

The World of Social Studies and Children's Literature

History/World Interactions

Ancient Egypt by Daniel Cohen (Reading Level: --)

Before Columbus by Muriel Batherman (Reading Level: --)

Middle Ages/Renaissance:

King Arthur and his Knights by Stuart Campbell (Reading Level: --)

In 1492 by Jean Marzollo and Steve Bjorkman (Reading Level: NP)

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

(Reading Level: 1240L. A homeless girl is taken in as an apprentice by a hot-tempered midwife, and eventually, in spite of obstacles and hardships, gains a place in the world.)

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman

(Reading Level: 1170L. Medieval England is the backdrop for this story of a spirited young girl. Told in diary format.)

Revolutionary War and Early America:

George vs. George: The Revolutionary War as Seen by Both Sides by Rosalyn Schanzer

(Reading Level: --)

Revolutionary War on Wednesday (Magic Tree House 22) by Mary Pope Osborne

(Reading Level: 320L. Using their magic tree house, the children travel back in time to help George Washington cross the Delaware River.)

When Washington Crossed the Delaware by Lynne Cheney and Peter Fiore

(Reading Level: AD860L)

By Dawn's Early Light by Steven Kroll

(Reading Level: 670L)

Religion in Colonial America by Jon Butler (Reading Level: --)

Civil War:

Glorious Days, Dreadful Days: The Battle of Bunker Hill by Philippa Kirby

(Reading Level: --)

Barefoot: Escape on the Underground Railroad by Pamela Duncan Edwards

(Reading Level: 640L. Animals help a runaway slave escape from pursuers.)

Lest We Forget by Velma Maia Thomas

(Reading Level: 1160L. Includes copies of documents used during the Middle Passage and slave trading.)

Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold

(Reading Level: AD760L. Cassie retraces the steps escaping slaves took on the Underground Railroad in order to reunite with her brother.)

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter

(Reading Level: AD630L. By following the directions in a song, runaway slaves journey north, guided by the stars.)

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson

(Reading Level: AD680L. A young slave uses a quilt as a map to escape on the Underground Railroad.)

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

(Reading Level: 590L. A young man wounded on a Georgia battlefield is nursed back to health by a slave who is slain by the Confederates.)

US Expansion:

Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper

(Reading Level: 770L-1350L)

Ten Mile Day and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad by Mary Ann Fraser

(Reading Level: 890L. Details the race to build the first railroad across the North American continent.)

The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal by Cheryl Harness

(Reading Level: AD1050L)

To Fly with Swallows: A Story of Old California by Dana Catharine De Ruiz (Reading Level: --)

Mailing May by Michael O. Tunnell

(Reading Level: AD770L. In 1914, because they could not afford a train ticket, a little girl's family mails her to visit her grandmother.)

WWII and the Holocaust:

We Want Jobs: A Story of the Great Depression by John Waskowitz

(Reading Level: --)

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolan

(Reading Level: 730L. Hannah is tired of the tradition of her Jewish heritage until she travels back in time to experience Nazi-occupied Poland.)

The Hidden Children by Howard Greenfeld

(Reading Level: 980L. True stories of Jewish children who survived the Holocaust by hiding their heritage.)

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

(Reading Level: 670L. 1943—A young Dutch girl learns to be brave and courageous when she shelters her Jewish friend from the Nazis.)

Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti

(Reading Level: 430L. A picture book that demonstrates the tragic killing of a little girl who shared food with Jewish prisoners during WWII.)

Great Photographers of World War II by Chris Boot (Reading Level: --)

Children of the Dust Bowl by Jerry Stanley

(Reading Level: 1120L. How children of migrant laborers built their own school in Weed Patch Camp, documentary history.)

Children of the Great Depression by Russell Freedman

(Reading Level: 1170L)

Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression by Kate Lied

(Reading Level: 660L. A family finds employment digging potatoes in Idaho for two weeks.)

Vietnam:

A Place Called Heartbreak: A Story of Vietnam by Walter Dean Myers

(Reading Level: 700L. A story about an African American military officer who spent seven years in a POW camp in Vietnam.)

The Wall by Eve Bunting

(Reading Level: AD270L. A boy and his father visit the Vietnam Vets Memorial in Washington DC. They find the name of the boy's grandfather who was killed in the conflict.)

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War by Philip Caputo

(Reading Level: 1210L)

Ohio:

Along the Ohio Trail by Tanya Dean (Reading Level: --)

B is for Buckeye: An Ohio Alphabet by Marcia Schonbert (Reading Level: --)

Cardinal Numbers: An Ohio Counting Book by Marcia Schonberg (Reading Level: --)

Miscellaneous Items:

The History of the White House by Robert A. Collins (Reading Level: --)

In Grandma's Day by Paul Humphrey (Reading Level: --)

Katie's Trunk by Ann Turner

(Reading Level: AD660L. Katie is hidden by her family in a trunk under the clothes when rebel soldiers invade their home.)

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

(Reading Level: AD830L. Biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of snowflakes.)

Earthquake: San Francisco, 1906 by Kathleen Duey (Reading Level: --)

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting

(Reading Level: 3600L. A little boy and his mother watch the looting and chaos of city riots with mixed emotions.)

Early Flying Machines by Henry Dale (Reading Level: --)

The Life and Times of the Peanut by Charles Micucci

(Reading Level: 980L. Explores the traditions and history surrounding peanuts as well as their many uses.)

The Timeline of Discovery and Invention by Peter North and Philip Wilkinson (Reading Level: --)

The Great Atlas of Discovery by Neil Grant (Reading Level: --)

Architecture/Art History:

Barmi: A Mediterranean City through the Ages by Xavier Hernandez

(Reading Level: --)

The Visual Dictionary of Buildings by DK Publishing (Reading Level: --)

City, A Story of Roman Planning and Construction by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1100L. How the Romans constructed cities for the people who lived within them.)

Cathedral: The Story of Construction by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1120L. Incredible illustrations tell the story of construction of a 13th Century Gothic cathedral.)

Castle by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1180L. Awesome drawings and humor describe how castles and surrounding towns were built.)

Pyramid by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1110L. Illustrated process behind making the pyramids.)

Rome Antics by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 880L. A pigeon takes the reader on a tour of both ancient and modern parts of the city of Rome.)

Mosque by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1340L)

Unbuilding by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1250L. Fictional account of the dismantling and removal of New York's Empire State Building; describes the construction and demolition of a skyscraper.)

Motel of the Mysteries by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1270L. The future of archeology and a very interesting find.)

Underground by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1230L. Describes subways, sewers, building foundations, telephone and power systems, cables, pipes, tunnels and other underground elements of a large modern city.)

Ship by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1250L. Describes wooden ships or caravels of the 15th Century and follows archaeologists as they uncover a lost caravel in the Caribbean Sea.)

Mill by David Macaulay

(Reading Level: 1210L. Construction and operation of a mill in use in New England during the 19th Century.)

Great Moments in Architecture by David Macaulay (Reading Level: --)

ABC Costume and Textiles from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

by Florence Cassen Mayers (Reading Level: --)

Open House by Steve Noon (Reading Level: --)

How a Book is Made by Alike (Reading Level: 390L)

Created and provided free of charge to educators for use in classrooms

by Kay Freeman, www.dragonladybooks.com

The History of Making Books by Gallimand Jeunesse (Reading Level: --)

Sports History:

Baseball All-Stars by B. Allison, Editor (Reading Level: --)

Defense All-Pro Super Stars by B. Allison, Editor (Reading Level: --)

Offense All-Pro Super Stars by B. Allison, Editor (Reading Level: --)

365 Amazing Days in Sports by Eric Sherman (Reading Level: --)

Inside Pro Football by Bruce Weber (Reading Level: --)

Biographies/Historical Fiction:

Starry Messenger by Peter Sis

(Reading Level: 830L. Biography of Galileo with his heaven-and-Earth shattering ideas.)

Colin Powell by Jonathan Everston (Reading Level: --)

Mr. Lincoln's Drummer by G. Clifton Wisler

(Reading Level: 800L. Story of a young boy's experience as a Civil War drummer and how he won a Congressional Medal of Honor.)

Tibet Through the Red Box by Peter Sis

(Reading Level: AD870L. The author's father's experiences while lost in Tibet during the mid 1950's.)

Shooting Star: Annie Oakley, the Legend by Debbie Dadey

(Reading Level: AD760L. Exaggerated account of the life and exploits of the famous sharp-shooter.)

Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman by Dorothy Sterling

(Reading Level: 910L. Biography of the escaped slave and the underground railroad.)

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin by Jean Fritz

(Reading Level: 830L. A brief biography.)

Will You Sign Here, John Hancock by Jean Fritz

(Reading Level: 970L. A biography.)

George Washington's Breakfast by Jean Fritz

(Reading Level: 710L. A child named George Washington Allen wants to learn everything about the first president for whom he was named.)

People/American Heritage

Westward Movement:

Dandelions by Eve Bunting

(Reading Level: 580L. Zoe and her family journey westward on a wagon train headed toward the Nebraska Territory in the 1800's.)

Cowboys of the Wild West by Russell Freedman

(Reading Level: 1160L. A true look at the proud young men who inspired the legend of cowboys who worked on the open range during the 1890's.)

Cowboys by Lucille Recht Penner

(Reading Level: 550L)

B is for Buckaroo: A Cowboy Alphabet by Louise Doak Whitney (Reading Level: --)

Dakota Dugout by Ann Turner (Reading Level: AD1040L. Retelling of one woman's life as a prairie settler.)

Immigrants:

Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Shihab Nye

(Reading Level: AD590L. A young girl's story of her visit to her grandmother on the West Bank.)

Silver at Night by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Reading Level: --)

How Many Days to America by Eve Bunting

(Reading Level: 460L.) *Something from Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman

(Reading Level: BR. Retelling of a traditional Jewish folktale about a baby blanket through many transformations as the child grows.)

Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen

(Reading Level: 450L. Molly is asked to make a pilgrim doll for a Thanksgiving display at school. Molly's Jewish mother helps her by dressing the doll as she herself was dressed before leaving Russia.)

Immigrants by Martin W. Sandler

(Reading Level: 1030L. The story of immigrants in America.)

Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman

(Reading Level: 1050L. Introduction to the experience of being a young urban immigrant in the early 1900's.)

The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

(Reading Level: 920L. The story of a quilt that ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant family.)

Appalachia/Mountain folk:

When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant

(Reading Level: AD980L. The story of fond Appalachian memories of a family and way of life.)

Come a Tide by George Ella Lyon

(Reading Level: 490L. Lighthearted account of the spring floods at her rural home.)

In Coal Country by Judith Hendershott

(Reading Level: AD780L. Story of a child growing up in a coal mining community who finds both excitement and hard work in a life affected the local industry.)

Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds by Cynthia Rylant

(Reading Level: NC1120L)

My Great Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston

(Reading Level: AD660L. A story of a school teacher in Appalachia.)

The Folk Art Counting Book by Helen Mageras (Reading Level: --)

On Top of Old Smoky: A Collection of Songs and Stories from Appalachia by Linda Anderson

(Reading Level: --)

Amish:

Raising Yoder's Barn by Jane Yolan

(Reading Level: AD680L. Matthew describes how the community helps when a fire destroys his family's barn.)

An Amish Year by Richard Ammon (Reading Level: --)

An Amish Christmas by Richard Ammon (Reading Level: --)

Amish Horses by Richard Ammon (Reading Level: --)

An Amish Wedding by Richard Ammon

(Reading Level: 780L)

Samuel by Robert J. Hastings (Reading Level: --)

The Jonas Series by Carol Duerkesen (Reading Level: --)

Asian-Americans:

Crow Boy by Taro Yashima

(Reading Level: AD760L. A shy mountain boy in Japan leaves his home to attend a village school.)

How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina R. Friedman

(Reading Level: 450L. A story of the courtship and marriage of an American sailor and a Japanese school girl told by their daughter.)

Bamboo Hats and a Rice Cake by Ann Tompert (Reading Level: --)

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

(Reading Level: AD650L. A Japanese man's immigrates to the US.)

Ghost Train by Paul Yee

(Reading Level: 770L. A talented artist inspired by a dream of her father, sets out on journey to tell his story on the Transcontinental Railroad.)

When Justice Failed: The Fred Korematsu Story by Steven A. Chin

(Reading Level: 900L/ The life and experiences of a Japanese American who took his case of internment to the Supreme Court.)

African-Americans:

Coming Home from the Life of Langston Hughes by Floyd Cooper

(Reading Level: AD770L. This biography highlights pivotal events in the life of Langston Hughes.)

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

(Reading Level: AD790L. Explores the dreams of a young black girl in Harlem to be free to go and do as she pleases.)

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema

(Reading Level: NP. How Ki-Pat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.)

Working Cotton by Sherley Anne Williams

(Reading Level: AD600L. A young black girl relates the daily events of her family's migrant life in the cotton fields of central California.)

Brown Angels by Walter Dean Myers

(Reading Level: NP. A collection of poems about African American children.)

Ashanti to Zulu by Margaret Musgrove

(Reading Level: 840L. Explains some people and customs of the 26 African tribes.)

Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir by Eloise Greenfield

(Reading Level: 1000L. Book about family, about a people struggling, about sorrow and pain.)

Native Americans:

Hiawatha by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(Reading Level: NP. Classic poem about the Iroquois leader.)

Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiak

(Reading Level: AD750L. Describes a now vanished way of life for the Inuit. Told in both English and Inuktitut.)

Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back by Joseph Bruchac

(Reading Level: 960L. Book about Native Americans Year of Moons.)

I'm in Charge of Celebrations by Byrd Baylor

(Reading Level: 700L. A desert dweller celebrates many elements in nature.)

Homelessness/Poverty:

Way Home by Libby Hathorn (Reading Level: --)

A Shelter in our Car by Monica Gunning

(Reading Level: AD560L)

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting

(Reading Level: 450L. A boy and his father live in an airport moving from terminal to terminal hoping to not be discovered.)

Home: A Collaboration of Thirty Authors & Illustrators by Michael J. Rosen (Reading Level: --)

General Topics:

All the Places to Love by Patricia MacLachlan

(Reading Level: 920L. A little boy recounts all the special places on his family's farm.)

Homeplace by Anne Shelby

(Reading Level: AD600L)

Yonder by Tony Johnston (Reading Level: NP)

The Red Ball by Joanna Yardley (Reading Level: --)

Lottie's Dream by Bonnie Pryor (Reading Level: --)

Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman

(Reading Level: 780L. Grandpa demonstrate some of the songs and dances he performed when he was a vaudevillian.)

Street Rhymes around the World by Jane Yolen (Reading Level: --)

Somewhere in the World Right Now by Stacey Schuett

(Reading Level: 550L. Describes what is happening in different places around the world at a particular time throughout a 24-hour period. Time zones)

The Way to Start a Day by Byrd Baylor

(Reading Level: AD500L. The various ways peoples from around the world welcome the sun and the start of a new day.)

Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka (Reading Level: --)

The Apartment by Leo Hartas (Reading Level: --)

Geography/Maps/Travel

Stringbean's Trip to the Shining Sea by Vera Williams

(Reading Level: 380L. Stringbean describes his trip to the west coast in a series of postcards.)

Geography from A to Z by Jack Knowlton

(Reading Level: IG880L. A dictionary of geographic terms with descriptions of Earth features.)

Maps & Mazes by Gillian Chapman and Pam Robseon (Reading Level: --)

Mojave by Diane Siebert

(Reading Level: NP. Illustrate the beauty of the land and animals of the Mojave Desert.)

The Desert Is Theirs by Byrd Baylor

(Reading Level: AD520L. Describes the characteristics of the desert and its plant, animal and human life.)

Heartland by Diane Siebert

(Reading Level: NP. Illustrations show the land, animals and people of the Midwest.)

Hopscotch around the World by Mary D. Landford (Reading Level: --)

Country Dawn to Dusk by Riki Levinson (Reading Level: --)

Train Song by Diane Siebert

(Reading Level: NP. Text and illustrations describe the journey of a transcontinental train.)

How to Make an Apple Pie by Majorie Priceman

(Reading Level: AD590L. The reader is taken on a trip around the world to gather the ingredients for making an apple pie.)

Atlas of the World by Keith Lye (Reading Level: --)

Mapping the World by Sylvia A. Johnson (Reading Level: --)

Maps and Mapping by Barbara Taylor (Reading Level: --)

The Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller

(Reading Level: AD720L)

Government and Citizen Rights and Responsibilities

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

(Reading Level: AD710L. A hill covered with rocks and wooden boxes becomes an imaginary town for Marian, her sisters and their friends.)

The Quarreling Book by Charlotte Zolotow

(Reading Level: 870L. How unhappy people learn to be happy.)

The Empty Pot by Demi

(Reading Level: 630L. the emperor has given a seed to every child in the land. The one who grows the largest plant will become the next emperor; but little Ping's plant never grows in spite of the love and care he gives it.)

The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss

(Reading Level: AD710L. The Yooks and the Zooks develop more and more sophisticated weaponry as they attempt to do each other in.)

Piggybook by Anthony Browne

(Reading Level: AD450L. A family realizes how much mother does for them when she unexpectedly leaves one day.)

Ruby Mae Had Something to Say by David Small

(Reading Level: AD760L. Billy Bob invents a device to solve Ruby Mae's speech problems so she is able to speak for world peace at the United Nations.)

The Little House by Virginia Burton

(Reading Level: AD890L. Progress threatens a little house enveloped by tall buildings.)

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

(Reading Level: 870L. Wanda tells everyone that she has 100 dresses at home but she chooses only to wear one of them.)

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

(Reading Level: 680L. Alice Rumphius fulfills her childhood dream to travel to faraway places, live by the sea and do something to make the world more beautiful.)

The Giver by Lois Lowry

(Reading Level: 760L. The Elders choose Jonas to be the person responsible for receiving and keeping all the memories of the past.)

A Man Named Thoreau by Robert Burleigh (Reading Level: --)

Resources/Economics

Environmental Issues:

The Great Kapok Tree by Lynn Cherry

(Reading Level: 670L. Many different animals that live in a great kapok tree try to convince a man with an ax to not cut down their home.)

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Susan Jeffers

(Reading Level: 740L. A Suquamish Indian chief describes his people's respect and love for the earth and concern for its destruction.)

A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry

(Reading Level: 670L. An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of industrial revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it.)

The People Who Hugged Trees by Deborah Lee Rose (Reading Level:--)

Letting Swift River Go by Jane Yolen

(Reading Level: 860L. Relates Sally Jane's experience of changing times in America as she lives through the drowning of the Swift River towns in western Massachusetts from the Quabbin Reservoir.)

Finances and Trade:

Ox-cart Man by Donald Hall

(Reading Level:AD1130L. Describes the day-to-day life of an early 19th century New England family throughout the changing seasons.)

The Story of Money by Betsy Maestro

(Reading Level: 890L. Explains the evolution of money throughout human history and the role of trade in civilization.)

Money, Money, Money by Nancy Winslow Parker

(Reading Level: 1200L. Provides a variety of facts about United States paper money, including information about the people and objects that appear on the money.)

The Go-Around Dollar by Barbara Johnston Adams

(Reading Level: 680L. A story describing how a single dollar changes hands, accompanied by facts about the one-dollar bill.)

Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst

(Reading Level: AD570L. Alexander has difficulty holding onto his money.)

If You Made a Million by David M. Schwartz (Reading Level: AD840L)

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams (Reading Level: 40L)