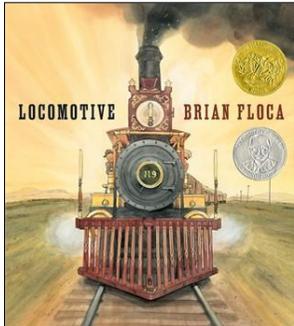


In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More
American History
Book Recommendations

This list of book recommendations was created by specialists in literature for young people to supplement *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*, a professional development day presented by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, in conjunction with the Perry Ohio School District. We invite you to print and share this list as needed. Books are listed by age range. This document is formatted so you can print it double sided on 3-hole punch paper and store in a binder. Lists of book recommendations for many other categories are available at: thencbla.org



Locomotive

Written and illustrated by Brian Floca.

Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster.
For ages 3-8.

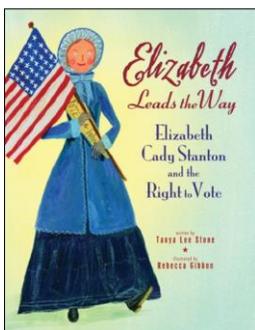
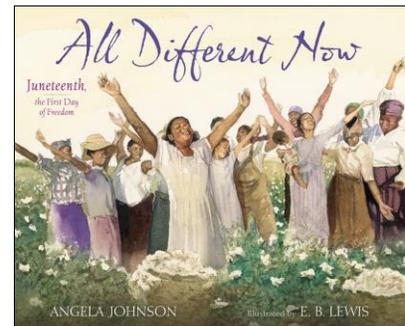
Fiction: It is the summer of 1869, and trains, crews, and family are traveling together, riding America’s brand-new transcontinental railroad. These pages come alive with the details of the trip and the sounds, speed, and strength of the mighty locomotives; the work that keeps them moving; and the thrill of travel from plains to mountain to ocean.

All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom

Written by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
For ages 5 and up.

Historical Fiction: Experience the joy of Juneteenth in this celebration of freedom from the award-winning team of Angela Johnson and E.B. Lewis. Through the eyes of one little girl, *All Different Now* tells the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the slaves in the South. Since then, the observance of June 19 as African-American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond. This stunning picture book includes notes from the author and illustrator, a timeline of important dates, and a glossary of relevant terms. Told in Angela Johnson’s signature melodic style and brought to life by E.B. Lewis’s striking paintings, *All Different Now* is a joyous portrait of the dawn breaking on the darkest time in our nation’s history.



Elizabeth Leads the Way:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote

Written by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon.

Published in paperback by Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, and in hardcover by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.

For ages 6-10.

Biography: The story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her fight to win the

vote for women.

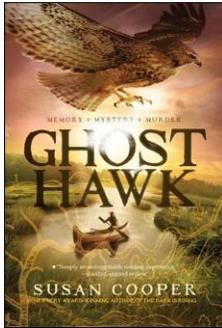
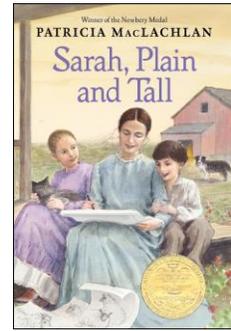
Sarah, Plain & Tall

Written by Patricia MacLachlan.

Published by HarperCollins Children's Books.

For ages 6-10.

Fiction: This Newbery winning book tells the story of Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton's life on the prairie after she answers an advertisement from a widowed farmer who is looking for a wife and a mother for his two children.



Ghost Hawk

Written by Susan Cooper.

Published by Margaret K. McElderry Books.

For ages 7 and up.

Fiction: John Wakely is only ten when his father dies, but he has already experienced the warmth and friendship of the nearby tribes. Yet his fellow colonists aren't as accepting of the native people. When he is apprenticed to a barrel-maker, John sees how quickly the relationships between settlers and natives are deteriorating. His friendship with Little Hawk will put both boys in grave danger. The intertwining stories of Little Hawk and John Wakely are a fascinating tale of friendship and an eye-opening look at the history of our nation. Newbery Medalist Susan Cooper also includes a timeline and an author's note that discusses the historical context of this important and moving novel.

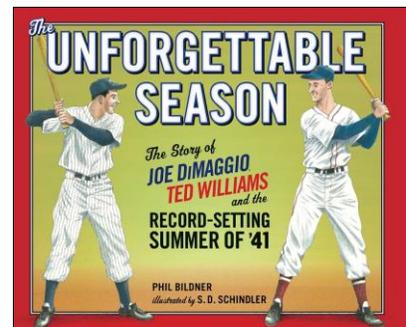
The Unforgettable Season: The Story of Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and the Record-Setting Summer of '41

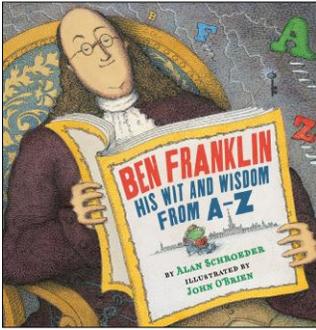
Written by Phil Bildner, illustrated by S.D. Schindler.

Published by Putnam.

For ages 7-9.

Nonfiction: At the start of the 1941 baseball season, neither Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees nor Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox were beloved by baseball fans. But that all changed when Joe started a 56-game hitting streak and Ted's batting average rose to over .400. Despite numerous challenges along the way—Joe had his bat stolen by an overeager fan and Ted's batting average dipped to .3995 on the last day of the season—the records set by "Joltin' Joe" and "The Splendid Splinter" have yet to be broken.





Ben Franklin: His Wit and Wisdom from A to Z

Written by Alan Schroeder, illustrated by John O'Brien.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 7-10.

Nonfiction: Benjamin Franklin devised harmonicas and bifocals, helped bring us the Constitution and signed the Declaration of Independence, and even experimented with electricity. He amassed enough noteworthy accomplishments to cover the entire alphabet from A to Z! This nontraditional tribute to Benjamin Franklin is brimming with humorous cartoons, instructive adages, and a wealth of information about a Founding Father who was as amusing as he was amazing.

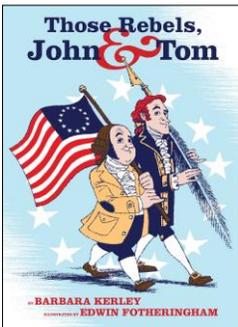
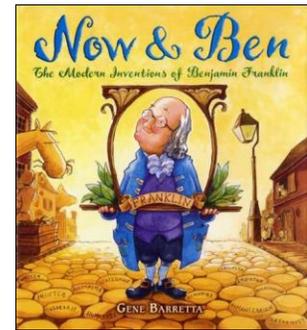
Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Ben Franklin

Written by Gene Barretta.

Published in paperback by Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, and in hardcover by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 7-10.

Nonfiction: The inventions and inspiration of Benjamin Franklin and how they have stood the test of time.



Those Rebels, John and Tom

Written by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 7-10.

Nonfiction: With their signature wit, impeccable research, and inventive presentation style, award winners Barbara Kerley and Edwin Fotheringham masterfully blend biography and history to create a brilliant portrait of two American heroes who bravely set aside their differences to join forces in the fight for our country's freedom.

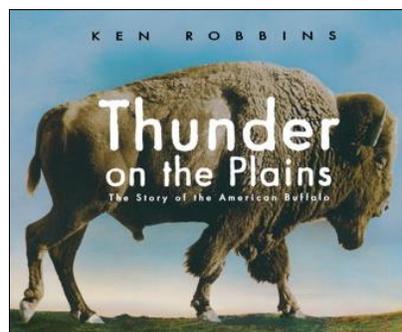
Thunder on the Plains: The Story of the American Buffalo

Written and illustrated by Ken Robbins.

Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers,
Simon & Schuster.

For ages 7-10.

Nonfiction: Ken Robbins tells in words and historical photographs the amazing yet tragic story of a magnificent and truly American creature: the buffalo. It is the story of numbers so vast, it might take days for one herd of buffalo to pass a particular point on the prairie. It is the story of a harmonious, balanced relationship with Native Americans who revered and even worshiped the huge animals that gave them almost everything they needed to survive. And it is the sad story of how, in as little as twenty-five years, reckless and wasteful slaughter at the hands of newly arrived settlers drove the buffalo to the very brink of extinction. But luckily the story has a somewhat happy ending. The destruction was halted and the number of buffalo has risen again, although the days when a stampeding herd made a sound like thunder on the plains are probably gone forever.



What To Do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy

Written by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 8-11.

Biography: A stylish and funny biography of Teddy Roosevelt's daughter—a maverick American heroine.

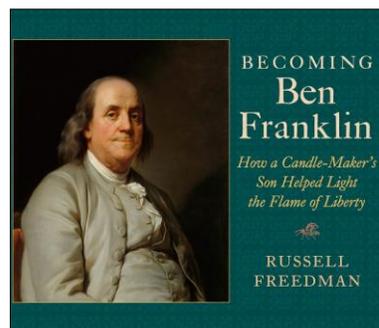
Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty

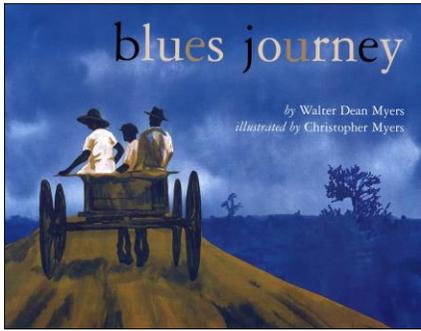
Written by Russell Freedman.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: In 1723 Ben Franklin arrived in Philadelphia as a poor and friendless seventeen-year-old who had run away from his family and an apprenticeship in Boston. Sixty-two years later he stepped ashore in nearly the same spot but was greeted by cannons, bells, and a cheering crowd, now a distinguished statesman, renowned author, and world-famous scientist. Freedman's riveting story of how a rebellious apprentice became an American icon includes a timeline, art, source notes, bibliography, and index.





Blues Journey

Written by Walter Dean Myers,
illustrated by Christopher Myers.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 9 and up.

Poetry: The African experience in America is celebrated with a soulful, affecting blues poem and bold, powerful illustrations.

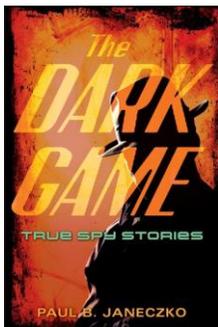
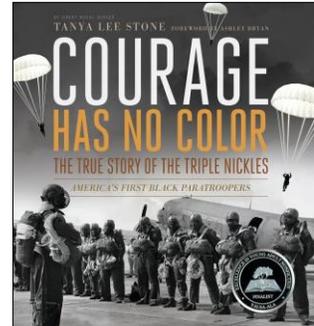
**Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles:
America's First Black Paratroopers**

Written by Tanya Lee Stone.

Published by Candlewick Press.

For ages 10 and up.

Nonfiction: In *Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers*, Tanya Lee Stone examines the little-known history of the Triple Nickles, America's first black paratroopers, who fought in an attack on the American West by the Japanese during World War II.



The Dark Game: True Spy Stories

Written by Paul B. Janeczko.

Published by Candlewick Press.

For ages 10 and up.

Nonfiction: From clothesline codes to surveillance satellites and cyber espionage, Paul B. Janeczko uncovers two centuries' worth of true spy stories in U.S. history in *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories*.

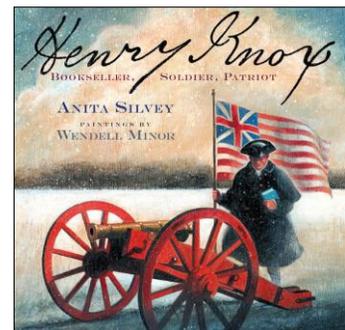
Henry Knox: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot

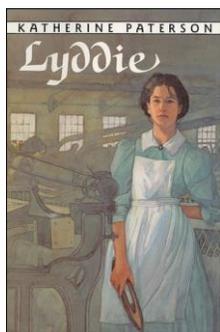
Written by Anita Silvey, illustrated by Wendell Minor.

Published by Clarion.

For ages 10-12.

Biography: A hearty eater, dapper dresser, bookseller to Loyalists and Patriots alike, and married into a staunch Loyalist family, Henry Knox may seem an unlikely hero. But his fascination with warfare and strategy and his support of the Patriot cause prepared him to do what no one else thought was possible: transport heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga, up and down snow-covered hills and across frozen lakes, to relieve the siege of Boston. The dramatic story of his achievements is all the more satisfying for being absolutely true, a little-known episode in the history of the American Revolution. Source notes, time line, bibliography, map.





Lyddie

Written by Katherine Paterson.

Published by Puffin.

For ages 10-14.

Fiction: When ten-year-old Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family farm's debts, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family. Hearing about all the money a girl can make working in the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, she makes her way there, only to find that her dreams of returning home may never come true. A story of determination and personal growth, *Lyddie* has already established itself as a classic.

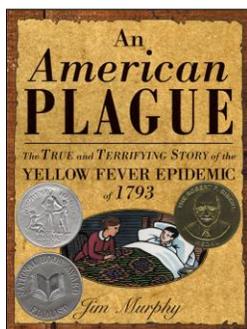
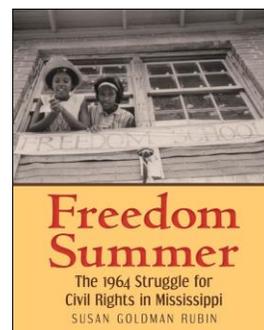
Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi

Written by Susan Goldman Rubin.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 12-14.

Nonfiction: Fifty years after the landmark civil rights project in Mississippi, this riveting account of the murder of three civil rights crusaders details the unstoppable wave of determination unleashed by black Mississippians to demand their rights.



An American Plague:

The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

Written by Jim Murphy.

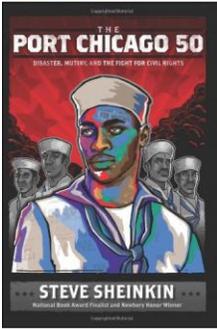
Published by Clarion.

For ages 12-16.

Nonfiction: 1793, Philadelphia. The nation's capital and the largest city in North America is devastated by an apparently incurable disease, cause unknown . . .

In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city—and all his papers—while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege.

An American Plague's numerous awards include a Sibert Medal, a Newbery Honor, and designation as a National Book Award Finalist. Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this book offers a glimpse into the conditions of American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing timely parallels to modern-day epidemics. Bibliography, map, index.



Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights
Written by Steve Sheinkin.

Published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 13 and up.

Nonfiction: This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

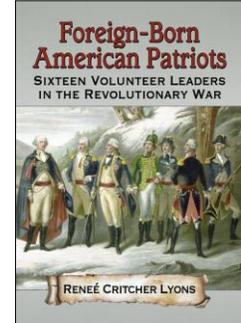
Foreign-Born American Patriots

Written by Renee Critcher Lyons.

Published by McFarland & Company, Inc.

For ages 13 and up.

Nonfiction: This book presents profiles of sixteen individuals born and raised in countries other than America who voluntarily joined the revolutionary cause. These men were writers, soldiers, merchants, sailors, guerilla fighters, pirates, financiers, and cavalry leaders. Each profile discusses the personal experiences that influenced the volunteer leader's decision to fight for the fledgling country, the sacrifices endured for the benefit of the Revolutionary Cause, and the unique talents each contributed to the war effort. Their participation helped ensure the perpetuation of the ideals and values of the American republic.



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