Dignity and Justice for All: Stories of Protest, Resistance, and Change

An Annotated Bibliography of New and Noteworthy Books for Young Readers, Published 2018 - 2021

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Dignity and Justice for All: Stories of Protest, Resistance, and Change
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Please note:
The categories listed above are fluid – many people were active in more than one social justice movement, and activists of different backgrounds worked together for the same movements. For example, African American women fought for civil rights and women’s rights; Native Americans have been leaders in the environmental movement; Latinx Americans and Asian Americans have been in the forefront of immigration reform; the movement for women’s rights began with voting rights, etc.

Also, there are large differences in the number and quality of available books about each of the specific protest movements. This is reflected in the number of books in each category of this bibliography.
Introduction

This bibliography was prepared as a resource for the conference, *Dignity and Justice for All: Stories of Protest, Resistance, and Change: A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians* at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

**New and Noteworthy: the books listed here were published between 2018 and 2021, with a few exceptions. The books that are listed with images were published this year: March 2020 – March 2021.**

In this bibliography are:
- annotated lists of books that represent the excellence and breadth of nonfiction books and biographies written for children that are relevant to the theme of the conference and that are primarily focused on the history of the United States; books with international scope are also included;
- lists of other additional recommended titles without annotations that are also of value;
- 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 that address the theme of the conference;
- books with appeal to children or young adults through the originality and excellence of the content, writing style, illustrations, format, and design;
- books that are useful and valuable for classroom learning and teaching, as well as independent reading;
- books published from 2018 – 2021 (with a few exceptions).

A note about picture books and suggested grade levels:
There are many excellent nonfiction books and biographies now being published in picture book format – and they are wonderful for reading aloud to students of all ages. These books are often quite sophisticated and are valuable in using with older students because:
- 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;
- students can read more than one picture book on a topic and compare different approaches in presenting a social justice movement or a person’s life and achievements;
- students can learn from picture books different techniques for selecting from a wealth of information, creating a specific focus, and engaging readers when writing their own reports.

Note: A valuable supplement to this bibliography is the bibliography prepared for the 2019 conference: *Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times: New and Noteworthy Biographies for Young Readers*. It is a listing of biographies of individuals who made positive differences in many social justice movements.
Activism and Protest Movements Through History: Books About Many Protest Movements

1968: Today's Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution, and Change. Edited by Marc Aronson and Susan Campbell Bartoletti.
Grades 6 – 8. This is an anthology of essays that explores the pivotal year of 1968, when there was intergenerational conflict as thousands of Vietnamese and Americans were killed in war, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated, many protest movements were organized, and demonstrations took place around the world. The contributors of these essays are notable authors in several genres of nonfiction.

Grades 5 – 8. A celebration of Gen Z activists fighting to make the world a better place, this book presents young people who are fighting for change on many fronts: climate change, LGBTQ rights, awareness and treatment of mental illness, gun control, gender equality, racial justice, and corruption in business and government. Text boxes on every page provide further information; with colorful and bold illustrations in a dynamic format.

Allen, Tessa. Sometimes People March. Illustrated by the author.
Grades 1 – 4. Straightforward and accessible for young children and a conversation starter for older children, this picture book about protests includes information about the long and varied history of mass demonstrations and the many reasons for protest. Different types of protests are shown with illustrations of suffragettes, same-sex couples, anti-war activists, and many more standing-up for themselves and others. An afterword provides additional background information about the events that are referenced in the artwork.

Grades 7 and up. This is a chronological look at 34 times that people in the United States exercised their right to protest, demonstrate, march, and express their views, from colonial times to the present, including the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, the 2018 March for Our Lives, and Black Lives Matter. Each historical moment has a four-page chapter with text and large, vivid illustrations, which include photos and archival documents.

Series: America: 50 Years of Change.
Grades 5 – 8. While focusing mainly on protest movements from the 1960s to the present day, this overview offers an historical perspective to protest movements throughout US history. Also discussed are what has changed for the better, what might be worse, and where can we go from here. Illustrated with many historical photographs.

Burnell, Cerrie. I Am Not a Label: 34 Disabled Artists, Thinkers, Athletes and Activists from Past and Present. Illustrated by Lauren Baldo.
Grades 5 – 8. This book brings together the stories of 34 artists, scholars, scientists, performers, athletes, and activists with mental and physical disabilities. The page-length biographies show how these diverse individuals, from the past and the present, have overcome obstacles, owned their differences, and paved the way for others. With full-page illustrations of each person.

Cordell, Matthew. Hello Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers. Illustrated by the author.
Grades 1– 4. This is the authorized picture book biography of Fred Rogers, and it reflects the respect, care, and quiet joy in the day-to-day that he and his television show represented. Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood was Fred Roger’s protest against and response to violent and demeaning programming aimed at children. The book also explores Fred Rogers’ early life and the events that led him to create his show. With lively and detailed illustrations; the back matter includes photographs, a brief biography of Rogers and a history of the TV series.

Doeden, Matt. More Than a Game: Race, Gender, and Politics in Sports.
Grades 5 – 8. The author provides an overview of the intersection of sports, politics, and social change by examining past and current controversies, including boxer Jack Johnson’s fight with the "Great White Hope", Jackie Robinson’s breaking baseball’s color barrier, Muhammad Ali’s refusal to fight in the Vietnam War, Colin Kaepernick’s protests, #MeToo and the US gymnastics team, and gender equality issues. Illustrated with many large photographs.

Eggers, Dave. What Can a Citizen Do? Illustrated by Shawn Harris.
Grades 1 - 3. This picture book is about what it means to be a citizen. Across the course of several seemingly unrelated but ultimately connected actions, children turn a lonely island into a community. A great conversation starter told in spare, rhyming text and with exuberant illustrations.
Harris, Duchess. Politics and Protest in Sports. 
Series: Race and Sports. 
Grades 5 – 8. Beginning with the early 1900s and continuing to the present day, this book discusses the many protests and actions taken by athletes to achieve justice and equality in professional sports in the United States. With brief biographies of many activist athletes and illustrated with photographs.

Hasak-Lowy, Todd. We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World. 
Grades 6 – 9. With in-depth profiles of five individuals who have used nonviolent activism to change the world, this book explores questions such as what is nonviolent resistance and how does it work? With an international scope, this book shows how nonviolent movements have succeeded again and again in a variety of ways, in all sorts of places, and always in the face of overwhelming odds. The final chapter provides short descriptions of additional nonviolent movements.

Kluger, Jeffrey. Raise Your Voice: 12 Protests That Shaped America. 
Grades 5 and up. This book covers some of the most significant protests in US history. The subjects are: the Boston Tea Party, 1773, the Seneca Falls Convention, 1848, the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, 1911, the Montgomery bus boycott, 1955-1956, the March on Washington, 1963, the Democratic Convention, 1968, the Stonewall Uprising, 1969, Earth Day, 1970, the march against nuclear weapons, 1982, ACT UP, 1987, the Women’s March, 2017, the Dakota Access uprising, 2016-2017. Information about the impact of the protests and the people behind them is also included.

Grades 3 – 8. The eighteen poems in this collection tell the inspiring stories of historical and contemporary activists. Each double-page spread includes a poem written in a different form of poetry, including free verse and concrete poetry, and a vivid painting of the individual or individuals who are being celebrated. The last poem is a call to action. Also included is additional information about the activists, a guide for parents and caregivers, and a glossary.

Grades 2 – 4. A picture book about standing up for what’s right told within the framework of the author’s wedding story. He and his bride led their wedding party to a protest and were photographed...
Grades 5 – 8. This book explores the essential American ideal of freedom of the press, guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution. Citing examples from the American Revolution to the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and Obama's and Trump's presidencies, the author shows how freedom of the press has played an essential role in US history and in allowing democracy to flourish. Also discussed is the diversity of American news today and why freedom of the press is more important than ever. Illustrated with many archival images and with an extensive timeline.

Grades 1 – 3. This is a picture-book biography of Jennifer Keelan who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth. She grew up fighting and overcoming the limitations others set for her. After learning about disability rights activism, she decided to actively participate in the movement: in 1990, the image of Jennifer, age 8, crawling up the steps of Capitol Hill went viral and helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rippon, Jo. Rise up!: The Art of Protest.
Grades 4 – 8. Developed in collaboration with Amnesty International, this book encourages young people to engage in peaceful protest and stand up for freedom. Photographs of protest posters from the past one hundred years define and celebrate the ongoing fight for gender equality, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, refugee and immigrant rights, peace, and the environment. The images are large, vivid, and powerful; also included is a chapter on protests by young activists.

Sanders, Rob. Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights. Illustrated by Jared Andrew Schorr.
Grades 1 – 3. Protesting; standing up for what’s right; uniting around the common good: this picture book is a primer for peaceful protest, resistance, and activism. With spare and powerful text and vivid illustrations.

Brighton, UK: Ivy Kids, 2019. 64 pages.
Grades 4 – 6. This book examines different types of power and how power can be used to create positive change in the world. Included are thought-provoking discussions on challenging topics like war, bullying, racism, sexism, and homophobia, as well as brief biographies of notable people. With an international scope and a colorful, engaging layout.

Grades 6 and up. Each letter of the alphabet tells the story of significant, progressive, and controversial moments in US history that often don’t get told – stories of women, people of color, immigrants, and Indigenous people. Richly illustrated with bold cut-paper and watercolor pictures, and with many first-person quotes and a timeline.

Grades 3 – 8. This collection of one-page essays explores the ways in which activists and artists have used peaceful resistance and non-violent protests to change the world. Among the many subjects and movements are: Mohandas Gandhi, Claudette Colvin, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Dolores Huerta, Richard Oakes and the occupation of Alcatraz, Nelson Mandela, Ai Weiwei, the "It Gets Better" project, and Greta Thunberg. Each essay is accompanied by a full-page illustration.

Grades 5 – 8. Protests and riots have changed the course of American history, bringing attention to unrest, inequality, and injustice. This book provides an overview of the history of these protests and riots, right up through issues of the current day, such as Black Lives Matter and the 2017 Women’s March. The text includes historical and contemporary quotes, primary source images, and maps.

Grades 7 and up. This book is a call for activism expressed through essays, profiles, and interviews about social and political action, including climate change, immigration, gender and sexual orientation, racism, women’s rights, disability, religious freedom, and intersectionality. Each chapter includes a summary of key questions, interviews with people involved, and spotlights on progressive organizations. Also included is practical information about tools for effecting change.

All grades. In this book, inspired by the work of the American Civil Liberties Union, sixteen award-winning children's book artists illustrate the civil rights quotations that inspire them. Included are the words of Dolores Huerta, Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. among many others. With bold and powerful art work.

**We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices. Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson.**
Grades 3 – 8. This anthology is dedicated to those who advocate for and pursue a just society and basic human rights for all people. It addresses what to tell children when the world seems harsh and unfair, and prejudice and racism run rampant. This collection includes original art, poetry, and prose from fifty diverse contributors, who seek to encourage young activists. With powerful illustrations on every page.

**Also recommended:**

**Braun, Eric. Taking Action for Civil and Political Rights.**

**Brooks, Ben. Stories for Kids Who Dare to Be Different: True Tales of Amazing People Who Stood Up and Stood Out. Illustrated by Quinton Winter.**


**Stevenson, Robin. Kid Activists: True Tales of Childhood from Champions of Change. Illustrated by Allison Steinfeld.**

**Wilson, Janet. Our Future: How Kids Are Taking Action.**
Civil Rights: Equality and Justice

African Americans

Grades 3 - 8. This poem in picture-book format is a passionate tribute to Black life in the United States. It highlights the trauma of slavery, the commitment of the civil rights movement, and the perseverance of some of the world’s great heroes. The endnotes provide valuable historical context, and the illustrations are vivid and powerful.

Anderson, Beth. Lizzie Demands a Seat!: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.
Grades 3 – 5. In 1854, Lizzie Jennings tried to board a streetcar in New York City. Though there were many empty seats, she was denied entry, assaulted, and threatened because of her race. She fought back by telling her story and winning her case in court, where future president Chester Arthur represented her. Her courage and perseverance led to the first recorded victory in the fight for equal rights on public transportation. Endnotes provide additional historical context. In picture-book format with expressive watercolor illustrations.

Anderson, Carol with Tonya Bolden. We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide.
Grades 7 and up. A young adult adaptation of Anderson’s prize-winning book White Rage, this book demonstrates that when America achieves milestones of progress toward equal Black participation in democracy, the response has been a consistent racist backlash that rolls back those wins. This book examines five of these moments from the end of the Civil War to the election of Donald Trump.

Grades 3 – 8. This is an illustrated history of African Americans, from the slave trade to the Black Lives Matter movement. Short chapters and textboxes highlight the contributions of specific African Americans in social and political movements, the arts, music, literature, culture, sports, and more. With vivid illustrations and portraits of significant people are on every page and an extensive, annotated timeline.

Grades 5 - 8. This is an account of the 200-mile freedom march in 1966 from Memphis to Jackson,
Mississippi, which united five organizations and many activists of the civil rights movement. The text conveys the courage with which the participants faced multiple dangers. With many quotations from civil rights leaders and illustrated with historic photos.

**Black Lives Matter at School: An Uprising for Educational Justice.** Edited by Denisha Jones and Jesse Hagopian; foreword by Opal Tometi.
For teachers and librarians. This book includes essays, interviews, poems, resolutions, and more from educators, students, and parents around the country who have been building the Black Lives Matter at School movement and challenging institutional racism. The purpose of the book is to inspire other educators and activists to join the movement at a time when antiracist work in schools is urgent and critical to education justice. Includes a foreword by Black Lives Matter co-founder Opal Tometi.

**Bridges, Ruby. This Is Your Time.**
Grades 1 and up. Written as a letter from civil rights activist Ruby Bridges to the reader, this is the story of Ruby Bridge’s childhood experience – in 1960 at the age of six, she was escorted to class by federal marshals after she was chosen to be one of the first Black students to integrate New Orleans’ public school system. The book is also her passionate call to young people to engage in the continuing fight for racial equality. In a small-sized format, with many photos from the past and present.

**Brimner, Larry Dane. Finding a Way Home: Mildred and Richard Loving and the Fight for Marriage Equality.**
New York: Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020. 109 pages.
Grades 6 and up. This is the story of the 1967 Loving v. Virginia landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, which ruled that laws banning interracial marriage were unconstitutional; Mildred and Richard Loving and their lawyers argued for equal protection under the 14th Amendment. A chapter describes the fight for marriage equality and how the gay community drew on the Loving case when forming their legal strategies. With photographs of primary documents and the individuals involved.

**Brimner, Larry Dane, Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961.**
Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2017. 111 pages.
Grades 5 – 8. In photo-essay format, this is an account of the twelve days in May 1961 when Black and white civil rights activists, known as the Freedom Riders, traveled by bus into the South to draw attention to unconstitutional segregation. Despite their peaceful protests, the Freedom Riders were met with increasing violence the further south they traveled.

**Bryan, Ashley. Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace.**
Illustrated by the author.
Grades 5 - 8. This sophisticated picture-book memoir is about the author/illustrator’s experiences serving in the segregated army during World War II. Soldiers of color were limited to service as custodians and laborers, but, despite the injustices, Bryan used every spare minute to grow as an artist, even under threat of punishment. Illustrated with large-scale multimedia art.

Bryant, Jen. Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball. Illustrated by Frank Morrison.
Grades 1 – 4. This is a picture-book biography of Elgin Baylor, basketball icon and civil rights advocate. One of the first professional African-American players, he was turned away from many hotels and restaurants. In 1959, he staged a one-man protest by refusing to play. His protest captured the attention of the press, the public, and the NBA. The text also includes references to other civil rights protests. With bold and powerful illustrations and an extensive timeline of Baylor’s life, the civil rights movement, and basketball history.

Chambers, Veronica. Shirley Chisholm is a Verb! Illustrated by Rachelle Baker.
Grades 1 – 5. This picture-book biography highlights how Chisholm was an active and vocal participant in US politics and a force to be reckoned with. Her early years, her time in Congress, her 1972 presidential bid, and her lasting legacy are addressed in a conversational style, with action words vividly highlighted in the text: “verbs are words that move the world forward.” With vivid illustrations and an author’s note that provides more background information.

Grades 2 – 5. Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel Payne reported from post-war Japan, Chicago, and the 1950s and 60s White House briefing room, where she broke barriers as one of the first African American journalists there. She asked tough questions of presidents and other elected officials, and she sought answers to important questions in the fight for civil rights. In picture-book format and with bright, evocative illustrations.

Cortez, Rio. The ABCs of Black History. Illustrated by Lauren Semmer.
Grades 1 – 5. The author of this book is a poet, and, for each letter of the alphabet, she has written rhyming text that celebrates significant concepts, movements, and people in Black history. For example, U is for United States, unbroken, unbound, underground, and unfinished with cultural and historical examples for each word. The back matter includes definitions, further explanations, and biographical details. With brightly colored pages and dynamic illustrations.
Dawson, Keila V. Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and his Green Book. Illustrated by Alleanna Harris.
Grades 2 - 4. This picture book explains the origins of the Green Book, a travel guide for African Americans during segregation. Victor Hugo Green (1892–1960), a Black postal worker from Harlem, NY, loved taking road trips across the United States, but Jim Crow laws in some areas made traveling dangerous. He created The Negro Motorist Green Book in 1936 so Black travelers could travel safely; the book eventually sold more than two million copies. The illustrations are warm and inviting; also included are an annotated timeline and historical note.

Grades 7 and up. Written by a constitutional law scholar, this book highlights the key court trials and individuals in the fight for integration that led to the US Supreme Court landmark ruling of Brown v. Board of Education. Included are insights into the abuses of the "separate but equal" system and how courageous coalitions of legal minds and activists strategized to combat the racist judicial system. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs and archival images.

Grades 6 and up. In this account of the systematic suppression of the African American vote, the author discusses the injustices of the post-Reconstruction era, examines the legal cases that made the Supreme Court a partner of white supremacists in the rise of Jim Crow, and continues the history of voting injustice to the present day. Profiles are given of the individuals and court cases involved. With black-and-white photos and archival images.

Hegedus, Bethany. Rise: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou. Illustrated by Tonya Engel.
Grades 3 - 6. A biography of African American writer, performer, and activist Maya Angelou, who overcame a childhood of trauma and emotional pain to become one of the most inspiring voices of her time. Includes endnotes with an extensive timeline and photographs. Told in free verse and richly illustrated in picture-book format.

Grade 5 - 8. Bayard Rustin was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., teaching him the philosophy and techniques of nonviolent direct action. In 1963, he organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. However, he is absent from many history books in large part because he was openly gay. This
biography traces Bayard’s lifetime of activism and highlights his fearless commitment to justice and equality for all.

Grades 7 – and up. This is a history of the Great Migration and its impact on Black and American culture. The text and the illustrations examine the way this migration continues to affect Black identity and America as a whole, exploring issues like voting rights, domestic terrorism, discrimination, and segregation, as well as achievements in arts and culture, activism, and civil rights. Stories of notable people such as James Baldwin, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X, Ella Baker, and others are included. With a glossary of people, events, and organizations.

Khan-Cullors, Patrisse. When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World.
Grades 7 and up. This book is part memoir, part history of a movement, and part call to action. The co-founder of Black Lives Matter describes her childhood in a multiracial community in California; her personal experiences with police; mental illness in her family, and the impact of white supremacy. Each chapter includes quotes from well-known authors, activists, and politicians. There are also questions for the reader to consider, providing an opportunity for individual reflection and group conversations. Illustrated with photographs.

King, Shani M. Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter. Illustrated by Bobby C. Martin, Jr.
Grades 3- 8. African-American accomplishments from the Revolutionary War to the present are celebrated in this book, which includes the stories of trailblazers in politics, law, science, medicine, social justice, sports, music, art, literature, and journalism. The layout is dynamic: each colorful page features bold fonts that vary in size along with portraits of individuals. Following the main text, further information is provided about the people profiled.

Langley, Sharon with Amy Nathan. A Ride to Remember: A Civil Rights Story. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.
Grades 2 – 4. After demonstrations and public protests by the African American community, the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park in Maryland was finally desegregated in the summer of 1963. The author and her parents were the first African American family to walk into the park, and she rode the carousel, which now resides on the National Mall in Washington. In picture-book format with richly textured illustrations.

Grades 2 – 6. A portrait of the first Black justice on the Supreme Court, this picture-book biography covers Thurgood Marshall’s upbringing in segregated Baltimore, his achievements with the NAACP, and his contributions to landmark equality rulings. Also included is information about his family life and interactions with colleagues and two US presidents. With strong and colorful illustrations, a timeline of Marshall’s life, and extensive notes about his major court cases.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Harriet Tubman. Illustrations by Gillian Flint.
Series: She Persisted.
Grades 2 – 4. One of the first in a new series, this book has short chapters and a direct, accessible tone for new readers. A frank discussion of slavery and specific incidents from Tubman’s life provide an understanding of her extraordinary accomplishments. In a smaller format with black-and-white illustrations on some pages.

Grades 7 and up. The young adult version of Kendi’s National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning, this book examines the historical roots and present-day manifestations of anti-Black racism in America, with discussions of influential figures, movements, and events. The author differentiates among segregationists, assimilationists, and antiracist activists and provides important historical detail in short chapters written in lively and expressive language.

Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. Someday is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins. Illustrated by Jade Johnson.
Grades 3 – 5. Clara Luper was an African American teacher and leader who inspired people to take direct, nonviolent action for civil rights. In 1958, as a high school teacher, she organized lunch counter sit-ins for her students to protest segregation in Oklahoma City. The narrative provides both a history lesson and a guide for how to challenge injustice. In picture-book format with spare and evocative illustrations.

Department of Education and Public Programs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Roundtree, Dovey Johnson. Mighty Justice: The Untold Story of Civil Rights Trailblazer Dovey Johnson Roundtree. Adapted by Jabari Asim.
Grades 5 – 8. Roundtree (1914–2018), an African American civil rights activist and attorney, was one of the first Black women to break the racial and gender barriers in the US Army. In this young readers’ edition of Roundtree’s memoir, her story has been adapted into a biography that provides historical context and an explanation of the court cases and constitutional issues that were of importance in the dismantling of segregation. Roundtree advised and encouraged the next generation of civil rights lawyers. With a chronology of civil rights court cases; illustrated with black-and-white photos.

Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020. 287 pages.
Grades 8 and up. This comprehensive biography explores the life of activist, singer, and actor Paul Robeson. His love of African American spirituals and deep empathy towards the suffering of others inspired his mission as a civil rights activist and his career as an artist. Targeted by the U.S. government for speaking out about discrimination against African Americans, labeled a communist during the height of the Cold War and stripped of his U.S. passport, Robeson continued to perform and speak out. Illustrated with archival photos and documents.

Russell-Brown, Katheryn. She Was the First!: The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.
Grades 2 – 6. This is a picture-book biography of educator and politician Shirley Chisholm, who in 1968 was the first Black woman elected to Congress and in 1972 was the first Black candidate from a major political party to run for president. Illustrated with expressive watercolor art and with an afterword that provides additional information and photographs.

Schwartz, Heather E. Locked Up for Freedom: Civil Rights Protesters at the Leesburg Stockade.
Millbrook Press, 2018. 64 pages.
Grades 5 – 8. In 1963, more than 30 African American girls, ages 11-14, were arrested for taking part in civil rights protests in Georgia. They were confined in a Civil War-era stockade, crowded into one cell. The author uses primary source material and recollections from the girls themselves to tell the story. Illustrated with archival images and photos.
Grades 2 and up. This picture book, written as a free verse poem, directly addresses Ona Judge, a young Black woman who emancipated herself from George and Martha Washington’s ownership. Key moments in her life are explored with the refrain “Why you run Ona Judge?” The inherent dehumanization that she and other enslaved people experienced is powerfully conveyed – though she herself may have appeared relatively privileged. Illustrated with rich paintings and collage, and with an informative author’s note, timeline, and list of places to visit.

Grades 1 – 4. This is a picture-book biography of the poet Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000), who was the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize. The lyrical text follows her life from childhood up to her winning the Pulitzer in 1950, and it explores the intersections of race, gender, and the overwhelming poverty of the Great Depression. With vivid illustrations, an historical note, and a timeline.

Grades 7 and up. In this young adult adaptation of his book, Bryan Stevenson examines the broken U.S. justice system, detailing his many challenges and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate. Through the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), an organization Stevenson founded, he works with others to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States.

Tate, Don. William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad. Illustrated by the author.
Grades 2 – 6. This is a picture-book biography of William Still, Black abolitionist. His parents escaped slavery but had to leave two of their children behind. Born later into freedom, William worked for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society and became the record keeper of enslaved people who had escaped to freedom; he was able to reunite families and build a remarkable resource of information. He also had encounters with Harriet Tubman, Henry “Box” Brown, and William and Ellen Craft. With expressive illustrations, timeline, and author’s note.


Weatherford, Carole Boston. R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, The Queen of Soul. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2020. 40 pages. Grades 1 – 4. This picture book is a celebration of the legendary singer. The author uses rhyming couplets and significant words to highlight Aretha Franklin’s childhood, her rising stardom, and her political activism. The interplay between the words and dynamic illustrations creates a vivid portrait of the Queen of Soul. An author’s note provides more information about Franklin's life; with full-page vivid and colorful illustrations.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2021. 32 pages. Grades 4 and up. This picture book is about the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the most tragic incidents of racial violence in US history. The book traces the history and successes of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and then describes the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community. News of what happened was largely suppressed, and no official investigation occurred for seventy-five years. Concluding with a call for a better future, the book provides historical context to current conversations about racism and America's ongoing legacy of white supremacy. The author's note provides additional background, and the illustrations are expressive and powerful.
Winter, Jonah. Thurgood. Illustrated by Bryan Collier.  
Grades 2 – 5. This is a picture-book biography of Thurgood Marshall, the first Black justice on the Supreme Court and a great hero of the civil rights movement. The book begins with his childhood in 1920s Baltimore, where he attended segregated schools and experienced racial injustice. Later, as a lawyer, Marshall won many cases before the Supreme Court, including one of the most important cases in American history: Brown v Board of Education. The mixed-media illustrations are expressive and dynamic.

Wittenstein, Barry. A Place to Land. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.  
Grades 2 - 5. Told in free verse, this is the story behind the "I Have a Dream" speech. Martin Luther King, Jr. was once asked if the hardest part of preaching was knowing where to begin. No, he said, the hardest part is knowing where to end: "It's terrible to be circling up there without a place to land." Before the March on Washington, MLK struggled with what to say. Ultimately, he decided in favor of improvisation, as in his usual Sunday sermons. Illustrated with expressive collage artwork and with endnotes that provide further historical context.

Also recommended:

Asim, Jabari. Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.  

Brimner, Larry Dane. Accused!: The Trials of the Scottsboro Boys: Lies, Prejudice, and the Fourteenth Amendment.  
Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2019. Grades 7 and up.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII.  


Harris, Duchess. Black Lives Matter.  


Asian Americans

Leung, Julie. The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee. Illustrated by Julie Kwon. New York: Little Brown, 2021. 46 pages. Grades 2 – 6. This is a picture-book biography of Hazel Ying Lee (1912 – 1944), the first Chinese American woman to fly for the US military. During World War II, she joined the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots and was one of a few women qualified to fly fighter jets; she died in action in 1944. Her family had to fight for her burial in their chosen cemetery because it was reserved for whites only. With large, powerful illustrations and an extensive author’s note that provides additional information.

Leung, Julie. Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist. Illustrated by Chris Sasaki. New York, NY: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019. 40 pages. Grades 2 – 4. This is a picture-book biography of animator Tyrus Wong, the Chinese American immigrant who was the creative force behind Disney’s Bambi. In 1919, at nine years old, he left China by ship in hopes of resettling in the U.S... He seized every opportunity to make art, even while working as a janitor at night. His work was inspired by his Asian American heritage, and he paved the way for other Asian American artists. The illustrations capture Wong’s life story and artistic style; the endnotes provide additional biographical information and photographs.

Maclear, Kyo. It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way. Illustrated by Julie Morstad. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2019. 48 pages. Grades 2 – 4. The story of Gyo Fujikawa is a story of artistic talent that refused to be constrained by rules, expectations, or prejudice. Born in 1908 in California, Gyo learned from her relatives the ways in which both women and Japanese people lacked opportunity. When her family was interned during World War II, she had to fight for them and her artistic vision. She later wrote and illustrated the first children’s book to feature children of different races interacting together. In picture-book format with strong and varied illustrations, photographs, and a timeline.

Grades 5 and up. This is a biography of Japanese American Congressman Norman Mineta. It begins with his internment as a child during World War II and continues through his career in politics. During his ten terms in Congress, he was instrumental in passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided reparations and an apology to those who were interned. Illustrated with many archival photographs and images.

Also recommended:

**Lu, Georgina W. S. How Chinese Immigrants Made America Home.**
Series: Coming to America: The History of Immigration to the United States. Grades 5-8.

**Latinx Americans**

**Brown, Monica. Sharuko: el Arqueólogo Peruano Julio C. Tello / Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello. Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri.**
Grades 2 – 6. This is a bilingual picture-book biography of Julio C. Tello (1880-1947), the first Indigenous archaeologist of the Americas and an important figure in Peruvian history. He attended medical school in Lima, studied archaeology at Harvard and in Europe, and made many significant discoveries at archaeological sites around Peru. He showed that Peru’s Indigenous cultures had been established thousands of years ago, fostering pride in his country’s Indigenous ancestry. With lively and expressive illustrations, an afterword with additional information, and a map.

**Hale, Christy. Todos Iguales: Un Corrido de Lemon Grove / All Equal: A Ballad of Lemon Grove. Illustrated by the author.**
Grades: 3 - 6. Told in Spanish and English and in picture-book format, this is the story of the 1931 Lemon Grove incident, when Mexican families in southern California won the first school desegregation case in United States history. The endnotes include photographs and extensive information about the people involved and the events leading up to and after the court case ruling.

**Mosca, Julia Finley. The Astronaut with a Song for the Stars: The Story of Dr. Ellen Ochoa. Illustrated by Daniel Rieley.**
Grades 2 – 4. Ellen Ochoa grew up in a family of immigrants from Mexico. She discovered engineering in college, but she was told that this field of study wasn’t for girls. She refused to give up, ultimately becoming a NASA astronaut who shattered barriers. She was the first Latinx in space and served as the director of the Johnson Space Center. In picture-book format with a timeline and extensive additional information.
Grades 3 – 6. José de la Luz Sáenz experienced prejudice in the United States because of his Mexican heritage. When World War I broke out, Luz joined the army, but, despite his hard work and considerable abilities, he often didn’t receive credit for his contributions. After his return to the U.S., he joined other Mexican-Americans to fight for equality, a fight that led to the creation of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the oldest Latino civil rights organization. In picture-book format with bold and colorful illustrations.

Grades 4 – 8. Published in association with the Smithsonian Institution, this book highlights the inspiring stories of thirty Latinx people and their significant contributions to the cultural, social, and political character of the United States. The stories include each person’s cultural background, childhood, and the challenges and opportunities they met in pursuit of their goals. Illustrated with colorful portraits of each individual and with a glossary, discussion questions, and a reader’s guide.

Native Peoples
Note: Some works of fiction are included here.

Grades 5 – 8. This fiction collection of intersecting stories is by new and established Native writers. Within the framework of an intertribal powwow, families from 17 Nations gather at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor Michigan. The authors explore themes such as ethnic identity and ancestry with stories that reflect hope, joy, resilience, and the strength of community. The editor (enrolled Muscogee Creek) describes this anthology as a “sampling of the many rising Indigenous voices who are changing children’s literature for the better.”

Grades 4 – 8. This book presents the life and civil rights work of Elizabeth Peratrovich (1911-1958). The sign she saw as a young Tlingit girl - “No Natives Allowed” - stayed with her all her life. In 1945, her testimony before the Alaska Territorial Legislature about the evils of racism followed years of work by Alaska Native people and their allies, and it led to the passage of Alaska’s landmark Anti-Discrimination Act, nearly twenty years before the passage of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964. Today, Alaskans honor
Peratrovich every year on Feb. 16 “for her courageous, unceasing efforts to eliminate discrimination and bring about equal rights in Alaska.” With an annotated timeline, glossary, and photographs.

Dunbar-Ortiz, Rozanne, adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People.
Grades 7 and up. The young readers’ edition of Dunbar-Ortiz’s 2014 book challenges the myth of the United States as a nation of immigrants. Spanning more than 400 years, this work of history examines the legacy of Indigenous peoples’ resistance, resilience, and steadfast fight against imperialism; it explores the roles that settler colonialism and the policies of American Indian genocide played in forming the national identity of the United States. Included are discussion topics, archival images, original maps, recommendations for further reading, and other materials to encourage readers to think critically about their own place in history.

Grades 4 – 6. Written by an Ojibwe/Métis/Cree/Haudenosaunee author, this is a biography of Cuthbert Grant, the son of a Scottish trader and an Indigenous mother, who became a leader of the Métis – a distinct group of mixed European and Indigenous people who developed communities along fur trading routes in the 1800s. He helped the Métis and Indigenous people in their efforts to protect their lands and eventually led the Métis in creating a new farming community. The narrative examines the impact of colonization and capitalism on the Métis and Indigenous people. Strikingly illustrated by a Dakota/Ojibwe artist; with a map and an afterward that tells about the Métis today.

Lindstrom, Carole. We Are Water Protectors. Illustrated by Michaela Goade.
Grades 1-4. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this story honors those who fight for environmental justice by protecting the Earth’s water. A grandmother teaches a child that "Water is the first medicine.... Water is sacred." The girl tells of the arrival of an oil pipeline, the "black snake" that will “spoil the water ... wreck everything in its path.” The girl begins a protest and others join her. The author, who is Anishinabe/Métis and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe Indians, and the illustrator, who is Tlingit and Haida, have created a book that is a passionate call to environmental stewardship. An author’s note refers to the inspiring 2016 Standing Rock protests in the Dakotas.

Grades 1 – 4. The author, a member of the Seminole Nation, states, “The story of fry bread is the story of American Indians: embracing community and culture in the face of opposition.” Written in poetic text and with exuberant illustrations that show the diversity of Native Americans, this book tells the story of a post-colonial food that is a shared tradition for Native American families. With an extensive author’s Department of Education and Public Programs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
note that explores some of the history, social customs, politics, and mixed racial heritage of the 573 recognized tribes in the United States. In picture-book format.

Marshall, Joseph. *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse. Illustrations by Jim Yellowhawk.*
Grades 4 – 8. In this novel, Jimmy McClean, an eleven-year-old Lakota boy living on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota, doesn’t fit in because of his light-colored hair and eyes. He embarks on a “vision journey” with his grandfather and learns about his Lakota heritage - in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota history. Drawing inspiration from the oral stories of the Lakota tradition, the author traces Crazy Horse’s life through the events that shaped him into a powerful leader, including famous battles and standoffs against the white settlers in the 1860s. Readers learn about an important period of American history from the perspective of the Lakota. The author grew up on the Rosebud Reservation and is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota tribe.

Grades 2 – 5. Originally published in 1977, this is the story of Indigenous peoples of the Americas, specifically in the U.S., as they endeavor to live on lands that are their traditional homelands. Told with the rhythms and repetitions of oral tradition, the text relates the history of the Native peoples from Creation to the invasion and theft of Native lands and the forced relocation of many. Themes of resilience, resistance, activism, and pride are interwoven throughout. In picture-book format with bold illustrations and with an updated author’s note that discusses recent challenges to Native communities. The author is of the Acoma Pueblo tribe.

Gr 4 – 8. The author, an Anishinaabe competitive powwow dancer and educator, presents powwow culture – highlighting its origins, current practices, songs and dances, and regional differences across Canada and the United States. The origins of the powwow, as well as its evolution, importance, and growing popularity, are explained. The author also addresses the colonization and forced assimilation experienced by Native people. Generously illustrated on every page with archival images and many full-color photographs of current celebrations and practices, and with a glossary.

Grades 2 – 5. As a child in Oklahoma, Wilma Mankiller experienced the Cherokee practice of Gadugi, helping each other. In 1956, the federal government uprooted her family and moved them to California. In San Francisco, she worked to build and develop the local Native community and took part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island. Returning to Oklahoma with her daughters, Mankiller’s dedication to serving her people led, despite some resistance to female leadership, to her election as the first woman to lead a Native American tribe.
be chief of the Cherokee Nation. This book is part of Rappaport’s Big Words series, and the text is interwoven with Mankiller's own words. In picture-book format with vibrant large-scale illustrations and an annotated timeline.

**Rogers, Andrea L. Mary and the Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story**  
Grades 3 – 7. In this work of historical fiction, twelve-year-old Mary and her Cherokee family are forced out of their home in Georgia by U.S. soldiers in May 1838. Separated from her father, Mary and her family face violence, disease, and harsh weather. Mary perseveres and helps keep her family and friends together until they can reach the new Cherokee nation in Indian Territory. With additional nonfiction material, a glossary, and reader response questions, this story explores the tragedy of forced removals following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

**Sorell, Traci. At the Mountain’s Base. Illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre.**  
Grades 1 – 3. A blending of fiction and nonfiction, this story is told in poetry. A group of Cherokee women gather to sing and pray for the safe return of one of their loved ones, a pilot who is away at war. As their song reaches her, she also prays for the safety of the women in the cabin at the base of the mountain. The author’s note explains that Native women have always held military roles - in intertribal conflicts, against European colonialism, and in the U.S. Armed Forces. The illustrations reflect the intergenerational connections and the women’s vulnerability and strength.

**Sorell, Traci. We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga. Illustrated by Frané Lessac.**  
Grades 1 – 3. Otsaliheliga is a Cherokee word that is used to express gratitude. The author, born and raised in the Cherokee nation, organizes the book by season: the text follows a Cherokee family and their tribal nation as they express thanks and come together as a community to celebrate throughout the year. On many pages, Cherokee words are accompanied by English translations and pronunciation guides. The text reads like poetry, honors the past, and speaks to the present-day Cherokee experience. In picture-book format with vivid and colorful illustrations and an endnote with the Cherokee syllabary.

**Tudor, Asland, co-written by Kelly Tudor. Young Water Protectors: A Story about Standing Rock.**  
Grades 3 – 6. This book was written by a 10 year-old boy and his mother, citizens of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. They arrived in North Dakota in 2016 to join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their allies to fight the construction of the oil pipeline. The text explains the unlawful taking of Sioux lands and the polluting effects of oil pipelines on the water supply and on the land. Illustrated with maps and photographs, this is an eyewitness account of Native activism.

**Also recommended:**

**Harris, Duchess, with A.R. Carser. Dennis Banks and Russell Means: Native American Activists.**  
Department of Education and Public Programs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Environmental Movement

Camerini, Valentina, translated by Moreno Giovannoni. Greta’s Story: The Schoolgirl Who Went on Strike to Save the Planet. Illustrated by Veronica Carratello.
Grades 4 – 6. In August 2018, fifteen-year-old Greta Thunberg went on strike in front of Sweden’s parliament building. Her protest grew into an international student movement to protect the environment: she has spoken before the U.N. and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. This book draws parallels between Greta and other protestors in history, explains the scientific basis of global warming, and offers suggestions for changing the habits that most threaten our planet.

Grades 8 and up. In 2014, government officials decided that in order to save money Flint would switch its water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River. Despite the murky, foul-smelling liquid coming from city faucets and the many residents who became ill, officials refused to respond. Through interviews with residents, research into legal records, and news accounts, the authors show how the crisis unfolded, the history of racism and segregation that led up to it, and how the people of Flint fought – and are continuing to fight – for clean water and healthy lives. Illustrated with black-and-white photos.

French, Jess. What a Waste.
Grades 3 – 6. This book explores what humans are doing to the environment, good and bad - from pollution and litter to renewable energy and plastic recycling. Included are plans already in motion to save our seas, how some countries are implementing programs that are having a positive impact, and how waste can be turned into something useful. In a dynamic, colorful format with many photos on every page.

Harris, Duchess. Environmental Protests.
Minneapolis, MN: Core Library, 2018. 48 pages.
Series: Protest Movements.
Grades 3 – 5. This book examines the research that revealed how common practices harmed the environment, the events people have held to raise awareness, and the tactics protesters use to protect nature and change laws. Included are the long history of the environmental movement and brief biographies of many of the people involved. With many illustrations and photos.
Hillery, Tony. *Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood.* Illustrated by Jessie Hartland. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020. 40 pages. Grades 1 – 3. This is the story of Harlem Grown, an urban farm and garden in New York City, which grew out of an abandoned lot and now feeds a neighborhood. Written by the African American man who came up with the idea of the garden while volunteering in a Harlem elementary school in 2010, this picture book addresses the environment, sustainability, and community engagement. With colorful, engaging illustrations, a note from the author, and instructions for how to “start a garden anywhere.”


Grades 5 – 8. With a focus on the giant accumulation of garbage in the Pacific Ocean, this book explores the science behind ocean currents and plastic's chemical composition. The threat that trash poses for the world’s oceans and the specific actions people and governments can take to improve the situation are addressed. With charts, diagrams, and large-format photos.

**Peterson, Christy. Earth Day and the Environmental Movement: Standing up for Earth.**
Grades: 6 – 9. On April 22, 1970, an estimated twenty million people demonstrated their support for environmental protections. The new celebration, Earth Day, was the largest nationwide event ever. This book explains how, fifty years later, climate change remains an urgent concern: in the US, the political divide continues to widen as environmental policy has become an increasingly partisan issue, and the spread of disinformation has challenged scientific fact. Information is provided about a new generation of advocates who are continuing the fight to make environmental policy a top priority around the globe. Illustrated with many photographs.

**Peterson, Christy. Into the Deep: Science, Technology, and the Quest to Protect the Ocean.**
Grades 6 – 9. This book presents the work of scientists who are engaged in groundbreaking research to understand and find ways to mitigate the harmful effects of human activity on the oceans. The author describes how cutting-edge technologies are now solving many of the mysteries of the oceans, and the sidebars offer insightful profiles of scientists. With a colorful layout and many photos and diagrams on every page.

**Rao, Anuradha S. One Earth: People of Color Protecting Our Planet.**
Grades 5 - 8. This book profiles twenty activists of color from around the world who live and work as environmental defenders. Their individual stories show that the intersection of environment and ethnicity is an asset in helping the planet. Illustrated with full-color photos of the people profiled and their projects and with direct quotes in text boxes.

**Rusch, Elizabeth. Mario and the Hole in the Sky: How a Chemist Saved our Planet. Illustrated by Teresa Martinez.**
Grades 3 – 5. This is the true story of how Mexican-American scientist Mario Molina helped solve the ozone crisis of the 1980s and went on to become a Nobel laureate and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His inspiring story gives hope in the fight against global warming. With extensive text and scientific information in picture-book format.
Wallace, Sandra Neil. Marjory Saves the Everglades: The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020. 46 pages. In picture-book format, this is the biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who saved the Florida Everglades in the 1940's and helped to create a national park. Concerned that developers were ruining the Florida she loved, she embarked on a lifelong commitment to environmental activism. The further reading section provides an extensive author’s note, an illustrated guide to the plants and animals in the text, and tips for protecting the environment. The colorful and detailed illustrations evoke the natural beauty of Florida.

Winter, Jeanette. Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet. Illustrated by the author. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2019. 40 pages. Grades 2 – 4. This is the story of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage climate activist, who has sparked a worldwide student movement and is demanding action from world leaders, many of whom have refused to address climate change. In picture-book format with simple text and powerful quotations from Greta Thunberg.

The World’s Poorest President Speaks Out: Based on Uruguay President José Mujica’s 2012 Speech to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Edited by Yoshimi Kusaba. Illustrated by Gaku Nakagawa. New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2020. 32 pages. Grades 3 and up. This picture book is based on a speech by Uruguay’s 40th president, José Mujica, which was delivered in 2012 at the United Nations’ Rio+20 Summit. He asked the world to question the practice of mass consumption that has created an environmental and economic crisis. José Mujica lived his beliefs: his speech captured his audience’s attention and admiration. Here, his famous speech is brought to life with powerful and colorful illustrations.

Also recommended:


Gun Control

Bajramovic, Hana. Whose Right Is It?: The Second Amendment and the Fight Over Guns.
Grades 6 and up. This book explores the issues and controversies over gun control and the interpretation of the Second Amendment. The history of gun ownership is examined - beginning in the 1600s in England and then from the American Revolution to the present day. The author explains how gun control laws have been used to preserve white supremacy, the impact of landmark Supreme Court decisions, and the ongoing battle between the National Rifle Association and gun control advocates. With charts, graphs, illustrations, and photographs.

Glimmer of Hope: How Tragedy Sparked a Movement. Written by the founders of March for Our Lives.
New York, NY: Razorbill, 2018. 218 pages,
Grades 7 and up. This is the official book by the March For Our Lives founders about their reaction to the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School and their ongoing fight to end gun violence in the United States, including their organizing the March 2018 March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. The contributions, mostly in essay format, describe the students’ responses to the tragic event and the international outpouring of support.

We Say #NeverAgain: Reporting by the Parkland Student Journalists. Edited by MSD teachers, Melissa Falkowski and Eric Garner.
Grades 7 and up. This collection of essays examines the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and the fight for gun control. Told by the student reporters for the school’s newspaper and TV station, the essays focus on how the students developed media skills: harnessing social media, speaking to the press, and writing effective op-eds.

Thomas, Rachael L. #NeverAgain: Preventing Gun Violence.
Series: #Movements.
Grades 4 – 6. This is a short overview of the #neveragain movement, from the history of efforts at gun control legislation to the school shootings at Columbine and Sandy Hook and the creation of #neveragain by students in Parkland, Florida. The book provides some context to the Second Amendment, as well as statistics related to escalating gun violence in the U.S. Illustrated with many photos.

McCann, Michelle Roehm. Enough is Enough: How Students Can Join the Fight for Gun Safety.
Grades 7 and up. This is a young activist’s handbook to joining the fight against gun violence, both in the local community and on a national level. The author explains America’s gun violence issues, including
historical information about the Second Amendment, the history of guns in America, and an overview of the NRA. Also included are interviews with young people who have survived gun violence and student activists who are launching their own movements.

Also recommended:


Immigrants and Refugees


Grades 5 – 8. This book is an historical look at immigration in America - with stories of the immigrants who helped build this country and the challenges they faced, including prejudice and discrimination in immigration laws and practices. Many profiles of individuals are included, and their stories are powerful reminders of the progress that has been made and lost right up through the harsh and divisive policies of former president Donald Trump.

Kuklin, Susan. We Are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults.
Grades 6 and up. The author interviewed nine young adults who have lived in the United States with a secret for much of their lives: they are not U.S. citizens. They came from Colombia, Mexico, Ghana, Independent Samoa, and Korea, seeking education, fleeing violence, and escaping poverty. All have heartbreaking and hopeful stories about leaving their homes and starting a new life in America. Illustrated with photographs taken by the author.

Grades 7 – 8. The author provides a history of immigration and refugee concerns and offers insight into this humanitarian crisis - in 2018, the number of people displaced worldwide by violence, persecution, or natural disaster had reached 68.5 million. The traumatic journeys that refugees experience are related through personal stories. Also included is information about people and organizations that are helping, as well as suggestions for how to get involved.

Mills, Deborah & Alfredo Alva. La Frontera: El Viaje con Papá / My Journey with Papa.
Illustrated by Claudia Navarro.
Grades 3 – 5. This picture book tells the true and harrowing story of a young boy’s journey with his father from Mexico to Texas to find a new life. In Spanish and English, with historical photographs and notes about immigration and the borders and culture of the two countries.

O’Neill, Alexis. Jacob Riis's Camera: Bringing Light to Tenement Children.
Illustrated by Gary Kelley.
New York: Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020. 48 pages.
Grades 2 – 5. This is a picture-book biography of Jacob Riis, who immigrated to the United States from Denmark in 1870. After he became a journalist, he photographed overcrowded NY tenement buildings and their residents in an effort to expose the unacceptable living conditions of many immigrants. His photographs inspired the people of New York to take action and change the lives of tenement children and their families. With powerful, evocative illustrations, examples of Riis’ photos, an extensive timeline, and author’s notes.
Yousafzai, Malala, with Liz Welch. We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World.
Grades 6 – 8. Malala’s experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement - as an activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to her home in Pakistan. She explores her own story and the stories of girls she has met on her journeys, who have lost their communities and families. This is a powerful reminder of the millions of currently displaced people worldwide and how we can help.

Also recommended:

Goodman, Michael E. The Refugee Crisis.

Osborne, Linda Barrett. This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration.

The Labor Movement

Grades 5 – 8. This biography covers Huerta’s life from her early challenges facing prejudice as a Chicana, to her political activism, and up to the present day. She was the cofounder, with Cesar Chavez, of the United Farm Workers of America and is an advocate for the rights of farmworkers, Mexican American immigrants, women, and LGBTQ+ populations. Illustrated with many photographs.

Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2018. 40 pages.
Grades 3 – 6. This historical-fiction picture book, based on actual people and events, presents the story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike when her father participated in the protest. This was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s final stand for justice before his assassination. With powerful illustrations.

Finkelstein, Norman H. Union Made: Labor Leader Samuel Gompers and His Fight for Workers’ Rights.
Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2019. 112 pages.
Grades 5 – 8. Samuel Gompers, a young Jewish immigrant, came to America from London in 1863. He founded what became known as the American Federation of Labor and helped to create federal protections for U.S. workers, including safe work environments and workers’ compensation. He led the fight to grant equal union membership to African Americans, but he supported the Chinese Exclusion
Act and other intolerant restrictions on immigration. With many black-and-white photos and illustrations.

**Krull, Kathleen The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & her New Deal for America. Illustrated by Alexandra Bye.**
Grades 2 – 5. This is a picture-book biography of Frances Perkins, the first female member of a presidential cabinet. As Secretary of Labor in Franklin Roosevelt’s administration, she was the architect of much of FDR’s New Deal legislation, including the Social Security Act and the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps. A life-long social activist, she also fought for women’s, children’s, and workers’ rights. With evocative and colorful illustrations.

**Winter, Jonah. Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.**
Grades 2 – 5. Told in first-person and in picture-book format, this is the story of Mother Jones, an Irish immigrant who fought for child labor laws. She was more than sixty years old when the powerful protests she organized earned her the epithet "the most dangerous woman in America." The text includes many quotes from Mother Jones and the illustrations are striking and bold.

**Also Recommended:**

**Shea, Therese. Inside the Labor Movement.**

**The LGBTQ+ Movement (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/Questioning and more)**

**Bausum, Ann. Viral: The Fight Against AIDS in America.**
Grades 7 and up. The earliest victims of AIDS were mostly gay men, among the most marginalized people in the United States at the time. This book presents the history of the AIDS crisis through the lens of the victims and activists who demanded action and literally fought for their lives. The text explores the disease’s origins, how it spread, the activism it inspired, and how the world confronts HIV and AIDS today. With a detailed timeline and many photographs.

**Bronski, Michael, adapted by Richie Chevat. A Queer History of the United States for Young People.**
Grades 7 and up. Through narratives, letters, drawings, poems, and more, this book examines the accomplishments of LGBTQ+ people. The authors discuss how American culture has shaped the LGBTQ+ experience and how LGBTQ+ people have shaped the country. With many biographies of well-known and lesser-known individuals and illustrated with archival images and photos.
Fisher, Michelle Millar. The Rainbow Flag: Bright, Bold, and Beautiful. Illustrated by Kat Kuang.
Grades 1 – 4. In 1978, the San Francisco Freedom Day Parade needed a new symbol: Harvey Milk and Gilbert Baker came up with the idea for a rainbow flag. This is the story of how it was actually constructed through creative collaboration, bringing together a community that was taking a stand for justice and equal rights. Today, the flag is a universal symbol and a celebrated object of design that is part of the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, in New York. In picture-book format with brilliantly colored illustrations.

Grades 7 and up. Seeing Gender examines how we express and understand the complexities of gender today. Illustrating a different concept on each two-page spread, the author/artist addresses history, science, sociology, and her own experience. With many profiles of activists and role models.

Grades 5 - 8. This biography examines the life of Harvey Milk, political activist for gay rights, including his struggles as a young man and how he inspired the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. In 1977, Milk was elected to San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors: he was assassinated less than a year after he took office. Through his personal and professional life, Harvey Milk became a role model and emblem of hope for many members of the LGBTQ+ community. Illustrated with photos.

Grades 5 and up. The graphic design and imagery in this book about queer rights are exceptionally powerful and evocative. Beginning with an explanation of the term “queer”, the author and illustrator chart the dramatic history and rise of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, its many challenges, and the courageous individuals who stood up and demanded recognition. With many first-person quotes, a timeline, and glossary.

Grades K – 4. “Only time will tell who Pete Buttigieg...will become.” is a recurrent phrase in this picture book biography, and it expresses much about the life of the first openly gay presidential candidate. The author includes important moments in Buttigieg’s life, from his childhood in South Bend, IN, to Harvard and then his return to his hometown, where his early political career was interrupted by his Naval Reserve
service in Afghanistan. Buttigieg’s identity as a gay man and the value of public service are major themes. With expressive illustrations and a timeline.

Grades 2 – 4. June 28, 1969 was a turning point for LGBTQ+ rights: the Stonewall Inn in NYC, a gathering place for the gay community, was raided once again by police. But this time people fought back and demanded their rights, sparking the gay liberation movement in the United States. The text examines the circumstances of the protests and discusses the changes brought about by the LGBTQ+ movement. In picture-book format with archival photos.

Grades 5 – 8. This book celebrates the achievements of LGBTQ+ people throughout history and from around the world - featuring dynamic, full-color portraits of a diverse selection of 53 inspirational role models accompanied by short biographies that focus on their personal and professional successes, as well as their activism and courage.

Series: Activism in Action.
Grades 5 – 8. Because of the work of courageous individuals and organizations, great strides have been made in LGBTQ+ civil rights since the 1950s, including marriage equality, anti-discrimination laws, and the freedom to serve openly in the military. This book examines the history of this fight, its activists, and allies, as well as the continuing struggle for full equality. Illustrated with many photos.

Grades 5 and up. This book, the updated and expanded edition of the 2016 book Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community, celebrates the LGBTQ+ community's diversity and the historic victories of the past fifty years. Special focus is given to activism and the voices of young activists around the world. There is also a section on how to be an ally. With sidebars that offer direct quotes and additional facts, illustrations on every page with archival images and many full-color photographs, and a glossary.

Also recommended:


**Felix, Rebecca, #Pride: Championing LGBTQ Rights.**

**Hyde, Natalie. LGBTQ Rights.**

**Rarus, Pat, The LGBT Rights Movement.**

### Voting Rights

**Anderson, Carol, with Tonya Bolden. One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally.**
Grades 7 and up. Adapted for young readers, this version of Anderson’s book examines the rollbacks to African American access to voting since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eliminated key protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Voter suppression techniques are explained - including photo ID requirements, gerrymandering, intimidation, and poll closures. The book also addresses the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans as the nation faces the 2020 presidential election.

**Diesen, Deborah. Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America. Illustrated by Magdalena Mora.**
Grades 1 – 4. This introduction to the history of voting rights in the United States uses rhyme and mixed media artwork to make clear that the constitution did not extend the right to vote to all people. Progress is shown on each page, in pictures and in text, as more disenfranchised groups fight to be included. The endnotes provide additional information about amendments, legislation, and many leaders in the struggle to grant full participation to people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. In picture-book format.

**Jenkins, Tommy. Drawing the Vote: An Illustrated Guide to Voting in America. Illustrated by Kati Lacker.**
Grades 5 and up. This graphic-format book looks at the history of voting rights in the United States – from the American Revolution to the Civil War, the fight for women's suffrage, the Civil Rights movement, and the election of an African American president. The events and trends that led to the unprecedented results of the 2016 presidential election are identified, as is information about how Americans can take action to make
their vote count.

**McNamara, Margaret. Vote for Our Future! Illustrated by Micah Player.**
Grades 1 – 4. When elementary school students learn that their school will close on Election Day to become a polling station, they get involved and spread the word about Election Day. This is a fictional story, but, through the students’ research activities, information about early voting and mail-in voting is explained. The endnotes list the Acts of Congress that have extended voting rights to Americans throughout history. Vibrantly illustrated in picture-book format.

**Rubin, Susan Goldman. Give Us the Vote!: Over 200 Years of Fighting For the Ballot.**
Grades 6 - 8. The author highlights the systemic racism that influenced the U.S. Constitution, played a part in the women’s suffrage movement, and still has a large influence in elections and voting laws today. The text details the hard work and sacrifices many experienced in the fight to win equal voting rights for all. The importance of voting in elections and contemporary issues, such as voter suppression, are also addressed. A timeline of voting rights in the U.S. and historical photos supplement the text.

Grades 5 – 8. From the writing of the Constitution to Jim Crow, women’s suffrage, gerrymandering and more, this book examines the complex history of voting in the United States. Special attention is given to voter suppression of specific groups, including African Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, and women. Organizations that are working to improve voting rights are profiled, and readers are encouraged to get involved in voting issues.

**Also recommended:**

**Rusch, Elizabeth. You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People.**

**Shulman, Mark. I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference. Illustrated by Serge Bloch.**
Women’s Rights

Grades 3 – 6. This is a richly illustrated history of the iconic first women’s march in 1913 and the suffragists who fought their way through hunger strikes, jail time, and more to win a long, difficult victory for American women – the passage of the 19th amendment. The author addresses the racism among the leaders and the discrimination Black women (including Ida B. Wells) faced when they tried to join the march. Archival photographs, letters, and articles are interspersed with illustrations. An extensive timeline is included.

Clark-Robinson, Monica. Standing on Her Shoulders: A Celebration of women. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.
Grades 1 – 5. In this picture book, a multi-generational family of Black women (two young girls, their mother, and their grandmother) look at images of 26 diverse women who represent a variety of achievements. The rhyming text encourages readers to remember these women and realize that current generations stand on their shoulders. The lively illustrations portray politicians, activists, artists, explorers, and athletes; the women are identified at the end of the book with brief biographies.

Conkling, Winifred, Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot.
Grades 7 – 8. Beginning with the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through the nearly eighty-year fight for the 19th Amendment, this book covers the American suffragists’ achievements and politics and the personal journeys that inspired many of them. Among the women profiled are Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Paul. With many primary sources and period photographs.

Dionne, Evette. Lifting As We Climb: Black Women’s Battle for the Ballot Box.
Grades 5 – 8. This book tells the important, often overlooked, story of Black women as a force in the suffrage movement, at a time when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle. Women of color, especially African American women, were fighting for their right to vote and to be treated as full, equal citizens of the United States – and they made their voices heard. The author identifies these African American women activists and the part they played in American history. Illustrated with archival images and photos.

Felix, Rebecca. #WomensMarch: Insisting on Equality.
Series: #Movements
Grades 3 – 5. Primarily about the Women’s March of January 2017, this book also discusses earlier protest movements, as well as the women’s marches that took place in 2018 and 2019 and the continued fight for gender equality and social justice. The author makes it clear that the catalyst for the protest marches was the election of Donald Trump. Illustrated with many photographs.

Finish the Fight!: The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote. Written by the Staff of The New York Times. Illustrated by Monica Ahanonu.
Grades 4 – 8. On the hundredth anniversary of the historic win for women’s rights, this collective biography and history of the movement begins with “Here are some suffragists you may have learned about ... but there are lots more you should know!” and then proceeds to introduce many women from diverse backgrounds – Black, Asian, Latinx, Native American, and more – who helped lead the fight for suffrage. In a dynamic format and illustrated with portraits and period photographs, and with an extensive and annotated timeline.

Frazer, Coral Celeste. Vote!: Women’s Fight for Access to the Ballot Box.
Grades 5 – 8. In the battle for the right to vote, American women forged alliances with other social reform movements. This book tells that story and makes the connection with current issues of voter purges, voter ID laws, and other tactics that many states employ to make it more difficult for citizens - especially young people, poor people, and people of color - to register to vote and to cast ballots. Illustrated with photographs.

Grades 1 – 4. This picture-book biography concludes with Harris leaving the presidential race to continue her work as senator with the (prophetic) words: “Kamala Harris is still writing her American story”. It is a comprehensive look at formative events in the life of the daughter of immigrants who would grow up to be the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American ever elected Vice President of the United States. Lightly framed as a conversation between a girl and her mother, each page contains important information expressed through lyrical prose and brightly colored illustrations.

Grades 4 – 8. In this collection of short biographies, Virginia State Senator Janet Howell spotlights the careers of fifty American women in politics – from Abigail Adams to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Included are many profiles of women of color and recent and current activists and politicians. With many quotes, colorful portraits, and a take-action guide.
Grades 7 and up. This is an overview of the progressive movements of the last 60 years as told through the stories of 60 diverse female and non-binary leaders - from the Civil Rights Movement and Stonewall riots through today. Many of these people come from backgrounds and communities that are traditionally overlooked, and they may not be familiar to readers despite their having made significant contributions to social change movements.

Grades 4 – 8. This book examines the people around the world who fought for the right to vote from the 19th Century to the present day, from New Zealand in 1894 to Saudi Arabia in 2014. It includes the global petitions, the campaigns, the peaceful protests and marches, as well as the extreme measures taken by suffragists in their determination to achieve equality. In a lively format with colorful illustrations and photos on every page.

Grades 5 – 8. The author profiles 19 women who fought for women's voting rights. The book explores how the women often didn’t agree on how to achieve their goals and discusses the harsh treatment many received when jailed. It also addresses the racist views held by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Illustrated with drawings, quotes, and photos.

Grades 4 – 8. This book is a tribute to the brave women motorists who drove cars for fun, profit, and to make a statement about the evolving role of women. It covers the time period from the invention of the auto in the 1890s to the 1920s when many barriers for women were beginning to break down. In photo-essay format with historical photos and images.

Grades 2 – 5. This book profiles nineteen Muslim women who rose up and made their voices heard in the fields of culinary arts, fashion, sports, government, science, entertainment, education, and activism. Their stories show the challenges, doubts, and outright hostility that they faced in becoming influential leaders. In picture-book format with colorful illustrations.
Parks, Peggy J. The #MeToo Movement. San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, Inc., 2020. 80 pages. Grades 7 and up. This book describes the ongoing history of the anti-sexual harassment #MeToo movement – its results and the changes that are still needed. The author makes it clear that, before actors in Hollywood used the term in 2017 to refer to the abuse by a powerful movie producer, the African-American activist Tarana Burke introduced the hashtag in 2006, referring to the harassment and abuse experienced by women of color. Cases of harassment and their outcomes are discussed, with attention paid to the hardships accusers face and the fact that men are sometimes victims also. Included is an examination of relevant legislation, a call to elect more women leaders, and other future action; illustrated with color photographs.

Rappaport, Doreen. Ruth Objects: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Los Angeles, CA: Disney Hyperion, 2020. 48 pages. Grades 3 – 6. As a student, teacher, lawyer, and judge, Ruth Bader Ginsburg often experienced unfair treatment, but the Supreme Court justice has persisted in championing equality and justice to this day. This is the newest addition to the author’s series of Big Words books about social justice heroes. The text combines powerful narrative with RBG’s own words. With striking and colorful illustrations and a detailed timeline.


Rosenstock, Barb. Leave It to Abigail!: The Revolutionary Life of Abigail Adams. Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company, 2020. 40 pages. Grades 2 – 4. This biographical picture book portrays Abigail Adams as a woman who met all of life’s challenges with energy and verve. The title becomes a refrain throughout the book as Abigail manages a farm by herself during wartime, recommends rights for America’s women, and serves as her husband John Adams’ closest presidential advisor. The endnotes offer more historical background, and the illustrations are lively and expressive.

Stewart, Louise Kay & Eve Lloyd Knight. Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women’s Equality and the Right to Vote. Northampton, MA: Crocodile Books, 2019. 43 pages. Grades 4 – 8. Unusual in the breadth of its vision – this book includes the stories of many brave activists who fought for women’s equality and right to vote across the globe and up to the present day. Viewing the women’s movement as a truly international one, the story begins in New Zealand at the end of the
19th century, and then moves on to Oceania, Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. With vivid and powerful artwork throughout.

Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2019. 64 pages.
Grades 3 – 6. Although the effort to gain women's rights in the United States is usually presented as beginning at a convention in New York State, it was in the Western United States where the women's movement found its first great triumphs. This book introduces 25 Westerners, including many Indigenous women, who led the way from 1869 to the present day. With illustrations and a timeline

Grades 4 – 6. The fight for the 19th amendment succeeded in 1920 because of a courageous group of women who were fearless in the face of ridicule, arrest, imprisonment, and even torture. Their collective struggle and individual portraits are detailed here. Illustrated with photographs and other images.

Also recommended:


Braun, Eric The Women's Rights Movement.


Lawlor, Laurie. Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World.

Rappaport, Doreen. Elizabeth Started All the Trouble. Illustrated by Matt Faulkner.

Richards, Amy. *We Are Makers: Real Women and Girls Shaping Our World.*

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

Sarkeesian, Anita & Ebony Aster. *History vs. Women: The Defiant Lives That They Don't Want You to Know. Illustrated by T.S. Abe.*
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: [https://www.booklistonline.com/booklinks](https://www.booklistonline.com/booklinks)

*Horn Book Magazine*: features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature: [http://www.hbook.com](http://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: [http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com](http://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 diversity in the classroom and beyond: [http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine](http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine)

Online Resources

*American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL)*: established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo; provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children's and young adult books. Dr. Jean Mendoza is a co-editor at AICL: [https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/](https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/)

*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](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](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 topics, including social justice. *CCBC Choices* is a best-of-the-year list created annually: [http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/bibBio.asp](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](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 tips for educators, and book lists: [https://www.embracerace.org/](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: [http://www.ncss.org/resources/notable](http://www.ncss.org/resources/notable)

**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/](https://www.primarysource.org/)

**Social Justice Books:** a program of Teaching for Change, provides an annotated list of the best multicultural and social justice children’s books and the *Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children’s Books*: [https://socialjusticebooks.org](https://socialjusticebooks.org)

**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 links to book lists on many other websites: [https://diversebooks.org/](https://diversebooks.org/)

**Children’s Book Awards**

**The Association for Library Service to Children** (ALSC) is the world’s largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. The website provides links to their own awards and those of many other organizations and groups: [http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia)

**Amelia Bloomer List:** the committee of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association compiles a booklist of excellent books with significant feminist content: [http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/amelia-bloomer-book-list](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/amelia-bloomer-book-list)
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

Arab-American Book Awards: sponsored by the Arab American National Museum, the awards honor books written by and about Arab Americans: https://arabamericanmuseum.org/book-awards/

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

Batchelder Award: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded to an American publisher for a children's 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

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

Coretta Scott King Award: presented annually by the American Library Association to a Black author and a Black illustrator whose works encourage world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people: http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/cskbookawards

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards: presented by the Jane Addams Peace Association, and given 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

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: https://ncte.org/awards/orbis-pictus-award-nonfiction-for-children/

Pura Belpré Award: given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural Department of Education and Public Programs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
experience for children and youth:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/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

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

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