About the List and Criteria for Selection

The books that appear in this annotated list were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and assembled in cooperation with the Children’s Book Council (CBC). NCSS and CBC have cooperated on this annual bibliography since 1972. Books selected for this bibliography were published in 2009 and were written for children in grades K-12. The Book Review Committee looks for books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity of groups and are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality, have a pleasing format, and, where appropriate, include illustrations that enrich the text. Each book is read by several reviewers, and books are included on the list by committee assent; the annotations do not necessarily reflect the judgment of the entire committee.

Publishers’ addresses are available in standard reference works such as Children’s Books in Print (R.R. Bowker) and Literary Market Place (R.R. Bowker), and from CBC. CBC’s Members List may be downloaded at www.cbcbooks.org/about/ourmembers. Credits for permission to reproduce the cover art included in this supplement are printed on page 16.

Titles are arranged by broad subject categories. Although many are appropriate for more than one category, they have been placed where their usefulness in social studies education appears greatest. Annotators have also indicated the thematic strands (shown below) from Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, to which the book relates.

### Thematic Strands of the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

1. **Culture**
2. **Time, Continuity, and Change**
3. **People, Places, and Environments**
4. **Individual Development and Identity**
5. **Individuals, Groups, and Institutions**
6. **Power, Authority, and Governance**
7. **Production, Distribution, and Consumption**
8. **Science, Technology, and Society**
9. **Global Connections**
10. **Civic Ideals and Practices**

### Parts of a Notable Listing

1. The titles marked with a bookshelf icon are Selectors’ Choices—books that individual committee members responded to with particular enthusiasm.
2. Title/Subtitle
3. Author(s)
4. Illustrator
5. Publisher
6. Number of pages
7. International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included for all available editions (trade, library, and paperback). The symbol “F” indicates that a paperback edition is forthcoming. A publisher’s name in parentheses indicates that a different publisher will issue the paperback edition.
8. Price as of January 2010
9. Reading levels: P: Primary (K-2), I: Intermediate (3-5), M: Middle (6-8), H: High (9-12). They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles.
10. Brief descriptive annotation, plus notations of the presence of additional textual materials, if any.
11. Initials indicating the reviewer responsible for the annotation (see list at right).
12. Thematic strands of the curriculum standards for social studies in order of relevancy (see list above).

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Buffalo Sisters</td>
<td>Florence and Ester Weeks’ childhood on the American frontier</td>
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Glenda A. Sheppard, Teacher Librarian, John Muir Middle School, LA Unified School District, Los Angeles, Calif. (GAS)


**Catherine the Great: Empress of Russia (A Wicked History™)** Zu Vincent. Illustrated by Mark Summers and Raphael Montoloiu. Franklin Watts. 128 pp. Library ISBN 978-0-531-21802-0, $30.00. Paperback ISBN 978-0-531-20738-3, $5.95. “Bold,” “systematic,” and “calculating” are a few of the adjectives that describe Catherine the Great’s rise to the throne. This powerful eighteenth-century woman was a shrewd political player, yet readers are left with admiration for her accomplishments. Index, Glossary, Author’s Note, Timeline. (ACL) II, IV, VI


**Wicked History™** Zu Vincent. Illustrated by Mark Summers and Raphael Montoloiu. Franklin Watts. 128 pp. Library ISBN 978-0-531-21802-0, $30.00. Paperback ISBN 978-0-531-20738-3, $5.95. “Bold,” “systematic,” and “calculating” are a few of the adjectives that describe Catherine the Great’s rise to the throne. This powerful eighteenth-century woman was a shrewd political player, yet readers are left with admiration for her accomplishments. Index, Glossary, Author’s Note, Timeline. (ACL) II, IV, VI


Open the Door to Liberty. Anne Rockwell. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 80 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-60570-5, $18.00. (I, M) This is the fascinating story of Toussaint L’Ouverture, who rose from being a former slave to governor-general of St. Domingue, (Haiti), leading the colony to its independence from France, which it gained in 1804. Cast of Characters, Author’s Note, Author’s Sources. (GBL) IX, IV


Contemporary Concerns

Cold Hands, Warm Heart. Jill Wolfson. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an Imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group. 256 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8282-1, $17.99. (M, H) This is the complex, but uplifting story of a 15-year-old transplant recipient and the network of people impacted by this process, including the family of a young gymnast who donated her heart. (GBL) IV, VIII

If I Grow Up. Todd Strasser. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 240 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-2523-1, $16.99. Paperback ISBN 978-1-41699-4435, $8.99. (H) DeShawn has grown up in the projects, surrounded by drugs, gang violence, and poverty. He faces many tough decisions, including choosing the path of his friends who are selling drugs and making good money, or staying in school with the hope of some day getting out of the projects. Author’s Notes (TLK) I, III, IV


No! Written and illustrated by David McPhail. Roaring Brook Press, an Imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group. 48 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-59643-288-8, $16.95. (P) A young boy witnesses many forms of bullying as he attempts to take a letter to the mailbox. The only word in the book is ‘NO,’ and it only appears three times. Powerful images convey a message against bullying and warfare, and depict the possibility of peaceful coexistence. (TLK) I, II, VI


Environment/Energy/Ecology


Folktales


Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. Written and illustrated by Grace Lin. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 288 pp. Trade ISBN 9780316114271, $16.99. (I, M) In this fantasy story inspired by Chinese folklore, Minli hopes to bring prosperity to her valley and begins a magical journey in search of the Old Man of the Moon who can answer her questions. Author’s Note. (EVH) I

Geography/People/Places

$16.95 (P, I) This book offers a creative approach for teaching young students about geographic concepts and mapping skills in the context of backyard, neighborhood, city, world, and space. Create Your Own Map. Index. (SCP) III


History/Life & Culture in the Americas


Blessing's Bead. Debby Dahl Edwardson. Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-374-30805-6, $16.99. (M, H) In this book describing the struggles of the Inupiat people, two sisters are separated by the frozen Arctic Ocean when Aaluk marries a Siberian and travels to the Asian continent. Nutaaq remains in North America, where her family suffers from disease and devastation. Seventy years later, Nutaaq's great granddaughter, the focus of the second story, is sent with her brother to live with her grandmother in the Inupiat community, but she feels like an outsider among her own people. (IWL) III, IV


The Crimson Cap. Ellen Howard. Holiday House. 208 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-2152-7, $16.95. (M, H) This is a fictionalized account of the hardships faced by a group of French settlers stranded in 1687 in what is present day South Texas. Pierre Talon, age 10, is chosen to assist in an expedition to find the mouth of the Mississippi River and the route to New France. This gut-wrenching, gripping story is filled with nail-biting suspense, true heroics, and survival seen through Pierre’s eyes. (IWL) I, II, III, IV

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Duck for Turkey Day. Jacqueline Jules. Illustrated by Kathryn Mitter. Albert Whitman & Company. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8075-1734-5; $16.99. (P) Little Tuyet is worried that her family’s Vietnamese traditions will not allow her to celebrate Thanksgiving the way the other children in her class will celebrate. (GAS) I, III, IV

The Dust Bowl Through the Lens. Martin W. Sandler. Walker Books for Young Readers. 96 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8027-9548-9; $20.89. (M, H) The documentary photos reveal the national disaster, hardship, courage and hope during the years of dust. Opening quotations and photographs are excellent. Sources of Quotations, Photo Credits, Further Reading Resources, Index. (SCP) II, VIII

Ellis Island: Coming to the Land of Liberty. Raymond Bial. Color photographs by the author. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 64 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-618-99943-9; $18.00. (I, M) This book provides the historical context for the establishment of Ellis Island in 1890: how it became the processing center for immigrants to the United States, and what visitors may expect to see there today. Readers may gain a sense of the significance of Ellis Island and the role it has played in the lives of countless immigrants through the numerous and varied captioned images. Copies of historical documents, color and black and white photographs, and sepia tone drawings are supplemented by additional resources. (IWL) I, III, IV, X


The Great Death. John Smelcer. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an Imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8100-8; $16.99. (M) A seldom seen perspective of the impact of European diseases on Alaska’s Native population. This is the story of two young sisters who are the only survivors of a smallpox outbreak in their village, and their struggle to survive in the Alaskan wilderness in the dead of winter. (TLK) I, III, IV


the travels of William Reed through journal entries, maps, and additional graphics. Foreword, Afterword, List of Illustrations, Bibliography, Glossary. (GMI) I, II, III, IV

If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States. David J. Smith. Illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong. Kids Can Press. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-399-25076-7, $17.95. (I, M) There are 306 million people living in America, but if it were a village of just 100 people, what would it be like? Using the metaphor of a village, the author explores where we came from, where we live, what our families are like, and how wealthy we are. Author's Note, Bibliography. (KAC) III, II, IV


My Name Is Sangoel. Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8028-5307-3, $17.00. (P, I) A refugee from Sudan, eight-year-old Sangoel is frustrated that no one in America can pronounce his name, but he finds a clever way to solve the problem. Detailed watercolor and collage illustrations capture the different settings. Authors’ Note. (ASL) I, IV, IX


On Viney’s Mountain. Joan Donaldson. Holiday House. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8234-2129-9, $16.95. (M, H) Viney, a spirited 16-year-old girl in nineteenth-century rural Appalachia, is a gifted weaver, but wants more for herself than the traditional fate of a mountain woman. She is wary of a group of Englishmen who arrive to build a settlement and bring change to her world. (TLK) I, II, III, IV


Ron’s Big Mission. Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden. Illustrated by Don Tate. Dutton Children’s Books. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-525-47849-2, $16.99. (P) This is a fictionalized account of how astronaut Ron McNair’s burning desire as a young, African American boy to read books about space, led him to take a stand in 1959 that would integrate his library in South Carolina. Author’s Note. (GBL) II, IV


A Season of Gifts. Richard Peck. Dial Books for Young Readers. 176 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8037-3082-3, $16.99. (M) This is the touching story of a preacher’s family and an eccentric neighbor (Grand-ma Dowdel from other Peck novels) in 1958 rural Indiana. Small town adventures are shown through the eyes of the preacher’s 12-year-old son. (GBL) IV, II


**Reference**


**Slavery: Real People and Their Stories of Enslavement.** Reg Grant. Illustrated with prints and photographs. DK Publishing. 192 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-7566-5169-5, $24.99. (M, H) The practice of slavery is traced with unvarnished words and pictures from ancient times through the nineteenth century, and to the present day, where it actually continues in some parts of the world. Glossary, Index. (GAS) VI, V, I


**Social Interactions/Relationships**


**Also Known as Harper.** Ann Haywood Leal. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an Imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. 256 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-8050-8881-6, $16.99. (M) This is the compelling story of a young poet (named after writer Harper Lee) and her struggle to take care of her younger brother while her mother tries to make ends meet. (GBL) IV


Family Reminders. Julie Danneberg. Illustrated by John Shelley. Charlesbridge Publishing. 112 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58089-320-6, $14.95. (I, M) After losing his leg in a mining accident in the 1890s, a father fights depression until his daughter convinces him to sell his carved wooden statues of pleasant events. Author’s Note. (EVH) IV


Homegrown House. Janet S. Wong. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Margaret K. McElderry, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-689-84718-9, $16.99. (I) A young girl is tired of her family’s moves. She wants to stay where she is, where she has friends and is settled. Grandma teaches her that it takes time to love a home and make it “homegrown.” (DS) I, III, IV

I Call My Grandma Nana. Written and illustrated by Ashley Wolff. Tricycle Press. 30 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58246-251-6, $15.99. (P) Visit a diverse classroom where the children share stories of their grandmothers. Learn the words for grandmothers in many cultures; the teacher also shares the story and name of her grandmother. Glossary of Names. (TLK) I, IX


Marcelo in the Real World. Francisco X. Stork. Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. 256 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-545-05474-4, $17.99. (M, H) Marcelo has Asperger’s syndrome and has always attended a special school. What will happen when Marcelo’s father insists that he work in the mailroom at his law firm and go to a new high school in the fall? Author’s Note. (KAC) IV
Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace. Written and illustrated by James Proimos. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-316-03292-6, $15.99. (P, I) Paulie Pastrami, a kid that was “nothing special,” wanted to achieve world peace before he turned eight. He started with apologies, sharing, and compassion (and the cupcakes didn’t hurt either), to demonstrate what one person can do. (KAC) II, IV, V


You are Here. Jennifer E. Smith. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 256 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-4169-6799-6, $15.99. (M, H) Emma Healy discovers she had a twin brother who died at birth. She sets out on a journey with her next-door neighbor, Peter, to find her brother’s grave and the missing truth. (KAC) IV

World History & Culture

14 Cows for America. Carmen Agra Deedy. Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez. Peachtree Publishers. 36 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-56145-490-7, $17.95. (I) When Kimeli, a Kenyan learning to be a doctor in America, returns to his village, he tells his people about the horrors of September 11th. The Maasai, who believe that the cow is life, are so affected by the tragedy they present 14 cows to the U.S. Embassy for the people of America. Author’s Note. (KAC) IX, I, III


trations with students and guide them through questions about the culture and history. A brief author’s note at the beginning of the book provides statistics about Afghanistan before and after the Taliban took control. (IWL) I, III, IV, X


**The Other Half of Life.** Kim Ablon Whitney. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 256 pp. Trade ISBN 978-0-375-95219-7, $19.99. (M, H) In a story based on real events, Jewish teenagers meet aboard the MS *St. Francis* as it takes them and their families away from the terror of Nazi Germany to freedom that awaits them in far-off Cuba. Author’s Note, Bibliography, Webliography, Timeline. (GAS) VI, II, V


**Pippo the Fool.** Tracey E. Fern. Illustrated by Pascal Milelli. Sleeping Bear Press. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58536-418-3, $16.99. (P, I) Explore the streets of fifteenth-century Florence as you learn how the Filippo Brunelleschi dome was created. Filippo, or “Pippo,” has to take a chance and keep his pride by doing what he really enjoys. Author’s Note. Illustrator’s Note. (BF) VIII, X


**Waiting for the Owl’s Call.** Gloria Whelan. Illustrated by Pascal Millei. Sleeping Bear Press. 32 pp. Trade ISBN 978-1-58536-418-3, $17.95. (I) A poignant story of an eight-year-old girl and her sister in Afghanistan who, instead of attending school, weave rugs until their fingers bleed and await the call of the owl telling them their day of labor is over. Map. Author’s Note. (ASL) I, VII

The Children’s Book Council

The Children’s Book Council is a not-for-profit trade association of publishers of trade books for children and producers of book-related materials for young people. The CBC offers children’s publishers the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, literacy advocacy, and collaboration on development projects with other national organizations including NCSS. Every Child a Reader, the CBC Foundation, is responsible for managing Children’s Book Week.

Other bibliographies on which the CBC cooperates are:

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Reprinted from the March issues of Science and Children, Science Scope, and The Science Teacher, a joint project of the National Science Teachers Association and the CBC. Single copies are available for $5. Send orders to the Children’s Book Council, attn: Outstanding Science, 12 West 37th Street, Floor 2, New York, NY 10018. This list can also be found online at www.cbcbooks.org/reading_lists/outstandingscience.

Children’s Choices
Reprinted from the October issue of The Reading Teacher, a joint project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the CBC. Single copies are available for $1.00 and a self-addressed stamped 9×12 envelope. For multiple copies of annotated lists, send $9 for 10 copies, $50 for 100 copies, or $185 for 500 copies. All prices include shipping and handling. Checks, payable to the International Reading Association, should be sent to IRA, Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139.

Visit the CBC online at www.cbcbooks.org.

National Council for the Social Studies

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) is a professional, non-profit association for social studies teachers and educators at all levels from early childhood through college. It engages and supports teachers in strengthening and advocating social studies.

NCSS publishes two major journals. Social Education addresses all levels of the profession, offering articles whose subjects range from the latest research to practical classroom ideas. Social Studies and the Young Learner is devoted to K-6 social studies education, meeting teachers’ needs for new information and effective teaching activities. Middle Level Learning, which provides ideas and activities for the middle grades, is an online supplement to NCSS periodicals published three times a year.

As part of their membership benefits, NCSS members receive a subscription to Social Education or Young Learner. All members also receive the NCSS newsletter, The Social Studies Professional, which provides information on professional news, opportunities, resources for teachers, workshops, travel and study programs and NCSS activities.

NCSS developed and published the social studies standards, which are used nationally as a basis for curriculum planning and student performance assessment. The annotations of books in this list include references to the thematic strands of the social studies standards to which the book relates (see page 2).

This list of Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People is an NCSS member benefit, published in the May/June issue of Social Education, which is sent to all members who subscribe to Social Studies and the Young Learner, as well as to the regular subscribers of Social Education. The list is also available online to NCSS members at members.ncss.org; prior year lists are available at www.socialstudies.org/notable.

For information on membership and services, e-mail membership@ncss.org, call 301 588-1800, or visit www.socialstudies.org/membership. NCSS is located at 8555 Sixteenth Street, Suite 500, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Visit NCSS online at www.socialstudies.org.

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Director of Publications: Michael Simpson
Associate Editor: Jennifer Bauduy
Art Director: Rich Palmer

This list is a joint project of the NCSS and the Children’s Book Council. Single copies are available from CBC for $5.00. Send orders to the Children’s Book Council, attn.: Social Studies, 12 West 37th Street, Floor 2, New York, NY 10018.

A Family Secret by Eric Haevel; Translated by Lorraine T. Miller, used with permission of Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group • A Faraway Island by Aneka Tither, used with permission of Delacorte Books for Young Readers • A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck, used with permission of Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group • A Troubled Peace by L.M. Elliott, used with permission of HarperCollins Children’s Books • A Visit to a New Friend by Mary E. Jordan, used with permission of “Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group • Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures by Marno Metelskaar & Ruud van der Rol, translated by Arnold J. Pomerans, used with permission of “Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group • Anything But Typical by Sara R leaning Basak, used with permission of Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of “Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group • The Crimson Cap by Ellen Howard, used with permission of Holiday House, an imprint of Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group • The Children’s Book Council

16 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2010

- The Social Studies Professional

- Social Education

- Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

- Children’s Choices

- National Council for the Social Studies

- NCSS Publications

- A Family Secret

- A Faraway Island

- A Season of Gifts

- A Troubled Peace

- A Visit to a New Friend

- Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures

- Anything But Typical

- The Crimson Cap

- The Children’s Book Council

- Outstandi