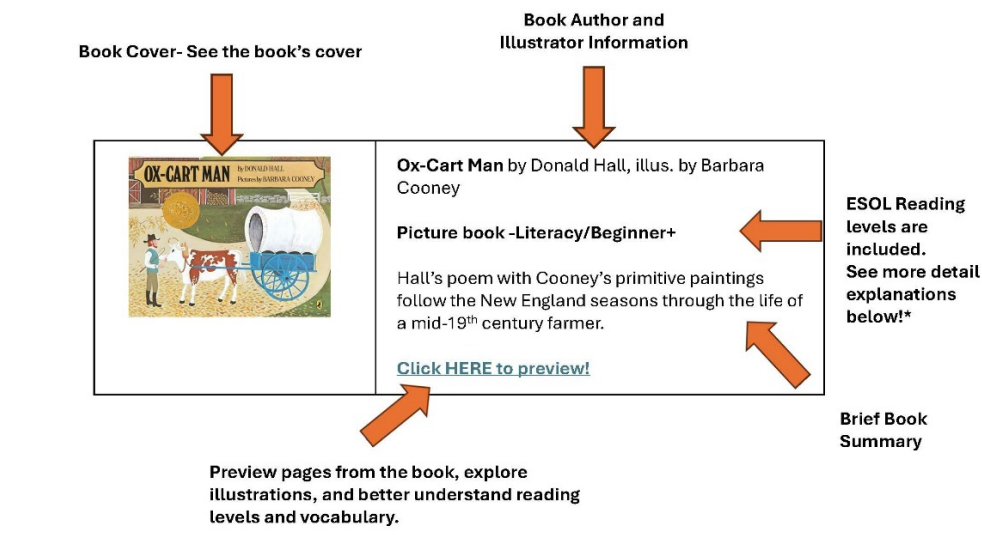


Connections Reading List 2025-2026

Connections is New Hampshire Humanities' book discussion program for lifelong learners. We bring content-rich, beautifully illustrated children's, young adult, and adult literature to adult literacy partners including Adult Basic Education, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), high school equivalency/HiSET classes, programs within county and state correctional facilities, substance abuse treatment community centers, and classes for individuals with disabilities. **Students read from one to four books over four meetings.** Students connect what they read to their own stories and ideas, learn from each other, and create a vibrant community of readers.

We organize the books around humanities themes because we find that readers experience deep satisfaction from recognizing patterns of thoughts and ideas in books that at first might seem unrelated. **You can also mix and match the books to create new themes.** Finding connections between people's stories, whether around ideas of liberty or about what we eat, inspires discussion and helps people figure out who they are as individuals.

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE:



Books' ESOL Reading levels are included:

Literacy+ – for students who are learning how to find objects on a page and are beginning to recognize letters and a few words.*

Beginner+ – for students who are building vocabulary, have a solid grasp of phonetics and can discuss the story and relate it to their own lives.*

Intermediate+ – for students who can read a picture book and often, a middle-school-level chapter book; understand the meaning of the text as they move forward without needing to identify every word; and can discuss themes and ideas.*

Advanced – for students who can read newspapers, young adult-level materials, short chapter books and novels, some adult fiction and nonfiction; who are adept at using dictionaries and digital translators; and have higher level discussions about themes.*

***Many of the higher-level picture books on this list are accessible to early readers by virtue of their detailed illustrations. While the text may be out of reach for some students, the illustrations can tell the tale.**

Likewise, a more advanced class often benefits from reading an illustrated book, as the illustrations can enhance their understanding of the plot and theme.



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U.S. HISTORY

HUMANITIES FOR WORK AND LIFE

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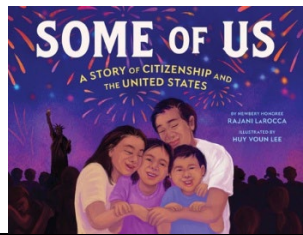
JOURNEYS

ART AS POWER

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. The reading list below was created with these ideas in mind and with support from [Gibson’s Book Store](#) and the [NH Historical Society](#).

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on New Hampshire Humanities’ plans for the US@250 or explore 250th programs and events around the Granite State [here](#).

Discussion Questions: How did diverse people experience and influence the events of the American Revolution in different ways? How “revolutionary” was the American Revolution? What kind of nation did it create? Beyond the Revolution itself, what were other revolutionary moments in the history of our country, our states, and our communities? What other kinds of stories could be told there? What does US citizenship look like?

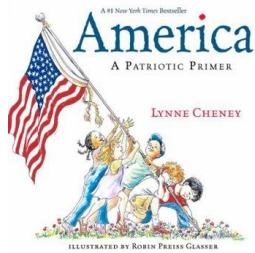


SOME of US: A Story of Citizenship and the United States by Rajani LaRocca

Picture book – Literacy/Beginner +

What does US citizenship look like? Some of us are citizens by birth. Some of us are born beyond the United States and gain citizenship through immigration and naturalization. This nonfiction book outlines the process by which some of us travel to the United States to live, work, study, and contribute to the fabric of our new communities.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

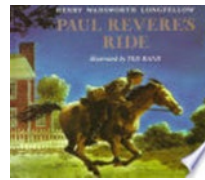


America, A Patriotic Primer by Lynne Cheney

Picture book – Literacy/Beginner +

America: A Patriotic Primer is a succinct history of the United States, an ABC of the principles on which this country was founded, and a book that teaches history by celebrating the diversity, tenacity, and faith of the American people.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

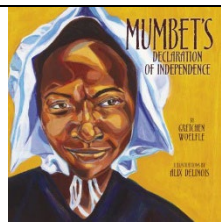


Midnight Ride of Paul Revere by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illus. by Ted Rand

Picture book - Beginner +

An illustrated telling of the classic poem.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

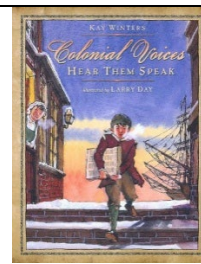


Mumbet’s Declaration of Independence by Gretchen Woelfle

Picture Book Beginner +

Mumbet, a Massachusetts enslaved person, tells the story of her brave actions that set a milestone on the road toward ending slavery in the United States.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

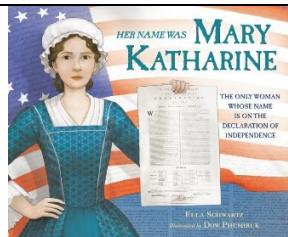


Colonial Voices, Hear Them Speak by Kay Winters

Picture book - Beginner +

It’s December 16, 1773, and Boston is about to explode! Learn about the occupations of colonial workers and their differing opinions about living under Britain’s rule.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

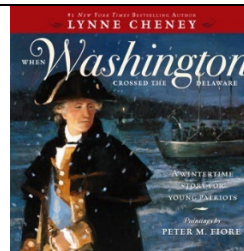


Her Name Was Mary Katherine: The Only Woman Whose Name Is On The Declaration of Independence by Ella Schwartz

Picture Book- Intermediate+

A rousing picture book biography of the only woman whose name is printed on the Declaration of Independence.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)



When George Washington Crossed the Delaware by Lynne Cheney

Picture Book- Intermediate+

Christmas night, 1776, was a troubled time for our young country. General George Washington and his troops had suffered defeat after defeat at the hands of the British. Then Washington made a bold decision to lead his army across the Delaware River and launch a surprise attack on enemy forces.

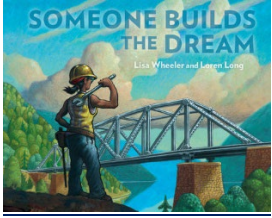
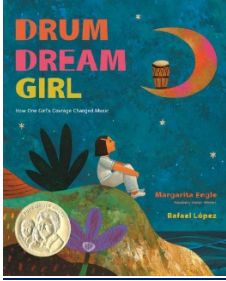

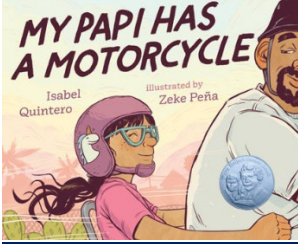
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

US@250 (CONTINUED)

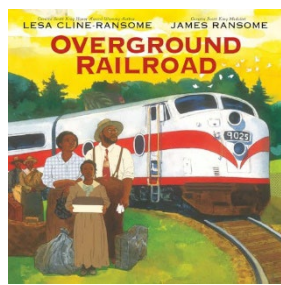
	<p>A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent by Anne Rockwell Picture Book- Intermediate+ The true story of James Lafayette, a slave who spied for George Washington's army during the American Revolution. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution by Betsy Maestro Picture Book- Intermediate+ This is the unforgettable story of fifty-five Americans and the Constitution they created in 1787 to give the struggling new government a foundation that has held ever since. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Founding Mothers, Remembering the Ladies by Cokie Roberts Picture Book- Intermediate+ <i>Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies</i> reveals the incredible accomplishments of the women who orchestrated the American Revolution behind the scenes. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence by Russell Freedman Advanced "Freedman takes a crucial moment in American history and imbues it with living grace and powerful tension."</p>

COMMUNITIES AND CHANGE

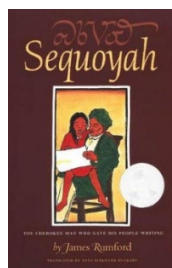
Discussion Questions: What is community? How do people find belonging in a community? How have communities changed? What issues are facing your community? What are the most positive or most challenging aspects of your community? How are communities, particularly rural communities, preparing for the future?

	<p>Someone Builds The Dream by Lisa Wheeler, illus. by Loren Long Picture book -Beginner+ Buildings, bridges, and books don't exist without the workers who are often invisible in the final product, as this joyous and profound picture book reveals. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Drum Dream Girl by Margarita Engles, illus. by Rafael Lopez Picture book - Beginner+ Inspired by the childhood of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers, Drum Dream Girl tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Birdsong by Julie Flett Picture book -Beginner+ When Katherena and her mother move to a small town, Katherena feels lonely and out of place. But when she meets an elderly woman artist who lives next door, named Agnes—her world starts to change. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>My Papi Has A Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero, illus. by Zeke Peña Picture book - Beginner + When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. Click HERE to preview!</p>

COMMUNITIES AND CHANGE (CONTINUED)



Overground Railroad by Lisa Cline-Ransome, illus. by James Ransome
Picture book – Intermediate+
 From an award-winning author and illustrator comes an original and moving perspective of the Great Migration, as seen through the eyes of the young girl Ruth Ellen, whose family journeys from North Carolina to New York City. [Click HERE to preview!](#)



Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing
Picture book - Intermediate +
 The story of Sequoyah is the tale of an ordinary man with an extraordinary idea—to create a writing system for the Cherokee Indians and turn his people into a nation of readers and writers. [Click HERE to preview!](#)

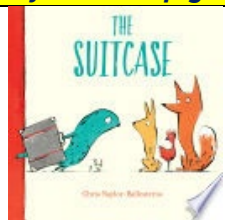


Go Home by Terry Farish and Lochan Sharma
Novel -Advanced+
 Co-authors **Lochan Sharma** and **Terry Farish** entangle their characters in misconceptions of immigration and then ask those characters to find their way out. A timely and provocative story about immigration and prejudice, torn loyalties and belonging, set on the New Hampshire Seacoast. Go Home is told in the alternating voices of Olive, who just wants to make a future with her boyfriend, and Samir, a Bhutanese Nepali refugee beginning a new life in America
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

UNITED WE STAND

This theme was inspired by the *United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture* (UWS) initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This initiative will support programming promoting civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the broader UWS initiative. This reading list was created with support from [I'm Your Neighbor Books](#).

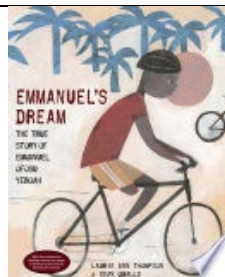
Discussion Questions: Who lives in my community? What are our commonalities? What are our differences? Where do I fit into my community? How do stereotypes, bias, and prejudice affect our everyday lives? How can communities respond to incidents of prejudice or hate? How can learning about the choices people made during past episodes of injustice help guide our choices today?



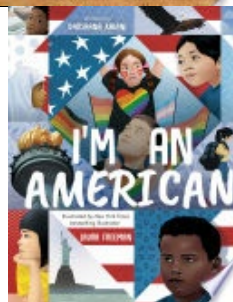
The Suitcase by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros
Picture book –Literacy+
 A powerful story about immigration, trust, and new beginnings, full of heart and humanity, for anyone who has ever felt unwelcome or out of place.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



Together We Grow by Susan Vaught
Picture book –Literacy+
 A poignant picture book that celebrates inclusivity, acceptance, and the importance of rebuilding a community in the wake of disaster.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



Emmanuel's Dream by Laurie Ann Thompson
Picture book –Beginner+
 Born in Ghana, with one deformed leg, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah was dismissed by most people but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



I'm An American by Darshana Khiani
Picture book – Intermediate +
 A beautifully depicted, thought-provoking look at the vast expanse of cultures that exists in America, the values that bring us together as one people despite our differences, and the many ways we define what it means to be an American.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

UNITED WE STAND (CONTINUED)



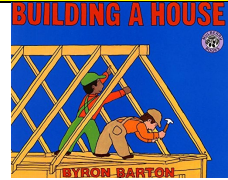
Come On In by Adi Alsaid, Varsha Bajaj, Maria E. Andreu, Sharon Morse, Misa Sugiura, Nafiza Azad, Maurene Goo, Sona Charaipotra, Yamile Saied Méndez, Zoraida Córdova, Alaya Dawn Johnson, Sara Farizan, Isabel Quintero, Justine Larbalestier, Lilliam Rivera

Chapter Book- Advanced

Come on In illuminates fifteen short stories of the immigrant experience, from authors who have been shaped by the journeys they and their families have taken from home- and to find home.

JOY

Discussion Questions: What is joy? How do people find joy in different ways? What factors influence how we find joy and our passions?



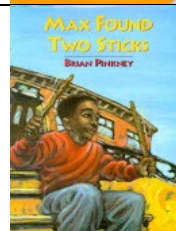
Building a House by Byron Barton
Picture book - Literacy +
 The skills of carpenters, painters, bricklayers and more are shown as they build a house in the U.S.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



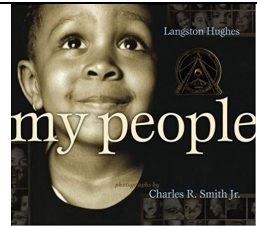
Tomorrow's Alphabet by George Shannon
Picture book - Literacy+
 A highly creative combination of letters and watercolor paintings that demonstrate where things come from.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



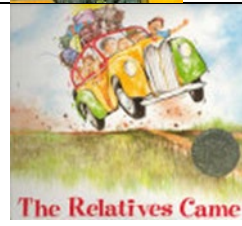
Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho,
Picture book - Literacy +
 Read a Thai lullaby and perhaps share lullabies sung in participants' families and cultures.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



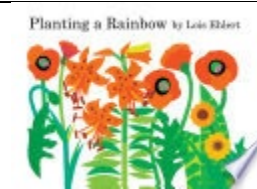
Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
Picture book - Literacy+
 The joy of making music.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



My People by Langston Hughes
Poem - Beginner +
 Hughes' poem is accompanied by portraits. The book invites discussion about family, community, culture, love. Single word or phrase on each page.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)




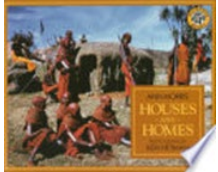

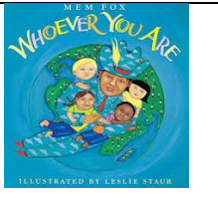
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
Picture book -Beginner+
 The joy of company coming!
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert
Picture book - Literacy +
 Ehlert's bold collages show bulbs, seeds, and seedlings, and a garden's growth
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

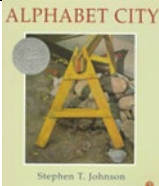
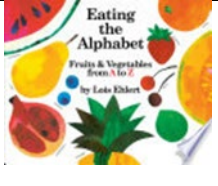
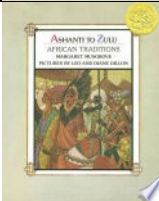
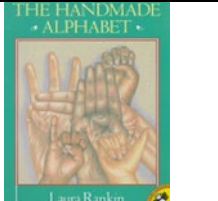

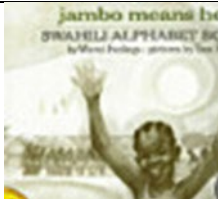
CULTURE SIDE BY SIDE

Discussion Questions: What is culture? How are cultures similar or different? Have you ever felt caught between two cultures? How does culture affect our understanding of the world around us?

	<p>Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris Picture book - Literacy + Explores the many traditions of bread around the world Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Houses and Homes by Ann Morris Picture book - Literacy+ Photos and spare text about houses around the world. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Mirror by Jeannie Baker Picture book - Literacy + Two cultures (Australia and Morocco) and two stories, with threads of the same story.</p>		<p>Whoever You Are by Mem Fox Picture book - Literacy + Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing, learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. They may not speak the same language. Their lives may be quite different. But inside, they are all alike. Click HERE to preview!</p>



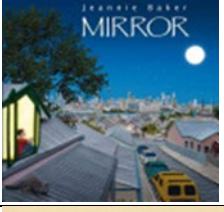
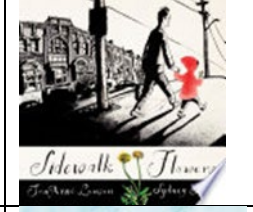
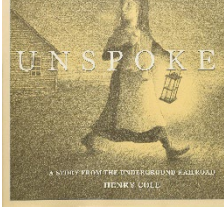

DESCRIBING THE WORLD

Discussion Questions: How do we learn? What can our natural world teach us? How do stories educate societies? How can we connect to each other through language?

	<p>Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book about finding the shape of English letters in the world around us. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book of the harvest of the garden. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove, illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book of African culture that is also a Caldecott Medal winner for picture book art Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Handmade Alphabet by Laura Rankin Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book in American sign language. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Calavera Abecedario: A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book by Jeanette Winter Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book about the Mexican tradition of the celebration of ancestors. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Jambo Means Hello by Muriel Feelings, illus. by Tom Feelings Picture book - Literacy + An alphabet book in Swahili. Click HERE to preview!</p>

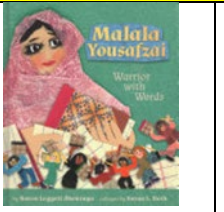


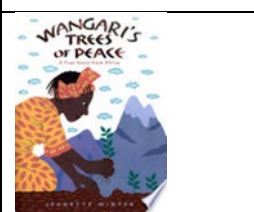
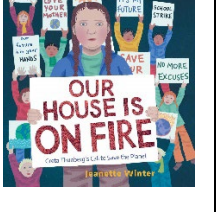
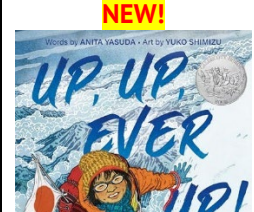
WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

Discussion Questions: How can a picture tell a story? What can we learn from pictures and images? Are pictures a universal language?

	<p>The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney Picture book- Literacy + Combines the power of the storytelling with the sheer beauty of the drawings. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Red Book by Barbara Lehman Picture book- Beginner + Lehman's story captures the magical possibility that exists every time readers open a book. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Mirror by Jeannie Baker Picture book- Literacy + Two families living their daily lives are portrayed in pages side by side, one family from Morocco, one family from Australia.</p>		<p>Sidewalk Flowers By JonArno Lawson Picture book- Literacy + "Bright spots of joy and comfort" in a walk in the city with its flowers. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Unspoken by Henry Cole Picture book- Literacy + A farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding in the barn. She must make a difficult choice. Will she have the courage to help him? Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell Picture book- Literacy + A story of kindness overcoming fear, a reversal of the classic Little Red Riding Hood. Click HERE to preview!</p>

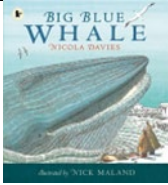

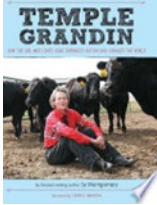


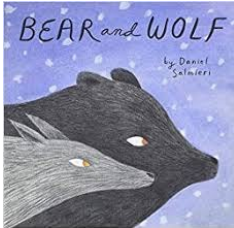
THE POWER OF ONE

Discussion Questions: Can one person make a difference in the world? How? What qualities must they possess? What factors contribute to an individual making positive change?

	<p>Malala Yousafzai, Warrior with Words by Karen Leggett Abouraya Picture book biography - Beginner+ The story of the Pakistani girl's fight for the right of girls to go to school is told in brief scenes and collage art. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson Picture book biography - Beginner+ In spare language and dramatic portraits and landscapes, Kadir Nelson brings South Africa's first black head of state to life. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport Picture book biography - Beginner+ Biography of Martin Luther King illustrated with Collier's watercolor and collage art. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeannette Winter Picture book biography - Beginner+ A story of the Kenyan Nobel-Prize-winning environmental activist in an edition that is short and easy to read. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet by Jeanette Winter Picture book biography - Beginner+ Learn the story of <i>TIME</i> 2019 PERSON OF THE YEAR Greta Thunberg, the 16 year old climate activist who has sparked a worldwide student movement and is demanding action from world leaders to fight climate change. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei, A Life in the Mountains by Anita Yasuda Picture book biography - Intermediate + A story about Junko Tabei, the first woman to summit Mount Everest Click HERE to preview!</p>



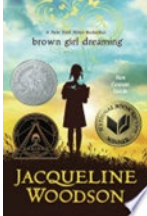

ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN


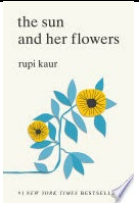
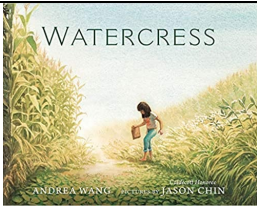

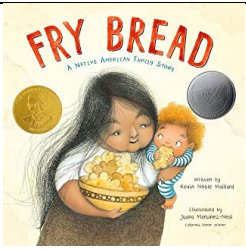
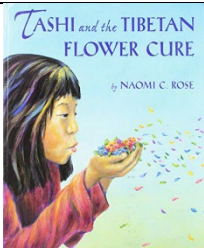
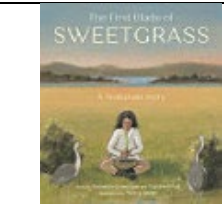
Discussion Questions: What makes us human? What similarities do animals and humans share? Can humans learn anything from animals? What makes someone a friend?

	<p>Big Blue Whale by Nicola Davies. Nonfiction Picture Book - Beginner+ An award-winning nonfiction picture book about the largest known animal.</p>		<p>Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and a Service Dog by Luis Carlos Montalvan. Picture book nonfiction - Beginner + A simply told picture-book version of this story of a military veteran and his service dog. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery. Biography - Advanced The story of Temple Grandin and her experience of autism. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Red and Lulu by Matt Tavares. Picture book - Beginner+ A story of New York City in the holidays and two cardinals who are separated and search for each other. Commended for its visual storytelling. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals by Sy Montgomery, Memoir - Advanced Short personal essays that can be read in the whole or by singling out individual pieces. "A truly beautiful book about life, family, loss, and love." Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Bear and Wolf by Daniel Salmieri Picture book - Beginner+ Bear and Wolf become unlikely companions one winter's evening when they discover each other out walking in the falling snow. Click HERE to preview!</p>

TELLING FAMILY STORIES

Discussion Questions: What is family? What and how do families teach us? How can families shape our life experiences and opportunities? How can language define and connect families?

	<p>Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiaka (bilingual Inuit and English) Picture book - Beginner+ The author describes the food, the clothes, the games, the language of his childhood in Alaska. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engle Memoir in verse - Advanced Margarita Engle tells of growing up as a child in two cultures, Cuba and the U.S., during the Cold War. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson Memoir in verse - Advanced Woodson, a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, writes a stunning biography in verse of growing up African American with dreams of being a writer. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina Freidman Picture book - Beginner+ A Japanese woman and Anglo-American man meet and learn to understand each other. This is a humorous yet realistic picture of two people from different cultures getting to know each other and falling in love. Click HERE to preview!</p>

	<p>Cool Salsa, edited by Lori M. Carlson (bilingual English and Spanish) Poetry collection - Intermediate+ Bilingual poems on growing up Latino in the United States</p>		<p>The Sun and Her Flowers by Rupi Kaur Poetry collection - Advanced A young Indian Canadian woman's very accessible poems about life, love, and identity. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Watercress by Andrea Wang Picture book - Beginner + Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Story of a Pumpkin, by Hari Tiwari, illus. by Dal Rai (bilingual Nepali and English) Picture Book -Intermediate+ A childless couple become the parents of a young pumpkin and all goes well until the pumpkin goes in search of a wife. A bilingual folktale from Bhutan in English and Nepali.</p>
	<p>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story, by Kevin Nobel Mallard Picture Book - Beginner + This picture book depicts an intergenerational group of Native American family members and friends as they make fry bread together. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure by Naomi C. Rose Picture Book - Intermediate+ The story of a young girl bringing together community and tradition to help her grandfather recover when he falls ill. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The First Blade of Sweetgrass by Suzanne Greenlaw & Gabriel Frey Picture Book - Intermediate+ In this Own Voices Native American picture book story, a modern Wabanaki girl is excited to accompany her grandmother for the first time to harvest sweetgrass for basket making. Click HERE to preview!</p>		

HUMANITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

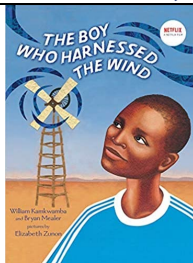
Discussion Questions: In what ways has our environment changed over time? How do humans affect the environment and how does the environment affect humans? How can we care for and protect our environment?

	<p>Buried Sunlight by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm Nonfiction Picture Book - Intermediate + Molly Bang, creator of many classic stories, has also created books to illustrate climate change. This book illuminates how fossil fuels have changed the earth. Click HERE to Preview!</p>		<p>Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeannette Winter Picture book - Beginner+ A story of the Kenyan Nobel-Prize-winning environmental activist in an edition that is short and easy to read. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Flotsam by David Wiesner (wordless) * Wordless picture book - Literacy + A boy finds an underwater camera washed up on the beach, develops the film, and discovers worlds beyond worlds. Click HERE to Preview!</p>		<p>Letting Swift River Go by Jane Yolen Picture book- Intermediate + Relates Sally Jane's experience of changing times in rural America, as she lives through the drowning of the Swift River towns in western Massachusetts to form the Quabbin Reservoir. Click HERE to preview!</p>

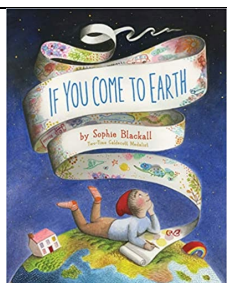
HUMANITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CONTINUED)



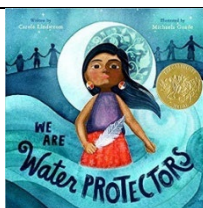
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
Picture book - Intermediate +
 Called by a reviewer, “an oasis of calm and beauty.” Themes include the natural world, wisdom, New England, and restoring our earth. Based on an actual “Lupine Lady” in Maine.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer
Picture book - Beginner +
 When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library . . . and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



If You Come To Earth by Sophie Blackall
Picture book - Beginner +
 A guide to our home planet, and a call for us to take care of both Earth and each other.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



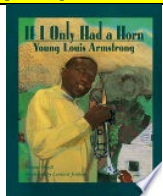
We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom
Picture book - Beginner+
 Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America, this book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



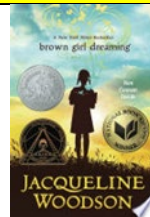
One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul
Picture book - Beginner+
 A tale of growing ecological awareness and grassroots environment activism led by a group of women.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

THE RIGHT TO BE

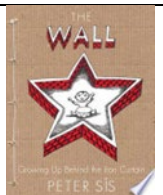
Discussion Questions: How are our identities shaped by our individual experiences? What is the role of tradition in building our awareness of ourselves? How do decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the different perspectives of the people involved? Is freedom a right?



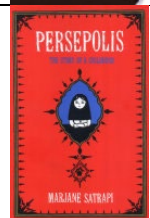
If I Only Had a Horn, by Roxanne Orgill
Picture book biography - Beginner +
 An illustrated biography of Louis Armstrong when he was a boy and longed to play music.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



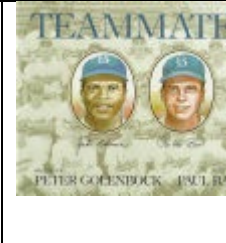
Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson,
Memoir in verse - Advanced
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sis.
Graphic memoir - Advanced
 Sis writes history from his own memories of growing up in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War
[Click HERE to preview!](#)


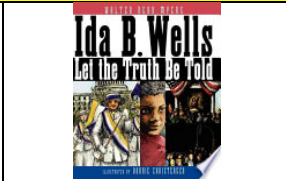
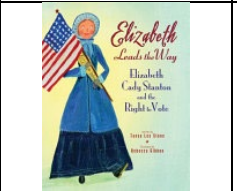
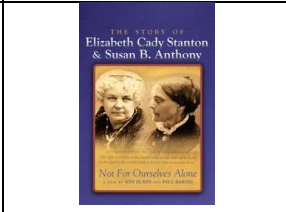
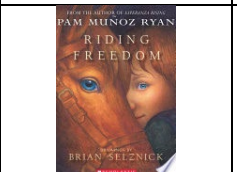
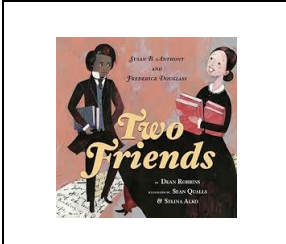


Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi,
Graphic Memoir - Advanced
 A graphic memoir of growing up in Iran during the revolution.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

	<p>Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys Nonfiction - Advanced In 1945, World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom. A tribute to the people of Lithuania, Poland, and East Prussia.” Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Teammates by Peter Golenbock, illus. by Paul Bacon Picture book biography - Intermediate + Biography of Jackie Robinson with photos and illustrations. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson Picture book - Beginner + Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their black side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up friendship by sitting on top of the fence together. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read by Rita Lorraine Hubbard Picture Book - Intermediate + Imagine learning to read at the age of 116! Discover the true story of Mary Walker, the nation's oldest student who did just that. Click HERE to preview!</p>

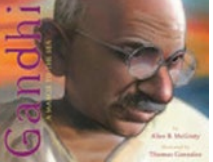
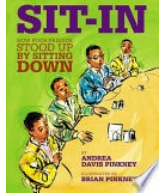
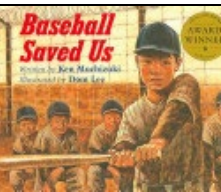
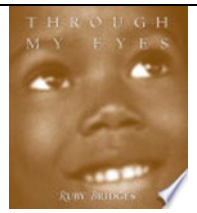
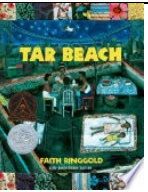
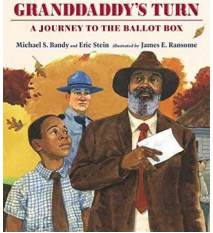
HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE:

Discussion Questions: Why were women not allowed to vote until the 20th century? What strategies did women use to win the right to vote? Which were most successful? Why did only some women gain the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment? Is equality essential?

	<p>Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President by Ann Malaspina Picture book biography - Beginner+ On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony made history--and broke the law--when she voted in the US presidential election, a privilege that had been reserved for men. She was arrested, tried, and found guilty Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told by Walter Dean Myers Picture book biography - Beginner + This picture book biography introduces the extraordinary Ida B. Wells. Long before boycotts, sit-ins, and freedom rides, Ida B. Wells was hard at work to better the lives of African Americans.</p>
	<p>Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone Picture book biography - Beginner + Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood up and fought for what she believed in. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony, a documentary by Ken Burns Click HERE to preview documentary!</p>
	<p>Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan Novel - Advanced The story of Charlotte, a woman orphaned as a toddler who grows up in an orphanage, but dreams of owning her own ranch and working with horses. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass by Dean Robbins Beginner + Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, recount their similar stories fighting to win rights for women and African Americans Click HERE to preview!</p>



WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

Discussion Questions: What should democracy look like? Who gets to participate in a democracy? What barriers have limited people's access to democratic institutions? Is equality essential?




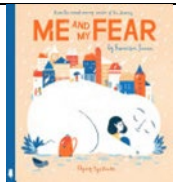

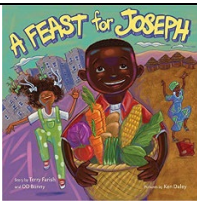
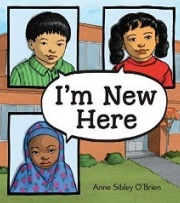
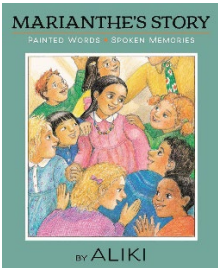
	<p>Gandhi: A March to the Sea by Alice B. McGinty Picture book - Intermediate + Mohandas Gandhi protests British rule in India in a 1930 act of civil disobedience. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Sit – In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Pinkney Picture book - Intermediate + A story of the famous Greensboro, NC sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter that launched thousands of sit-ins across the country to bring about an end to segregation. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki, Picture book - Intermediate + During World War II, a young Japanese American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Through My Eyes: The Autobiography of Ruby Bridges by Ruby Bridges Picture book - Intermediate+ A memoir from the first African American pupil to attend a formerly segregated school in New Orleans in 1960. Excellent prompt for discussion about civil rights and segregation. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold Picture book - Beginner + Two children's imaginations re-create their world. "There is an air of triumph in Ms. Ringgold's vision." New York Times Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael S. Bandy Picture book - Intermediate + Based on the true story of one family's struggle for voting rights in the civil rights-era South, this moving tale shines an emotional spotlight on a dark facet of U.S. history. Click HERE to preview!</p>

COMING TO AMERICA

Discussion Questions: Why do people leave their native country? What difficulties do they face in their journey? How easy is it to get used to a new culture? Can an immigrant be at home in America without losing his or her identity?

	<p>Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings by Francie Latour Picture book - Beginner + A child visits her auntie in Haiti, the country her family left to come to America. Through the aunts paintings, the child learns who she is and about her home country. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest Picture book - Intermediate+ Jessie emigrates from Eastern Europe to New York City in the early 1900s. Click HERE to preview!</p>
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COMING TO AMERICA (CONTINUED)


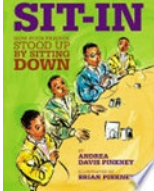
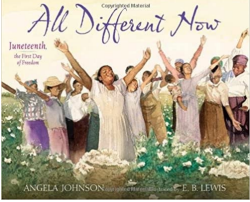

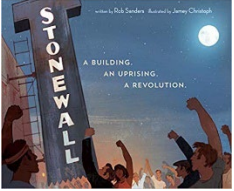

	<p>A Different Pond by Bao Phi Picture book - Beginner + A boy cherishes the ritual of fishing with his father. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco. Picture book - Beginner + Polacco's classic story of Russian immigrants to the U.S. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Dreamers by Yuyi Morales Picture book - Literacy + A Mexican-American mom and her little boy learn English and a love of books when they are welcomed at the public library. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Me and My Fear by Francesca Sanna Picture book - Beginner + Sanna shows in images how a young migrant learns to handle her fear. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi. Picture book - Beginner + A small girl must decide what name she will use in America. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>A Feast for Joseph by Terry Farish Picture book- Beginner + Joseph misses sharing meals with lots of people like he did back in the refugee camp, so when the neighbors finally come over, it's a feast!</p>
	<p>I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien Picture book - Beginner + Three immigrant students have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English in their new American school. The students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Marianthe's Story by Alike Picture book- Beginner + Two stories in one book! Read one or both! In <i>Painted Words</i>, Marianthe's paintings help her to become less of an outsider as she struggles to adjust to a new language and school. In <i>Spoken Memories</i>, a proud Mari is finally able to use her new words to narrate the sequence of paintings she created to share memories of her homeland and events that brought her family to their new country.</p>

A MORE PERFECT UNION-LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Discussion Questions: What is the meaning of freedom? What responsibilities do we each have to uphold it? How has US History either supported or conflicted with their founding ideas of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? What does "A More Perfect Union" look like?

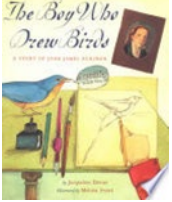



	<p>Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki Picture book - Intermediate+ During World War II, a young Japanese American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Rosa by Nikki Giovanni, Picture book - Intermediate+ This biography of Rosa Parks tells the story of simple act of courage that launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Click HERE to preview!</p>
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A MORE PERFECT UNION-LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (CONTINUED)




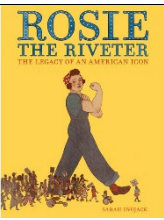
	<p>Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers Picture book - Beginner + “She’s in New York./ She’s holding a torch./ And she’s in mid-stride...” Eggers on the building and the meaning of the Statue of Liberty. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Sit – In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Pinkney Picture book - Intermediate+ A story of the famous Greensboro, NC sit-in at the Woolworth’s lunch counter that launched thousands of sit-ins across the country to bring about an end to segregation. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson Beginner + Through the eyes of one little girl, <i>All Different Now</i> tells the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the enslaved people in the South. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Home to Medicine Mountain by Chiori Santiago Intermediate + In the 1930s two young brothers are sent to a government-run Indian residential school. At these schools, children are forbidden to speak their native tongue and are taught to abandon their Indian ways. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution. By Rob Sanders Picture book - Intermediate + A powerful and timeless true story that will allow young readers to discover the rich and dynamic history of the Stonewall Inn and its role in the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Before She Was Harriet by Lisa Cline-Ransome Picture Book - Beginner+ We know her today as Harriet Tubman, but in her lifetime, she was called by many names. Click HERE to preview!</p>

HISTORY OF THE US

Discussion Questions: What is history? Who determines history? Are there voices in history that have been left out? Whose & Why? Can history be made by ordinary people? How is history changed by acceptance or rejection of new ideas and values?

	<p>The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon by Jacqueline Davies Picture book-Intermediate+ A story of the great student and painter of birds. Click HERE to Preview!</p>		<p>Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport Beginner + Biography of Martin Luther King illustrated with Collier’s watercolor and collage art. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter Picture book -Beginner+ An imaginative story of the Underground Railroad. Click HERE to Preview!</p>		<p>Night Boat to Freedom by Margot Theis Raven Picture book -Intermediate+ Award-winning illustrated book based on slave narratives collected by the Federal Writers’ Project. Click HERE to preview!</p>

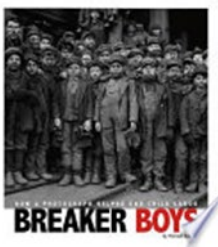


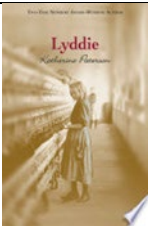
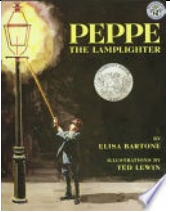
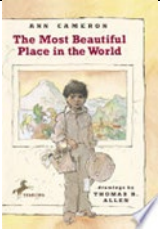
HISTORY OF THE US (CONTINUED)

	<p>Johnny Appleseed by Reeve Lindbergh Picture book - Beginner+ Here, this classic tale is told in verse, with detailed illustrations. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Squanto's Journey by Joseph Bruchac, illus. by Greg Shed Picture book -Intermediate+ A story of the first Thanksgiving. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 Picture book - Intermediate+ The true story of the young immigrant who led the largest strike of women workers in U.S. history. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Rosie the Riveter: The Legacy of An American Icon Picture book - Beginner+ This book traces Rosie's formation and legacy from World War II to today, letting girls know that they are capable and strong. Click HERE to preview!</p>

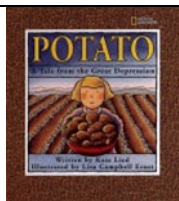
HUMANITIES FOR WORK & LIFE

This theme was inspired by the *Teaching the Skills that Matter* (TSTM) initiative. TSTM works to integrate the skills that matter to adult students using learning approaches that work across critical topics. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about TSTM!

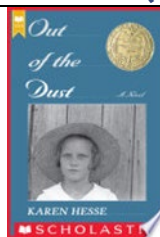
Discussion Questions: What is work? Why do we work? How has worked changed throughout history? How can work impact our life and families? How can we use the humanities in our everyday lives? How can the humanities teach us about civics, health, work, and finances?

	<p>Breaker Boys by Michael Burgan with photographs by Lewis Hine Photo book - Intermediate + This book tells the story of young boys who sorted coal in dusty, loud, and dangerous conditions. Child labor was common in the United States in the nineteenth century. The photographs of Lewis Hine and others bring the harsh working conditions to light. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Counting on Grace by Elizabeth Winthrop Novel - Intermediate+ 1910: At 12, Grace and her best friend Arthur must leave school and go to work as a “doffers” on the looms in the mill. Horrified by the working conditions and the very young children they see, they write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in Pownal, Vermont. What happens next changes her sense of herself, her future, and her family's future. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall, illus. by Barbara Cooney Picture book - Literacy + Hall's poem with Cooney's primitive paintings follow the New England seasons through the life of a mid-19th century farmer. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Lyddie by Katherine Paterson Novel -Advanced Set in 1843, a girl leaves her family's failing farm in Vermont to work in the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone Picture book - Beginner + An immigrant family seeks work and self-respect in New York City's Little Italy. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Most Beautiful Place in the World by Ann Cameron Chapter book - Intermediate+ In a small, first chapter book, a Guatemalan grandmother and grandson make the boy's dream to go to school come true. Themes include education, poverty, and child labor. Click HERE to preview!</p>

HUMANITIES FOR WORK & LIFE (CONTINUED)



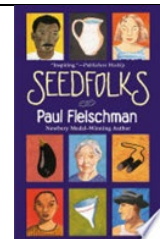
Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression by Kate Lied
Picture book -Beginner+
 When Dorothy's father loses his job and cannot find another the family borrows a car and sets off for Idaho where jobs digging potatoes could be found. The author was 8 years old when she wrote this story told to her by her aunt.



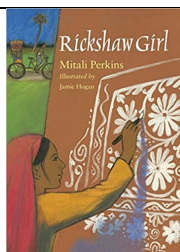
Out Of The Dust by Karen Hesse
Novel- Advanced
 This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. Newbery Medal Winner.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



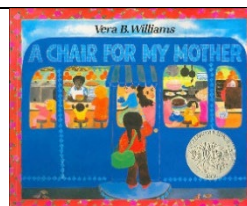
Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree King Mitchell
Picture book - Beginner+
 As the only black barber in a county of sharecroppers during the 1920s, Uncle Jed traveled for miles to tend to his customers and dreamed of someday opening his own shop.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



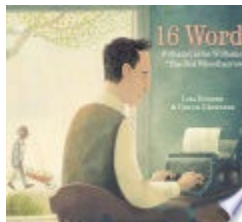
Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman, illus. by Judy Pedersen
Chapter Book -Intermediate+
 A collection of stories of people from around the world who are now neighbors with a common love – growing things in the ground. “Thirteen voices tell one story of the flowering of a Cleveland vacant lot into a neighborhood garden.” Short novel made up of small stories.



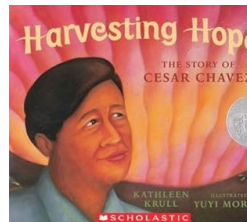
Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins
Chapter book - Intermediate +
 A Bangladeshi girl bravely attempts to help her struggling family by disguising herself as a boy and driving her father's prized rickshaw for much needed extra money.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



A Chair For My Mother by Vera Williams
Picture Book - Beginner +
 After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save their coins to buy a comfortable chair for all to enjoy.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

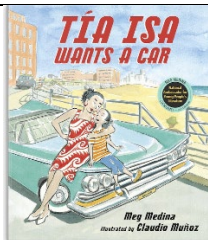


16 Words: William Carlos Williams and "The Red Wheelbarrow" by Mitali Perkins
Picture book - Intermediate +
 The wheelbarrow belongs to Thaddeus Marshall, a street vendor selling vegetables on the streets of Rutherford, New Jersey. That simple action inspires poet and doctor Williams to pick up some of his own tools--a pen and paper--and write his most famous poem.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)



Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull
Picture Book - Intermediate +
 The dramatic story of Chavez's 340-mile march to protest the working conditions of migrant farmworkers in California is the centerpiece of this well-told biography.
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

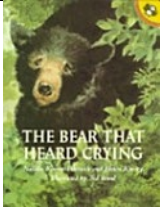

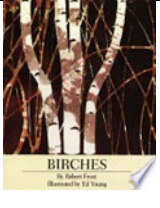

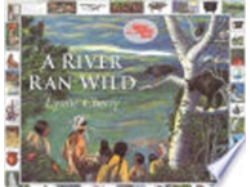
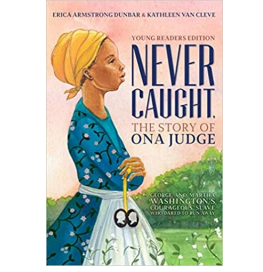
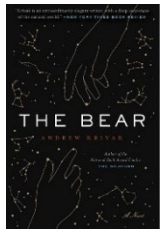

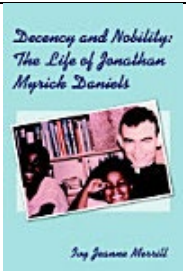
**** It is important to note and understand the recent allegations against Cesar Chavez before selecting this book. If you are interested in exploring other picture books related to the United Farm Workers or migrant workers, please explore options [here](#). Additional titles already on our reading list include, *Calling All the Doves* and *Esperanza Rising*.**



Tia Isa Wants A Car by Meg Medina
Picture Book - Intermediate +
 Tía Isa wants a car. A shiny green car the same color as the ocean, with wings like a swooping bird. A car to take the whole family to the beach. But saving is hard when everything goes into two piles – one for here and one for Helping Money, so that family members who live far away might join them someday. While Tía Isa saves, her niece does odd jobs for neighbors so she can add her earnings to the stack. But even with her help, will they ever have enough?
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

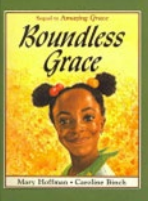
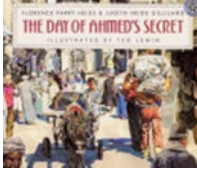
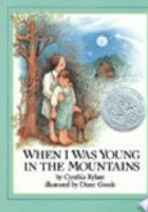
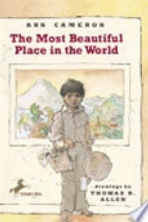
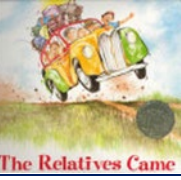


NEW HAMPSHIRE STORIES

Discussion Questions: Why is New Hampshire the way it is today? How has New Hampshire been shaped by many voices? What shapes New Hampshire's unique identity?

	<p>The Bear That Heard Crying by Natalie Kinsey Picture book -Intermediate+ Little Sarah Witcher wanders off into the woods and spends a night curled up with a bear! Based on a true NH tale from Colonial times.</p>		<p>Christmas Farm by Mary Lyn Ray, illus. by Barry Root Picture book -Beginner+ NH writer and conservationist, Mary Lyn Ray has written this story about growing Christmas trees and a unique friendship. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Birches by Robert Frost, illus. by Ed Young Poem Collection -Intermediate+ An illustrated telling of Frost's classic poem evocative of NH settings. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall, illus. by Barbara Cooney Picture book -Literacy/Beginner+ Hall's poem with Cooney's primitive paintings follow the New England seasons through the life of a mid-19th century farmer. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry Picture book -Intermediate+ Modern-day descendants of the Nashua Indians and European settlers were able to combat pollution and restore the beauty of the Nashua River in Massachusetts. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Never Caught: The Story of Ona Judge by Erica Armstrong Dunbar & Kathleen Van Cleve Non-fiction Chapter Book - Advanced From her childhood, to her time with the Washingtons and living in the slave quarters, to her escape to New Hampshire, <i>Never Caught</i> shares an intimate glimpse into the life of a little-known, but powerful figure in history, and her brave journey as she fled the most powerful couple in the country. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The Bear by Andrew Krivak Fictional Novel- Advanced NH's Big Read Selection In an Edenic future inspired by the Monadnock Region of NH, a girl and her father live close to the land in the shadow of a lone mountain, the last of humankind. When the girl finds herself alone in an unknown landscape, it is a bear that will lead her back home through a vast wilderness that offers the greatest lessons of all. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Celia Planted A Garden: The Story of Celia Thaxter Her Island Garden by Phyllis Root & Gary D. Schmidt Picture book -Intermediate+ The poet Celia Loughton Thaxter (1835-1894) grew up on the Isles of Shoals. Her father built a large hotel on Appledore Island that became a gathering place for literary and artistic greats of New England during the late 19th century. Celia's garden exists today much as it did more than a century ago. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Decency and Nobility: The Life of Jonathan Myrick Daniels by Ivy Jeanne Merrill Chapter Book- Intermediate + What crime does a privileged kid from New Hampshire commit to land himself in a county jail in Alabama in 1965? How does a young man studying to become a priest end up murdered on the steps of a small store? When a peacemaker graduates valedictorian from a prestigious military college what battle is he willing to fight? When Jonathan Daniels committed himself to the Civil Rights movement and joined the effort to register black people to vote in Alabama in 1965, he could not have known the profound results of his actions. This ordinary kid from a small New England town became a champion of civil rights and a hero for the ages. His story inspires all who hear it to a life of "decency and nobility."</p>		


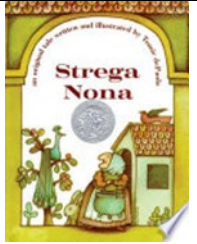
FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD

Discussion Questions: What is a family? Who is your family? What do families teach us about ourselves and our place in the world? What responsibilities do families have?

	<p>Boundless Grace by Mary Hoffman, illus. by Caroline Binch Picture book - Literacy+ A girl and her grandmother travel to Africa where the girl's father now lives with a new wife. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Parry Heide, illus. by Ted Lewin Picture book -Beginner+ Set in Cairo, the story and illustrations recreate the sound, scent, and images of the city. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Diane Goode Picture book -Literacy+ Memories of growing up in Appalachia. Caldecott Honor Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Most Beautiful Place in the World by Ann Cameron. Chapter book - Intermediate+ In a small, first chapter book, a Guatemalan grandmother and grandson make the boy's dream to go to school come true. Cameron is a master of spare, emotionally true stories and presents social issues that lead to rich discussions. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Stephen Gammell Picture book -Beginner+ Story of a joyous, summer family party in the American south. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye Novel - Advanced An American girl moves with her family to Palestine and into the Arab heritage of her father's family in this novel of reaching out across cultures and divides. Themes include cross cultural families and peace - building. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros Novel - Advanced Short adult novel in small chapters. Cisneros writes about growing up in a Latino family. Themes include identity, immigrant neighborhoods, home, living in two cultures, courage.</p>		

FOLK TALES

Discussion Questions: Why do cultures around the world have myths and folktales? What can we learn about a culture and ourselves through these stories? What stories does your family tell over and over?

	<p>How the Stars Fell into the Sky, a Navajo Legend retold by Jerry Oughton, illus. by Lisa Desimini Picture book -Beginner + What is the best place to write the laws for all to see? An enchanting tale with stunning illustrations. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Strega Nona, by Tomie De Paola Award-winning NH author/illustrator and featured speaker at the <i>Connections</i> 2015 family literacy event Picture book - Beginner+ A "Grandma Witch," a magic pot and a curious, hungry attendant make for disaster! This classic tale has many counterparts from around the world. Click HERE to preview!</p>
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FOLK TALES (CONTINUED)



The Story of a Pumpkin, by Hari Tiwari, illus. by Dal Rai NH Author and illustrator, published by the NHH

Picture book -Intermediate+

A childless couple become the parents of a young pumpkin and all goes well until the pumpkin goes in search of a wife. A bilingual folktale from Bhutan in English and Nepali.



The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks, by Katherine Paterson

Picture book - Intermediate+

A beautiful mandarin duck is captured and caged by a greedy lord who wants to show off the bird's magnificent plumage. When the kitchen maid releases the bird against her lord's command, she and the one-eyed servant, Shozo, are sentenced to death. The grateful bird intends to return their kindness, but can he outsmart the cruel lord?

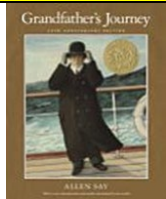
[Click HERE to preview!](#)

Folktale Selections from the International Children's Digital Library www.childrenslibrary.org

The International Children's Digital Library is a free online library for children and other learners around the world. The library is comprised of scanned images of actual books (many are out of print) and the illustrations are stunning. Many of the books have text in multiple languages. A projector and large screen or blank wall will be necessary for viewing. These books cannot be downloaded but can be viewed as many times as you wish. Students can learn how to access the site and read a book at home with their children in English or their native language. *Connections* facilitators will plan discussion topics, activities and supplementary materials as usual. There can be many advantages to viewing and reading a story together in this way.

JOURNEYS

Discussion Questions: What is your journey? What are different types of journeys that we take in life? How can different journeys impact or change our lives?

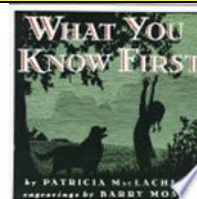


Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

Picture book -Beginner+

A man lives in two cultures, and when he is in one, he yearns for the other.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

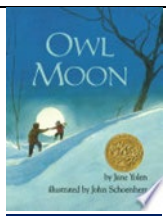


What You Know First by Patricia MacLachlan,

Picture book - Intermediate +

Set in the U.S. during the Depression, the story captures the universal emotions of leaving a place one loves.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

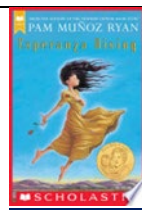


Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

Picture book -Beginner+

A father and his little girl follow the call of the owl through the woods on a winter night.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

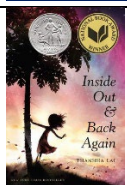


Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Novel -Intermediate

A courageous girl must move from Mexico to work among the farm laborers in California during the Great Depression.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)



Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

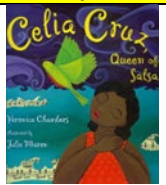
Novel in Verse - Advanced

From Saigon to Alabama, a ten-year-old girl flees Vietnam with family in hopes of escaping the Vietnam War and building new—and safer—lives for themselves in the United States.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

ART AS POWER

Discussion Questions: What is art? Why do we create art? What can artwork tell us about an individual, a culture, or society?

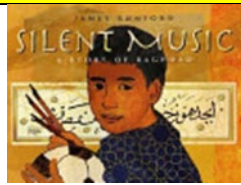


Celia Cruz by Veronica Chambers, illus. by Julie Maren

Picture book -Beginner+

The story of the famous Cuban singer and how she becomes the "Queen of Salsa."

[Click HERE to preview!](#)







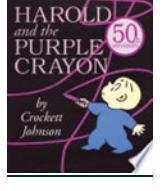
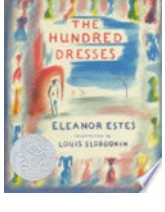


Silent Music: A Story of Bagdad by James Rumford*

Picture book - Intermediate+

A boy uses skill at calligraphy to express himself as his country is enveloped in war.

[Click HERE to preview!](#)

ART AS POWER (CONTINUED)

	<p>Frederick by Leo Lionni Picture book -Literacy+ Frederick the mouse reveals the power of poems. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Symphony of Whales by Steve Schuch Picture book - Intermediate + Whales stranded near the Bering Strait respond to the sounds of classical music and follow the music to the open sea. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco Picture book - Beginner+ From a basket of old clothes, an immigrant mother from Russia makes a quilt and connects her family to home. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>Tito Puente, Mambo King, Rey del Mambo Picture book - Beginner + In this vibrant bilingual picture book biography of musician Tito Puente, readers will dance along to the beat of this mambo king's life.</p>
	<p>Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson Picture book - Literacy + Follow Harold's imagination as he draws his world and walks into it. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes Chapter book - Intermediate + A timeless story for all ages about prejudice, personal choice, art, and defining one's own identity. Click HERE to preview!</p>
	<p>Rap A Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles- Think of that! by Leo and Diane Dillon Picture book - Literacy + Describing the life of a ground-breaking African American tap dancer, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was one of the most popular entertainers of the 1920s-30s. People said he "talked with his feet," and he dances from page to page to the tune of a toe-tapping rhyme. Click HERE to preview!</p>		<p>The World Is Not A Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid by Jeannette Winter Picture book - Beginner+ Zaha Hadid grew up in Baghdad, Iraq, and dreamed of designing her own cities. After studying architecture in London, she opened her own studio and started designing buildings. But Hadid faced many obstacles. Determined to succeed, she worked hard for many years—and now you can see the buildings Hadid has designed all over the world.</p>