robinson (1919 - 1972)

**Bardhan-Quallen, Sudipta. The United States v. Jackie Robinson. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.**


Grades 3 – 6. This biography focuses on a lesser-known period of Jackie Robinson's life – his battle against prejudice while serving in the military during World War II. He was court-martialed for refusing to move to the back of an integrated bus. One of the first African Americans to challenge segregation law in court, he won his case three years before he broke the color line in professional baseball. With powerful illustrations and an extensive timeline of Robinson’s life and events in sports and civil rights history. See also: the biography for older readers: *42 Is Not Just a Number* by Doreen Rappaport.

Carlos Santana (1947 - )

**Mahin, Michael James. When Angels Sing: the Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana. Illustrated by Jose Ramírez.**


Grades 3 – 6. This biography of Mexican-American Carlos Santana explores what inspired him - his family, cultural background, influences of other musicians, and diverse musical traditions. Santana struggled and overcame many challenges and injustices in pioneering a sound that fused blues, rock, and jazz with Latin American and African-Caribbean music. This celebration of a groundbreaking and popular musician has a text that includes many Spanish words and exuberant illustrations. See also: the author’s book, *Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters.*

Arthur Alfonso Schomburg (1874 – 1938)

**Weatherford, Carole Boston. Schomburg: the Man Who Built a Library. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.**


Grades 4 – 8. This prose-poem biography is about Arturo Schomburg, an African-Puerto Rican man living in New York at the time of the Harlem Renaissance. His life’s passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and bring to light the achievements of people of African descent. His groundbreaking collection, which evolved into the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, is used and celebrated by scholars all over the world. The text and illustrations include information about Schomburg’s personal life and achievements interwoven with the stories of the many historical people he researched, some of whom had never before been publicly identified as people of color.

Sonia Sotomayor (1954 - )

**Sotomayor, Sonia, The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor.**


Grades 5 – 8. Sotomayor overcame early hardships, including growing up in the rough housing projects of New York City's South Bronx, dealing with juvenile diabetes, worrying about money,
and coping with troubled parents. Her determination and diligent work ethic, along with guidance from generous mentors and the love of her extended Puerto Rican family, enabled her to become the first Latina and third woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. Written in a warm and engaging style, the book includes an eight-page photo insert. This is the young readers’ adaptation of the autobiography, *My Beloved World*. See also: the picture book biography *Turning Pages: My Life Story* by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Lulu Delacre.

**Gloria Steinem (1934 - )**

*Rinker, Jessica M. Gloria Takes a Stand: How Gloria Steinem Listened, Wrote, and Changed the world. Illustrated by Daria Peoples-Riley.*

Grades 3 – 6. This biography begins with Gloria Steinem’s unconventional childhood, during a time when women were not encouraged, or even allowed, to do many things men could do, and continues through her founding of *Ms.* magazine, her leadership in the women’s liberation movement, and her energizing a new generation of feminists to stand up and demand equal rights for all people. The back matter gives more details about Steinem’s life and a timeline of women’s history in the United States.

**Neil deGrasse Tyson (1958 - )**


Grades 3 – 5. Neil deGrasse Tyson is the African-American astrophysicist whose work has inspired a generation of young scientists and astronomers. This biography traces his round trip journey from his first childhood visit to New York’s Hayden Planetarium to his current role as the planetarium’s director. The focus is on Tyson’s early life, emphasizing his enthusiasm for astronomy and his early encounters with racial prejudice. The text and illustrations also convey Tyson’s passion and achievements in communicating the wonder of science to others.

**Venus Williams (1980 - ) and Serena Williams (1981 - )**

*Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams. Illustrated by James Ransome.*

Grades 3 – 5. African-American sisters Venus and Serena Williams have changed the game of tennis with their determination and talent. This biography explores their achievements as well as their relationship with each other, examining their differences and similarities and their tight bond. Trained by their father on rundown city courts, they also pursued ballet, running, and football. Their extraordinary professional success also had its challenges, as did maintaining their close relationship with each other while being strong competitors. A detailed afterword lists their many accomplishments, including their humanitarian and charitable work. With vivid illustrations that energetically spread across the pages. See also: by the same author and illustrator *Before She was Harriet* about Harriet Tubman.
Carter Woodson (1875 - 1950)

Hopkinson, Deborah. Carter Reads the Newspaper. Illustrated by Don Tate.
Atlanta: Peachtree, 2019. 34 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. The father of Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson was born ten years after the end of the Civil War to parents who had both been enslaved. His father could not read or write, but he believed in being an informed citizen, so Woodson read the newspaper to him every day. When he was a student at Harvard University (the second African American and the only child of enslaved parents to attend), one of his professors said that black people had no history. Carter Woodson spent his life introducing others to the history of his people. Of special note are the illustrations, which include more than 40 portraits of black leaders, either blended into the narrative or appearing on end pages. In the back matter, these leaders are identified along with a timeline of Woodson’s life.

More New and Noteworthy Biographies, Published 2017 - 2019

Acevedo, Sylvia. Path to the Stars: My Journey From Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist.


Bolden, Tonya. No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas. Illustrated by Don Tate.

Charles, Tami. Fearless Mary: Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver. Illustrated by Claire Almon.


Greenburg, Michael M. This Noble Woman: Myrtilla Miner and Her Fight to Establish a School for African American Girls in the Slaveholding South.


Hannigan, Kate. A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women’s Rights. Illustrated by Alison Jay.

Loney, Andrea J. Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee! Illustrated by Keith Mallett.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion*. Illustrated by Gordon C. James.


Resources for Selecting Children’s Literature about Social Justice

Professional Journals
Although paid subscriptions are needed to access all the material in these journals, many articles and book lists are available on the websites without a subscription.

Book Links: a quarterly supplement to BookList, a publication of the American Library Association, provides reviews of recommended children's books; articles tied to national standards on using books in the classroom; strategies and information for library media specialist/teacher collaboration.
www.ala.org/BookLinks

Horn Book Magazine: features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature.
www.hbook.com

School Library Journal: serves librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries. It provides reviews of materials to create quality collections for children and young adults.
www.schoollibraryjournal.com

Teaching Tolerance Magazine: published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, provides educators with free educational materials and lists of resources that promote respect for differences and appreciation of diversity in the classroom and beyond.
http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine

Online Resources
Anti-Defamation League Books Matter: Children’s Literature: provides lists and reviews that focus on materials that foster respect and inspire actions on behalf of social justice.
https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature

CBC Diversity Initiative: part of the Children’s Book Council’s commitment to promoting diverse voices in literature for young people. The CBC is the nonprofit association of children’s book publishers in North America dedicated to supporting the industry and promoting children’s books and reading.
https://www.cbcdiversity.com

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center), School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: provides book lists of recommended books on a wide range of themes and topics, including social justice. CCBC Choices is a best-of-the-year list created annually.
http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/bibBio.asp

Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature: has over 8,400 records from 99 awards across six English-speaking countries.
http://www.dawcl.com
Embrace Race: a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to children, families, and communities. Includes online discussion groups, video responses to questions, tips for educators, and book lists. https://www.embracerace.org

Notable Trade Books for Young People: provides annotated lists of books that were evaluated and selected by the Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for Social Studies in cooperation with the Children’s Book Council. www.ncss.org/resources/notable

WNDB (We Need Diverse Books): advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. The website includes articles, applications for grants and mentorships, and links to book lists on many other websites. https://diversebooks.org/

Primary Source: works to advance global and cultural learning in schools by collaborating with teachers and schools to offer professional development courses and resources. https://www.primarysource.org/for-teachers/guides


Children’s Book Awards


American Indian Youth Literature Award: given by the American Indian Library Association, this award honors the best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award

Americas Award: sponsored by the National Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), and given in recognition of U.S. works of literature for children published in English or Spanish that authentically portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. http://www.claspprograms.org/americasaward

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature: given by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, these awards honor books about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritage, based on literary and artistic merit. [http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards](http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards)

Batchelder Award: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded annually to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States. [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward)

Carter Woodson Award: given by the National Council for the Social Studies to the most distinguished social science books that depict ethnicity in the United States sensitively and accurately. [https://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson](https://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson)

Coretta Scott King Award: presented annually by the American Library Association to a black author and a black illustrator whose works encourage and promote world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people. [www.ala.org/ala/emiert/coretascottkingbookaward/corettascott.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/emiert/coretascottkingbookaward/corettascott.cfm)

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards: presented by the Jane Addams Peace Association, and given annually to the children's books that promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting literary and artistic standards for excellence. [http://www.janeaddamspeace.org](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org)

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children: given by the National Council of Teachers of English to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. [www.ncte.org/about/awards/sect/elem/106877.htm](http://www.ncte.org/about/awards/sect/elem/106877.htm)

Pura Belpré Award: given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience for children and youth. [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal)

Rainbow Book List: created by the Rainbow Book List Committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association, this annual list highlights books for children with significant gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning content. [https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks](https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks)

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in the United States. [http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal)

Sydney Taylor Book Award: presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries, an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), in recognition of books for children and teens that exemplify high literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. [https://jewishlibraries.org/Sydney_Taylor_Book_Award](https://jewishlibraries.org/Sydney_Taylor_Book_Award)