Using Children's Literature to Teach the Social Studies Ohio Academic Content Standards

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By

James Shiveley & Ronald Helms
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obtained by contacting The Ohio Council for the Social Studies at www.ocss.org.
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Introduction

This book addresses a need by recommending quality children’s literature books that are aligned with specific Ohio Academic Content Standard for the Social Studies for grades K – 5. Our intent is to assist teachers in merging what they know to be interesting and constructive pedagogy with outcomes-based standards. Such a resource can help teachers move along a continuum toward using interesting fiction and non-fiction narratives that help students learn more social studies content, retain it longer, and transfer it to new settings. Hopefully, an additional benefit will be an overall increase in the level of interest that students will have in the social studies.

This book may be useful as an additional resource for teachers who are already widely using children’s literature in their social studies curriculum. It may also serve as a reference for those teachers who sense that teaching social studies in this way can be done, but lack the structure or the experience to help them “take the chance.” To insure that each grade level indicator is taught by using only children’s literature is not our objective. We realize that the extent to which a teacher relies on the children’s literature suggested here will depend on the availability of the books and his or her own experience.

With this in mind, we have organized the book into nine chapters, beginning with one chapter for each of the first six Social Studies Ohio Academic Content Standards (OACS): history, people in societies, geography, economics, government, and citizenship rights and responsibilities. Each of these chapters contain between 50-70 books, with full bibliographic information and brief abstracts that are related to a particular standard. We chose not to create a chapter dedicated to the final Social Studies Academic Content Standard -- social studies skills and methods -- since this particular standard was designed to cut across all other standards. It is our belief that many, if not all, of the books listed
for each of the other standards could be used to address benchmarks or grade level indicators for the social studies skills and methods standard.
The children’s literature selections for this book represent some of our favorites and in no way imply that there are not many other books that could be found to teach a particular grade level indicator as well or better. In fact, we are sure this is the case. It was simply that, with so many good books to choose from, we relied on our own personal experiences and preferences. The reader must keep in mind that none of these books were written with the OACS in mind, and it should not be surprising that many of the books we have selected for any single standard could have easily been placed with other standards. The standard in which we ultimately placed each book was simply the one we believed it fit most directly and clearly.

Recognizing however that some books were especially well suited to teach multiple standards, the seventh chapter is devoted to the 25 books we agreed were most useful for teaching multiple standards at once. The main criteria we have used was that a book had to clearly be able to address at least four of the six content-related standards well. The eighth chapter organizes books that have some portion of their story connected to Ohio. This is followed by a final chapter that lists a number of websites that may be useful for locating or using additional children’s literature resources to teach the social studies.

**Review of the Literature**

The use of children’s literature to assist in the teaching of social studies content has a long-established history. Social studies methods books have advocated the use of such books to supplement textbooks for over forty years (Sandmann & Ahern, 2002). In recent years, some teachers and school districts even have moved more toward using children’s literature as the primary resource in the teaching of social studies content. This proclivity for educators to exhibit confidence in children’s literature to teach social studies might be associated with the following observations.
One of these is the persistent criticism of social studies textbooks, which traditionally have accounted for the bulk of social studies instruction. Social studies textbooks have been characterized as poorly organized and written, encyclopedic and overwhelming, and with little or no consideration of student interest (Sewall, 1988; Middendorp & Lee, 1994). One result is that the “story” is removed from history and the social studies and that students are left with instruction that lacks the detail, passion, and interest that children’s literature can help generate (Edgington, 1998).

Fortunately, the other factor contributing to the increased use of children’s literature to teach social studies has been a significant rise in the amount, quality, and variety of interesting children’s literature available to the social studies classroom teacher. While this trend has provided more incentive for teachers who recognize the advantages of teaching social studies through children’s literature, it also contributes to an additional dilemma for those same teachers -- a point we will touch on later in the chapter.

A review of the literature examining the use of children’s literature to teach the social studies provides ample positive feedback. On a broad level, the use of children’s literature will illuminate a human element that students often might find dry and provide real-life details that help students better understand the concepts and time period under study (Edgington, 1998; Levstik, 1986). This, in effect, allows the literature to become the “lens through which the content is viewed” (Smith & Johnson, 1994, p. 198). Additional benefits include increasing reading vocabulary, providing a catalyst for critical thinking, and increasing student involvement in a format that is more interesting, and often more up to date, than many classroom textbooks (Middendorp & Lee, 1994; Alverman & Phelps, 1998; Marshall, 2000). At the upper elementary levels, children’s literature can be used to increase motivation, aid aesthetic appreciation, and
provide easier and more interesting reading material for less able readers (Carr, Buchanan, Wentz, Weiss, & Brant, 2001).
Much has also been written about the potential advantages of using children’s literature for the specific teaching of the social studies. Krey, in *Children’s Literature in Social Studies: Teaching to the Standards* (1998), summarizes many of these benefits. She makes the case by using children’s literature teachers are better able to create lessons that accomplish the following:

- expand a learner’s knowledge of human events by transporting the reader to places, times, and cultures not otherwise possible;
- provide an insider’s perspective to the emotions of a human event;
- offer more of a holistic picture of events than the typical survey approach provided by most textbooks;
- offer a better balance between the facts of a particular occurrence and the human characteristics of the people involved; and,
- provides learners with the opportunity to connect events and characters to their own personal experiences (Krey, 1998).

Other researchers note that children’s literature can contribute to a more complete understanding of critical social studies concepts (Farris & Fuhler, 1994; Findlay, 2002; Guzzetti, Kowalinski, & McGowan, 1992; Smith, 1993) help foster critical thinking and problem solving skills (Brozo & Tomlinson, 1986; Davis & Palmer, 1992; Donoghue, 2001), enable young readers to make important links between past and present events (Fuhler, 1991; Owens & Nowell, 2001; Palmer & Burroughs, 2002), and assists students to better visualize the past (Harms & Lettow, 1993). Children’s literature can motivate students in their grasp of key geographic and economic ideas (Lorrie, 1993; Savage & Savage, 1993; Macken 2003; VanFossen, 2003) and promote increased overall civic competence (Hicks, 1996).

Yet another essential component of the social studies is the appreciation of social and cultural differences. Here again, children’s literature can be a powerful tool in assisting young readers to grasp multicultural concepts (Pugh, Garcia, &
Children reading multicultural trade books have demonstrated both greater social sensitivity and an enhanced ability to view issues through multiple perspectives (Garcia, Hadaway, & Beal, 1988; Tunnell & Ammon, 1996; Kim & Garcia, 1996). Students are also exposed to wider insights into new worlds, ideas and cultures that more traditional media provides. Children reading multicultural literature demonstrate increased social sensitivity, a greater recognition of people’s similarities and differences, and by doing so, have a better understanding of themselves (Norton, 1990; Willet, 1995; VanFossen, 2003).

**Connections to the Ohio Academic Content Standards**

All of these areas are vital to the social studies and, not surprisingly, embedded in the various OACS. It would seem then that it would be a natural fit to use children’s literature to teach many of the social studies standards teachers are expected to cover in their curriculum. Yet, despite this match, and the fact that many teachers already have an intuitive sense of what the literature abundantly reveals to us on this topic, why do so many still hesitate to move beyond textbooks and worksheets toward a more extensive use of children’s literature? We believe this is due to a couple of logical reasons.

One is the fact that there has been an increase in the past decade of the pressure put on teachers and administrators to perform well on standardized tests. For some, this added level of quantitative assessment creates a tension between a need for efficiently increasing test scores and using more-preferred classroom pedagogy. Stated differently, the desire to teach through the extensive use of children’s literature is offset by the concern for reaching specific instructional objectives and the lack of confidence that a heavy reliance on the use of children’s literature will reach that desired outcome. This is exacerbated...
by the fact that many high-stakes tests have an additional unintended result of moving social studies more and more into the background of the overall school curriculum, taking time away to teach as one would wish (Owens & Nowell,
This, in turn, is related to the second reason for the underutilization of children’s literature in the social studies -- the added time required for teachers to teach this way.

Teachers are extremely busy, and it takes time to locate and align appropriate children’s literature books to one’s curriculum. Hence, it is important to note that the recent explosion of social studies children’s literature available to the classroom teacher (as exciting as this may be) has another side to it. The availability of so many books does not necessarily help an overextended teacher decide which books to use to address specific grade level indicators. Few would disagree that, ultimately, the value of using children’s literature to teach social studies is dependent upon two key factors -- the quality of the books being used and the proper connections of these books to the classroom curriculum. In other words, while the potential and opportunity for improving social studies learning is certainly there, the ultimate success remains dependent upon the already overworked classroom teacher. This teacher must find the time to locate, edit, and sort the “right” books from the thousands of available choices each year, and then to connect those books selected to one’s course of study or state standards. Despite one’s best intentions, there is usually not enough time or money to peruse even a representative sampling of each year’s new offerings, let alone to determine the quality, the proper fit with one’s curriculum, and the most effective use of these books. The result is that a teacher can quickly get overwhelmed and resort to the continual use of some old favorites where these books seem to work best.

While one could point to a number of resources that can help teachers filter all of this rich material (The Notable Social Studies Books link on the National Council for the Social Studies website - www.ncss.org - and Krey’s 1998 NCSS Bulletin come to mind), such resources are typically focused and aligned with national standards rather than any particular state’s standards. This means
that, although helpful, teachers are required to do additional steps to adapt them to their own particular setting. The result is that one often finds these resources to be of limited usefulness for directly helping to match children’s literature to one’s day-to-day curriculum needs.

With that in mind, we present here over 300 quality children’s literature books that are already aligned with specific benchmarks in the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Social Studies. It is our hope that this book can be of use to the overworked elementary social studies who wishes to use more children’s literature in their classroom. Enjoy!


References


Students use materials drawn from the diversity of human experience to analyze and interpret significant events, patterns and themes in the history of Ohio, the United States and the world.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:

A. Use a calendar to determine the day, week, month and year.
B. Place events in correct order on a time line.
C. Compare daily life in the past and present demonstrating an understanding that while basic human needs remain the same, they are met in different ways in different times and places.
D. Recognize that the actions of individuals make a difference, and relate the stories of people from diverse backgrounds who have contributed to the heritage of the United States.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

A. Construct time lines to demonstrate an understanding of units of time and chronological order.
B. Describe the cultural patterns that are evident in North America today as a result of exploration, colonization and conflict.
C. Explain how new developments led to the growth of the United States.
Abraham Lincoln: Defender of the Union

The short biography of Abraham Lincoln also provides some insight into President Lincoln’s politics during the civil war. It begins with his birth in a log cabin, addresses his childhood, follows his rise from a young lawyer to president, and covers his assassination. It describes how Lincoln fought to end slavery in the United States and how he changed the course of American history.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life
Elizabeth MacLeod (1999). Kids Can Press

While Alexander Graham Bell is most famous for his invention of the telephone, he had other important inventions as well. One example is his work with instruments for the hearing impaired, as he was friends with Helen Keller. The book also includes early sketches of some of his work along with interesting facts about his life.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, C

Alice Ramsey’s Grand Adventure

This is the story of Alice Ramsey, the first woman to ever drive an automobile across the United States. Her journey begins in New York City and ultimately ends in California. The book details her journey, including her hardships as well as her successes. Through her travels she sees all different parts of the country. It also describes how different parts of the United States were not yet developed and what it was like to try to drive an automobile where there were no roads or directions. It is interesting to see the maintenance involved with having one of the first automobiles – showing how it was not always as easy as today’s forms of transportation.
K-2 B, C 3-5 A, C

Amelia Earhart: Young American Pioneer

This biography on Amelia Earhart begins as the young girl who built roller coasters and had a dream to fly. Most of those around her did not believe that she would one day take to the air.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, C
Aurora Means Dawn

In the 1800’s, the Sheldon’s travel from Connecticut to Ohio to start a new life in the settlement of Aurora. Many things along the way, from the weather to the trees, surprise them about this new land. When they arrive they find that they are not coming to an established community as they were led to believe. They discover instead that they are the first family there and will be starting this new community by themselves.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

B is for Buckeye: An Ohio Alphabet

Each letter of the alphabet is highlighted with events and people from Ohio that begin with that letter. With A through Z connections to Ohio all wonderfully illustrated, this book is fun to read, and brings Ohio history and information to life for all ages.
K-2 D 3-5 C

Baseball Saved Us

In this story, the inhabitants of one of the internment camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II decides to build a ball field to give everyone something to do. The narrator of the story relates an incident where the staring gaze of the guard in the tower made him angry enough to hit the ball out of the park for a home-run. Years later, when he was out of the camp, but not away from the prejudices of the war, the staring gaze of the pitcher on a little league team and the cry “Jap” from the crowd brings back the memory of the internment camp. It also brings back the determination that produced the winning hit. Once more, the ball is knocked out of the park for a home-run.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

The Bat Boy and His Violin

Reginald is more interested in practicing his violin than his father’s job managing the worst team in the Negro Leagues. To make matters worse, his practicing is sometimes viewed as a distraction by Papa. However, when his father makes Reginald the bat boy and his music begins to lead the team to victory, Papa realizes the value of his son’s passion.
K-2 C, D 3-5 A, B
The Best Town in the World

Based on memories of her father, Baylor tells of the small Texas town in which her father grew up. It is a Utopian society with perfection at every turn. Before students’ interview people or read accounts of historic events based on memories, they need to realize that over time memories may be embellished or enhanced.

K-2 C  3-5 A

Bobbin Girl

Rebecca is only ten, yet she works all day long in a hot and noisy cotton mill in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1830s. She’s grateful to have the chance to help her struggling family, but not all the girls at her boardinghouse are happy about their jobs at the mill. This book evokes an era when American women began to stun the world with their independence as wage earners, and their fight for women’s rights.

K-2 C, D  3-5 A, B, C

Brooklyn: Then and Now
Marcia Reiss (2002). Thunder Bay Press

Physical features of the city like bridges, buildings, and storefronts are shown in this informative book. Students will be able to compare the many remarkable changes that have occurred in the city from the early years until now. History and culture is what Brooklyn is made of and the book shows it.

3-5 B, C

Children of the Great Depression

This book presents a clear view on the Great Depression, presented from the perspective of children who lived during the time period. It begins with the stock market crash, giving a thorough, yet simple enough for a child to understand. The book contains black and white photographs as well as personal stories. It covers schooling, work life and even entertainment.

K-2 B, C  3-5 A, B, C

Christopher Columbus

Learn all about Christopher Columbus from his childhood, introduction into sailing and his travels into the unknown. Columbus returned to Spain with stories for the King and Queen. A second voyage was commissioned as a result of his success.
K-2 B, C  3-5 A, B
Daily Life in a Covered Wagon

This book will help the children realize what daily life looked like for the brave pioneers that traveled west in their covered wagons to make a better life for themselves. The daily chores, hardships, and travels that are described in this book will help the children get a look at what life was for these travelers. Children will really get a feel for the clothes, food, and skills needed in order to survive this journey without all the modern day comforts.
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C

Dandelions

As Zoe and her family rumble across the prairie in a wagon pulled by oxen, the grass stretches, unchanging all the way to the horizon. This is a story of the experiences of a family transplanted, and how they adapt in order to survive.
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C

Declaration of Independence
The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 declaring the colonies independence from England. The book focuses on how the Europeans came to America to set up colonies that were still loyal to their mother countries until England started to place taxes on their goods and supplies. The book takes you through the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence and through the celebration of freedom.
K-2 B, C  3-5 A, B, C

The Discovery of the Americas

This book takes a fairly comprehensive look at those explorers who may have or were known to have come to North America beginning with the Ice Age. Both hypothetical and historical voyages of discovery to America are examined including those by the Phoenicians, Saint Brendan of Ireland, the Vikings, and many of the later European navigators.
3-5 A, B
Drummer Boy

A young farm boy is influenced by a speech given by Abraham Lincoln one day when he was passing through his town. The Civil War was beginning and the boy knew he did not like the way the slaves were treated, so he decides to “sign up.” The boy is assigned the job of a drummer boy. He sees battles and shootings and men dying. He even holds a dying soldier’s hand after being wounded and comforts him. People told the boy his drum playing really lifted their spirits, but after the war was over, he realized he saw more things than any boy his age should ever see.
K-2 A, B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Early American Industrial Revolution 1793-1850

The Industrial Revolution helped to bring many families and immigrants to the cities to find work in the factories. Social dynamics changed by having the men in the workplace and often children worked long hours to help clean up the workplace. The children will get to see a timeline of the events that led up to and through the revolution. The book tells about some of the events that were happening overseas as more countries were following America into the industrial age.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, C

The Floating House

In 1815, the McClure family floats down the Ohio River in a flatboat loaded with all their worldly possessions. They are looking for Jeffersonville, Indiana where they will build their new home. Each day brings new adventure as the family floats past key cities along the Ohio River. As they get closer, children Mary and Jonathan wonder the timeless question—"when will we get there?" A map of the territory they cover is provided on the inside cover.
K-2 A, B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Go Fly a Kite Ben Franklin
Peter and Connie Roop (2003). Scholastic Inc.

A book that allows one to read about Ben Franklin before he was a politician, inventor, printer and one of the most famous Americans in history. The reader learns about where Ben grew up, where he went to school, and some of the events that lead him to become such a distinguished and accomplished statesman and inventor.
K-2 C, D 3-5 B, C
Going West! Journey on a Wagon Trail to Settle a Frontier Town  
This book covers history through stories, critical thinking through questions, and creativity through hands-on projects. The book takes the journey out west on the wagon trails, and lets the reader make choices about the path that the wagon will take. Readers will also learn about skills necessary to survive on the westward journey. The book also describes the experience of the Native Americans who lost their lands.  
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Great Black Heroes: Five Brave Explorers  
This book discusses the explorations of five great American explorers, whose names many students will be unfamiliar. Included in this book are the stories of: Esteban Dorantes, one of the first blacks to explore America; Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, son of a white French sea captain and a slave, who is credited as being the founder of Chicago; James Pierce Beckwourth, one of the greatest black explorers and frontiersman who helped open the West; Matthew A. Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole, and; Mae C. Jemison, the first black woman to orbit space.  
K-2 C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Hand in Hand: An American History Through Poetry  
This account of American history, beginning with Colonial times, is given through poetry in the voice of several characters. These poems illustrate how different ethic groups express their culture and rich heritage – yet are a part of our American history.  
K-2 A, B, C, D 3-5 B, C

Here Comes the Mystery Man  
This book is set in southeastern Indiana and tells of a traveling peddler who visits the Goodwin family’s pioneer home twice a year and brings wondrous things and amazing tales from distant lands. Colorful images in text and illustrations are provided to help students capture the mystery of life long ago, and far away.  
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B
**Heroines of the American Revolution: America’s Founding Mothers**  
This book covers American heroines from Abigail Adams to Elizabeth Zane during the colonial period and through the American Revolution. In the process, the reader is provided with many important, yet often ignored, perspectives of the contributions that women provided during this critical time in American history.  
K-2 D  3-5 B

**Homeplace**  
Here is a story almost two hundred years long. All of it happens in one house that from year-to-year has grown and changed and housed one family. In one hundred fifty pictures, you see the life this family has lived, from great-great-great-great-grandpa to a child today, connected hand to hand by the long reach of work and comfort and caring.  
K-2 B, C  3-5 A

**If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War**  
This book presents students with both sides of the Civil War in a simple way for young children, describing many of the struggles people faced while living through the Civil War. It is organized around a key question on each page, key points that are addressed include: which states left the Union and why, what each army was like, and how home life was affected by the war.  
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A,B, C

**If You Sailed on the Mayflower**  
This book describes the life aboard the Mayflower during its historic voyage in 1620. It describes many historic facts about who sailed on the Mayflower, including what they ate, how they slept, what they did for fun, and some of their first adventures after they arrived near Cape Cod.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

**Into the Air: An Illustrated Timeline of Flight**  
Ryan Ann Hunter (2003). National Geographic Society  
Man has always been intrigued by flight, and its development is charted through dragonflies to balloons to the modern day aircraft machine. Going back further than humankind, the development of flying mechanisms is discussed. In addition, early legends depict man’s attempts to get off the ground and into the air.
Land Ho! Fifty Glorious Years in the Age of Exploration

The stories of 12 explorers are told, ranging from Christopher Columbus to Ferdinand Magellan to John Cabot, providing insight into the early years of exploration of North America. A brief description of each journey is given including fun trivia facts, maps, and much more. This book is great for any student wanting to learn more about how the New World was discovered and explored.
K-2 D  3-5 A, B, C

Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters
Andrea Davis Pinkney, Stephen Alcorn (2000).

This book presents the dramatic stories of 10 women, including Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Rosa Parks, and Shirley Chisholm. The first page of each biography provides a stunning portrait.
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C

Liberty
Lynn Curlee (2000). Atheneum Books for Young Readers

This book tells the dramatic story of how the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, came to be built. Each page of text is illustrated with a full-page acrylic painting. At the end of the book you will find a page of specifications for the statue, a timeline, and a bibliography.
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C

The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk

This book describes a true story that was part of a national effort to avert a disaster early in World War Two. A young English girl and her father take their sturdy fishing boat and join the scores of other civilian vessels crossing the English Channel in a daring attempt to rescue Allied and British troops trapped by Nazi soldiers at Dunkirk.
K-2 B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C
Minty, A Story of Young Harriet Tubman

Young Harriet Tubman, nicknamed Minty, is a spirited young girl, who tests the injustices of her owners and longs for freedom. Her mother tells her, “If your head is in the lion’s mouth, its best to pat him a little” as a warning not to anger the mistress of the plantation. Her father, however, sees the restlessness of his child, and so he teaches her the things she will need to know when the day comes to escape. This book offers the reader a different view of Harriet Tubman—a young girl with a sense of justice and a yearning for freedom, waiting for her time to come.
K-2  B, C, D  3-5 A,B, C

Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers

This story relates the true story of eleven-year old Grace Bedell, who, in 1860, wrote to Abraham Lincoln during his presidential campaign to suggest that he let his "whiskers grow" to improve his appearance. Later, on his way to his inauguration, the president-elect stops by Grace’s hometown to meet the girl who inspired him to change his appearance.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A,B

Nettie’s Trip South

Nettie writes a letter to her friend Addie telling all about her trip to the South before the Civil War. Nettie worries about seeing slaves. She cannot understand why slaves don’t have last names and wonders why, if they are only three-fifth’s a person, what they are missing. Nettie tries to put herself in the shoes of slaves and considers how different her life would be if she had been born into slavery.
K-2  B, C, D  3-5 A,B, C

Not So Very Long Ago: Life in a Small Country Village

This book helps the reader understand life as it would have been lived by two children in the mid-1800s. The text follows them as they run errands for their mother, attend school, visit their grandmother’s farm, and go about other regular daily chores; the superb illustrations provide excellent details for students to study.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
Paperboy
Willie Brinkman is proud to be helping his family with the money he earns as a paperboy. The setting is in Cincinnati in 1927, the major story of the day is the Jack Dempsey/Gene Tunney heavyweight fight, and the story is of a young boy who knows the value of an honest effort despite any disappointments one might encounter.
K-2 B, C 3-5 A, C

Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth
The story of Sojourner Truth, begins with the young girl (then Isabella) at age nine at a slave auction in Kingston, New York. Isabella spoke Dutch so she didn’t understand a word of the auctioneer who poked and pointed at her as she stood on the auction block to be sold to pay off her owner’s debt. This book chronicles her story as she ran away, was bought into freedom by a kind neighbor, and later took her former owner to court when he sold her son. Seventeen years later, Isabella gained her freedom, traveled the country delivering her message about the terrible truths of being a slave, and became known as Sojourner Truth. A chronology of Sojourner Truth’s life is included.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A,B, C

Our Old House
Our Old House is a book about the past. The little girl in the story collects all sorts of odds and ends around her house that were left behind by those who lived there before. Among the things she collects are a marble, beads, and a speckled egg. She also uncovers the different layers of paint on the walls and the different plants growing in the garden. The story centers on the idea that with time, things change. A lady that once lived in the house comes to visit, and she answers several of the little girl’s questions. The girl learns that one day she too will move out, leaving remnants behind. Then someday she might come back and answer someone else’s questions about her old house.
K-2 B, C 3-5 A

Ox Cart Man
The book describes the yearly economic cycle of a New England family in the early nineteenth century. The cottage industry of the family, the system of trade, modes of transportation, and the daily routines of the seasons are described in this classic text. This book provides an excellent avenue for students to compare then and now.
Park Beat: Rhymin’ Through the Seasons  

Distinctive illustrations and simple rhyming text are used to allow the reader to experience the variations found in each unique season. A neighborhood park is used as the setting that allows a family to explore all the wonderful things one can do each month of the year.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A

Pearl  

The events of American history, from George Washington's Presidency through the Civil War, the Wright Brothers, the Great Depression, and the beginning of the space program are related through the experiences of one family. Readers are reminded of both the American dream and just how young our nation really is.

K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

A Picture Book of Lewis and Clark  

In this picture book, the explorations of Lewis and Clark are tracked for a young reader to enjoy. Everything that occurs during their expedition, from the planning through the implementation and follow up, is included. A timeline, map, and journal excerpts that describe the trip from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean are also included.

K-2 A, B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Pink and Say  
Patricia Polacco (1994). Philomel Books

Here is a Civil War story that has been passed down through the generations until the author put it into words and pictures for us. Sheldon (Say) has been wounded in a fierce Civil War battle and left for dead. He is rescued by Pinkus (who fought for the “Forty-eighth Colored”) taken home, and nursed back to health by Pinkus's mother as a result, placing the entire family in danger.

K-2 C, D 3-5 B, C

Place Called Freedom  
Russell Sanders (1997). Sagebrush Education Resources

James Starman, a young black boy, and his family are set free from slavery in Tennessee and settle in Indiana. James' father continues to go back to Tennessee to bring other people to freedom. Other freed slaves and runaways hear about this settlement and come to live there. Soon there is a village with a
church, school, and railroad tracks running through it. This new village needs a name. James' parents decide to call this new village Freedom.
Roughing it on the Oregon Trail

In this book, a time travel adventure brings a set of twins and their Grandma straight to the Oregon Trail in 1843 walking along the same path that their ancestors took. The three learn all about the day-to-day rigors of daily life while traveling on the trail. They must travel on foot and/or on a wagon during their 8 month journey while eating the food that is offered including “slam-johns” and “sowbelly” (pancakes and bacon). The book also includes a map of the Oregon Trail circa 1843 and the present-day Oregon Trail.
K-2 B, C, D 3-5 A, B, C

Settling of Jamestown
This story tells about Jamestown’s daily routines, struggles, and provides some information on the Native Americans in the area and does so in a manner that gives a variety of viewpoints of life in the colonies. The end of the book shows some pictures and reconstructed models of what the Jamestown colony might have looked like before it burned down.
K-2 C, D 3-5 A, B

Sybil’s Night Ride

This is the true story of young Sybil Ludington, the daughter of a colonel in the Revolutionary War, who, like Paul Revere, rode through the countryside to alert the colonists that the British were coming. Only this time, it is two years later and the warning is that British troops are burning Danbury, New York. Wonderfully illustrated, this book also includes a map of Sybil’s route.
K-2 D 3-5 A, B, C

Teammates

Tells the story of Jackie Robinson’s difficult first season with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 as he pioneered as the first African-American to play professional baseball. The strength and perseverance of Jackie Robinson is retold as well as the courage of Pee Wee Reese, a southern-born white teammate, who was among the first to publicly support his friend.
K-2 C, D 3-5 A, B, C

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Town Mouse House

Imagine living in a city town house in the year 1900. Your life would be completely unlike the way you live today. Everything – the clothes you would wear, the food you would eat, the games you would play – would be different. Now young readers can see how a family lived a century ago when Augustus Town Mouse takes them on a tour around the tall brick house where he lives with his family and the servants who work for them.
K-2 B, C  3-5 A

Turn of the Century

In each of the centuries, eleven different stories are told through the eyes of a child in Great Britain and the United States. The day-to-day life is stressed at each turn of the century, which allows young readers to see how life changed from 1,000 – 2,000 AD.
K-2 C  3-5 A

Uncle Jed’s Barbershop

Sarah Jean’s Uncle Jed is the only African-American barber in the county. He dreams of opening his own barbershop some day. When Sarah Jean is in need of an operation, Uncle Jed loans her parents money from his “barbershop” savings. Then, when the bank fails during the Great Depression all of Uncle Jed’s savings are gone for a second time. Finally, on his 79th birthday, Uncle Jed opens his own barbershop. The life of a poor southern African-American family in the first half of the twentieth century is recalled by the author.
K-2  C, D  3-5 A, B

The Wall

This is the story of a little boy and his father. They have come from far away to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy’s grandfather. Other visitors pass by, searching for the names of their loved ones. Finally, the father’s fingers stop moving along the wall. “Here he is,” he says. This book deals with the impact of the Vietnam War and its consequences.
3-5 A, B
Welcome to Kit’s World, 1934: Growing Up During America’s Great Depression

In this book, a young girl is giving an account of her life during the 1930’s. The book starts out in the “Roaring ‘20’s” before talking about the “crash” and how everything changed from that point on in day-to-day life for many people. Accounts are also given about the people who made a difference during this “down” time for America including: Amelia Earhart, Franklin Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, as well as, Langston Hughes. This book tells of the country during the Great Depression and how everyone’s life affected.

K-2  B, C, D  3-5 A, B, C

White Socks Only

When Grandma was a little girl in Mississippi, she sneaked into town one sizzling hot day to see if she could fry an egg on the sidewalk. Soon she was thirsty. The water fountain said “Whites Only,” so Grandma took off her shoes and stepped right up in her clean white socks. Suddenly she was thrown to the ground. “Can’t you read, girl?” a big white man yelled at her. Now there was trouble. But the black community pulled together, along with the Chicken Man who still “did things he knowed all the way from Africa.” This story is inspired by the author’s memories of the places she could not go and things she could not do because of her skin color.

K-2  C, D  3-5 A, B

The Wright Brothers

This book describes the Wright brothers’ attempts at flying the first powered airplane. The information is repetitive in a way that will help children remember it. The text is informative, and the mice characters give additional information in captions and make the story more enjoyable for younger students. The book also contains an extensive timeline of the history of airplanes.

K-2  B, C, D  3-5 A, C
Students use knowledge of perspectives, practices and products of cultural, ethnic and social groups to analyze the impact of their commonality and diversity within local, national, regional and global settings.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:
A. Identify practices and products of diverse cultures.
B. Identify ways that different cultures within the United States and the world have shaped our national heritage.

By the end of the 3-5 program:
A. Compare practices and products of North American cultural groups.
B. Explain the reasons people from various cultural groups came to North America and the consequences of their interactions with each other.
Allison

Allison is a pre-school age Asian child. Her parents are Caucasian-American. One day she realizes she does not look the same as her parents. She goes to school and begins asking the other children questions like “are your dad’s eyes the same color as yours?” The little boy that she asks tells her that they are. Now, she knows for sure that she isn’t her parents’ child. Allison struggles to figure out her place. Her parents explain that she is their daughter because they have raised her since she was a little baby. They have to also help Allison understand why her birth mother gave her to them. At the end, she finds a stray cat that doesn’t have a mom or a dad. Adopting the cat helps Allison better understand her place with her adopted parents.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

The American Wei

The American Wei is a story about a little boy and his parents who are all just about to become citizens of the United States through a process called naturalization. On the way to the ceremony the little boy loses his tooth on the sidewalk. In an effort to find it, people from all over the world help with the search. Finally, the tooth is found and the ceremony takes place. The family takes the “Oath of Allegiance” and says the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The ceremony ends with the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

K-2 B  3-5 B

Bein’ With You This Way

The reader is invited to join in a celebration of diversity with a cast of characters who share a sunny day and the universal childhood joy of just being together. Similarities and friendships are celebrated through the beat of a playground rap.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B
Building a Bridge

A Navajo girl, Juanita, walks to the school bus on her first day of kindergarten with a stomach full of butterflies and bouncy rubber balls. On another part of the Reservation, Anna, an Anglo girl, has the same scary and excited feelings, made worse by the sea of brown faces that stare at her as she gets on the bus. “I don’t think I’m going to have any friends here,” Anna thinks, because the other children look so different from her. But soon the teacher, Mrs. Yazzie, shows Anna and Juanita a “magical” set of green and purple blocks, and the girls build a big, beautiful bridge together. They find that the different colors do not matter; the blocks all fit together, and that differences can indeed make things magical. This important book teaches us through a simple metaphor that instead of mistrusting differences, we can rejoice in them.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

Calor: A Story of Warmth for all Ages

This bilingual story revolves around the concept of warmth and color. Set in the southwestern United States, the illustrations depict pueblos, pottery, and storytellers. Each page has Spanish text at the top, and English text at the bottom.

K-2 A, B

Canada the Culture

This book is about the multicultural aspects of Canada. It describes the holidays, festivals and other stories that make Canada unique. Also included is information about clothing, the arts, and architecture. The glossary includes definition of those words that are in bold print.

3-5 A, B

Cinco De Mayo

It is Fiesta Time; Cinco de Mayo is a fiesta day in Mexico and the United States, celebrated on the fifth of May. This colorful holiday honors Mexico’s victory over the French army at the Battle of Pueblo in 1862. People march in parades, dance, and set off fireworks. Families enjoy traditional Mexican food and drink. Then they watch people act out the famous battle.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B
Colors of Mexico

This book shows ten different colors that each represent a different aspect of Mexican culture. For example, white is for the skeletons on the Day of the Dead. This is a good book to provide an overview of Mexican culture to young readers.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Dim Sum for Everyone

Dim Sum is a Chinese tradition of eating various hot and cold mini-dishes, which are served from rolling carts in Chinese restaurants. Families choose from these carts at their tables. There is also a brief explanation of the origin and traditions associated with dim sum.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Eagle Song

When young Danny’s family moves to Brooklyn, New York from a Mohawk Reservation, many of the kids in his class make fun of him for being Indian. All his life this identity has made him proud. Now he must struggle to cope with the teasing that comes with his new school setting.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Eight Nights of Hanukkah

This book follows the traditions of each night of Hanukkah. Songs, games, recipes, crafts, and other traditions are included as the reader follows one family throughout the holiday season.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Families are Different

A Korean girl, Nico, does not like the fact she does not look like her adoptive parents. As the book progresses, she discovers that there are many different types of families and begins to learn how to accept her own adopted family.
K-2  A, B
Folk Pageants

This book is about the different cultural pageants and fairs that occur in the United States. The book includes information on powwows, Renaissance festivals, and parades with float contests.

3-5  A, B

Follow the Drinking Gourd

An old sailor, Peg Leg Joe, teaches a group of slaves a song about the drinking gourd, or the big dipper. This song tells them how to find and follow the Underground Railroad, which would lead them to freedom.

K-2 A, B  3-5  A, B

Giving Thanks...A Native American Good Morning Message

This picture book is based upon the traditional Mohawk Morning Prayer, “Thanksgiving Address to Mother Earth.” The Mohawk people give thanks to all aspects of their life, including Mother Earth and her inhabitants.

K-2 A, B

Grandfather’s Journey

This story is a Japanese-American’s personal account of his grandfather’s unique cross-cultural experiences. He loves both his native Japan and California, but has trouble choosing between the two. Torn between two countries and two cultures, the grandfather finds that "when in one country, he invariably misses the other."

K-2 A, B  3-5  A, B

Great Potato Plan

While Papa is away in America setting up a new home for his family, the Great War breaks out, leaving Mama and the children trapped in Europe. Soon they run out of money and food. Simcha, the oldest boy, knows that Papa expects him to keep the family safe, and so begins this adventure. Life is hard, food is scarce, and the Russian soldiers are dangerous. This story is based on events from the author’s family history. It describes the joys, fears, trials and triumphs of a young boy in World War I Poland.

K-2 A, B  3-5  A, B
Harriet Tubman

Harriet has many jobs as a slave. She eventually reaches a point when she decides that she has had enough and plans to make a run for freedom. This book follows Harriet as she is able to successfully escape and later return to help her parents do the same.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Holiday! Celebration Days around the World

This book is designed for students who are just beginning to read on their own. It is about different holidays that are celebrated around the world. It has colorful pictures and wonderful photographs. This book also gives the dates on which the holidays fall.
K-2 A, B

How Many Days to America?: A Thanksgiving Story

Refugees from a Caribbean Island embark on a dangerous boat trip to America. Along the way they endure many hardships that come with trying to escape to America. They finally arrive in America on Thanksgiving Day, and they have a special reason to celebrate.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

This is the story of four sisters who move from Santo Domingo to New York. They enjoy a luxurious lifestyle in the Dominican Republic, and find it hard to adjust to the chaos of a big city. It describes how they adjust to the city and how they rebel against their parents’ rules.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

I am Rosa Parks

This story is the life of Rosa Parks through her eyes. It tells of the struggles she encounters throughout her life, such as being arrested, growing up, staying off the buses, and her life after the boycott.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B
I Love My Hair

At first Keyana hates her hair because it is dark and thick. Her mom combs it each night before she goes to bed and it is very painful. Soon Keyana realizes that her hair is great, and so are the stories her mom tells her each night.

I Love You Like Crazy Cakes

A woman bases this story on her own experience of how she went to China to adopt a baby girl. It tells about the many aspects of adoption that she experienced, such as the paperwork, the plane ride, and the baby’s trip.

If Your Name was Changed at Ellis Island

This book describes the process of immigration to New York’s Ellis Island around the turn of the 19th century. It describes how people learned English and provides information and facts on many of the routines and tests that immigrants faced at this time. Several pages of questions and answers along with quotes from children and adults are included.

In the Time of the Drums

This story is about a boy living on a plantation with his grandmother on an island off Georgia’s coast. The grandmother yearns to be back in Africa and tells her grandson stories of how things “use to be” when she was a young woman in Africa before her capture. She describes how slavery has broken them and explains to her grandson the ways of Ibo.

Jingle Dancer

Jenna’s heart beats to the brum, brum, brum of the powwow drum as she daydreams about the clicking song of her grandma’s jingle dancing. Jenna loves the tradition of jingle dancing that has been shared by generations of women in her family, and she hopes to dance at the next powwow. However, she has a problem. How will her dress sing if it has no jingles? The warm, evocative watercolors of Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu complement author
Cynthia Leitich Smith’s lyrical text as she tells the affirming story of how a contemporary Native American girl turns to her family and community to help her dance find a voice.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

**Just Plain Fancy**

Kaleb’s two daughters, Naomi and Ruth, sometimes question why their lives are so different from many of the people who live nearby. They are also concerned about one of their chickens, Fancy, who is so different from the others. The girls are surprised when Fancy turns out to be a peacock instead. Throughout the story, the simple life and simple pleasures of their Amish community are revealed.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

**A Knock at the Door**

A farmer and his wife take in a secretive, starving young woman they do not know and allow her to hide on their isolated farm. Soon it becomes apparent that the Nazis are looking for her. Based on the experiences of the author's grandmother, this book provides a perspective on war from a child’s point of view.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

**Lanterns and Firecrackers - A Chinese New Year Story**

This is a story that explains the different customs that a Chinese family has during the New Year. It explains why they decorate their houses with flowers, how they sit down together to eat, and why they go outside to watch the parade of dragon dancers. The book ends by discussing how the festival concludes its final night with a display of colored lanterns.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

**Letters From Rafika**

A young Jewish girl writes letters to her cousin about her flight from Russia in 1919. She describes her experiences staying in Belgium for a time while others immigrated to America.

3-5 A, B
Look What Came from Ireland

This book describes culture and materials that originally came from Ireland. Holidays, food, sports, musical instruments, and fashion are discussed in this book.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B
Lotus Seed

A Vietnamese narrator tells of her grandmother, who as a girl accidentally saw the last emperor cry on the day of his abdication. She enters the palace gardens and takes a lotus seed as a remembrance of that day and her ruler. She keeps the seed with her through war, flight, and emigration until one summer the grandson steals it and plants it in a mud pool near the family’s American home. The following spring, a lotus grows from the mud puddle and in time the elderly woman gives a seed to each of her grandchildren, keeping one for herself. The narrator vows to plant hers one day, give the seeds to her own children, keep the tradition, and share her grandmother’s memories.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Lupe and Me

Lupe is from Mexico. She cleans and cooks at Susan’s house, and is also Susan’s special Amiga until the day Lupe, without any word, no longer comes to Susan's house to work. This story is about cultural exchange, and the book also introduces the difficult issue of illegal immigration.

3-5  A, B

Maggie’s Door

This is the story of two children’s journey from famine stricken Ireland to America. It is told from the different perspectives of Nory and her friend Sean Red Mallon. They are both going to the same destination, Nory’s sister’s home in Brooklyn, New York.

3-5  A, B

Martin’s Big Words

This large picture book biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. was written with dramatic and moving cut paper collage and watercolor artwork. Quotations by the civil rights leader are highlighted throughout the book.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Meet Josefina: An American Girl

This is the story of Josefina and her three sisters, who live near Santa Fe in 1824. Josefina’s mother dies, and Josefina tries to help run the household without
her mother. Grandfather brings something special from Mexico to help cheer the girls up.
K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B
The Memory Coat: An Ellis Island Story

Rachel and Grisha grow up as best friends in Russia. Sadly, Grisha’s parents die in an epidemic, and he goes to live with Rachel’s family. Word spreads that the Cossacks are coming to kill anyone who is Jewish, so Rachel’s family decides to head for America. To make a good impression for the inspectors at Ellis Island, they want to make Grisha a new coat, but he refuses. His old coat is the only reminder he has of his mother. Now, the only problem is whether or not they will make it through the inspection.

Minty, A Story of Young Harriet Tubman

Young Harriet Tubman, nicknamed Minty, is a spirited young girl, who tests the injustices of her owners and longs for freedom. Her mother tells her, “If your head is in the lion’s mouth, it’s best to pat him a little” as a warning not to anger the mistress of the plantation. Her father, however, sees the restlessness of his child, and so he teaches her the things she will need to know when the day comes to escape. This book offers the reader a different view of Harriet Tubman; a young girl with a sense of justice and a yearning for freedom, waiting for her time to come.

Molly’s Pilgrim

Molly lives in the United States, and wants to return to Russia. The students in her school make fun of her because of her accent. She is given an assignment in class to make a pilgrim doll, but she has never heard of Thanksgiving. This is a story of how Molly teaches her classmates and teacher something new.

Moses Goes to a Concert

Moses Goes to a Concert is a story of a young boy who is deaf. He communicates to others in American Sign Language. His teacher has arranged for the class to go to a concert for a field trip. At the concert, the class listens to the music while holding balloons on their laps to feel the vibration. After the concert, they meet the percussionist who is deaf as well. Moses learns he can become anything he wants to when he sets his mind to it.
Mrs. Katz and Tush

Larnel, a young African American boy, and his neighbor, Mrs. Katz, a Jewish woman, agree to take care of an abandoned cat together. As they spend more time together, Mrs. Katz tells him stories about coming to America from Poland. Larnel grows to love Mrs. Katz, while he also discovers the common themes of suffering and triumph black history shares with the Jewish heritage.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

My First Kwanzaa

It is time to get ready for Kwanzaa. During the seven days of Kwanzaa, we celebrate the importance of family, friends, and community. This book describes the traditions carried out throughout the seven days.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

My Great-Aunt Arizona

The recounting of Arizona, who was born in a log cabin her papa built in the Blue Ridge Mountains. She grew to be a very tall young girl who liked to plant flowers, sing, square dance to the music of the fiddler, and dream of the places she would visit. Instead of leaving; however, Arizona stays, becomes a teacher, and teaches generations of children about words and numbers and the places they can go.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

Nature’s Green Umbrella

This book explores the rain forest. It describes different animals that live in the rain forest along with the various layers of the rainforest. Also included in this book are plants that cure diseases and examples of different cultures.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

No One Must Know

Alexandria is a young girl who begins dating a young Jewish boy named Jacob. She is unsure why her family is so disapproving of their relationship, until she finds out that her family is hiding a secret. They are Jewish immigrants from Hungary who have convinced the outside world they are Catholic, and no one must find out.

3-5 A, B
North American Indians

This informational book tells readers about the different customs and cultures of Native Americans. Children will learn about different tribes, the tools they used and much more, as the reader journeys across the United States.

3-5  A, B

One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story

Morris Kapplan owns the flower shop that Jonathan and Ilana come to visit each week to buy flowers for the Sabbath. One week, when the children come to buy a special bouquet for the first night of Hanukkah, they discover that Morris, a Holocaust survivor, no longer celebrates this holiday. The children invite Morris to their house for the celebration, and though he is reluctant because it reminds him of his past in Poland, he attends and celebrates with the family.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Peppe The Lamplighter

This Caldecott winner looks at the life of an immigrant family living in Little Italy around the turn of the century. Peppe, a young boy, seeks work to help support his family. The job he finally gets is to light the streetlights, and his father does not approve of this job. By the story’s end, the whole family believes Peppe has one of the best jobs in the city. The story allows for “then and now” comparisons and provides a message of the value of all work.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

A Place Called Freedom

James Starman, a young African-American boy, and his family are set free from slavery in Tennessee and settle in Indiana. James’ father continues to go back to Tennessee to bring other people to freedom. Other freed slaves and runaways hear about this settlement and come to live there. Soon there is a village, with a church, school, and railroad tracks running through it. This new village needs a name. James' parents decide to call this new village Freedom.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B
The Rough-Face Girl

There are a reported 1500 different Cinderella stories from cultures around the world – this book’s retells the Algonquin Indian version. In this account, a young girl who has been scarred by a fire tries to compete against her beautiful sisters to win the attention of the Invisible Spirit.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

Stellaluna

A baby bat named Stellaluna is separated from his mother and raised as a bird. He must learn to eat, sleep and fly as a bird. Once reunited with his mother he exposes his bird friends to his new bat world. Eventually Stellaluna raises the question “How can we be so different and feel so much alike?” Factual information about bats is also provided at the end of this book.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

The Story of My Life: South Africa Seen through the Eyes of Its Children

This book tells the stories of twelve South African children between the ages of 10 and 13, from different regions, cultures, religions, and language groups who were equipped with cameras and diaries to record their lives over a three-month period. The diversity of this nation and the trials of coming together are highlighted, with lessons that can be applied to the United States.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

The Story of Pocahontas

This book provides an introduction to Pocahontas and the early American settlers. Pocahontas helped maintain peace between the Native Americans and the English colonists, and even saved the life of Captain John Smith.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

The Story of Ruby Bridges

In 1960, Ruby began attending first-grade at Frantz Elementary School. She was the first black child to attend an all white elementary school. Ruby is truly a brave six-year-old child, as she had to face the hostility of many white parents.

K-2 A,B  3-5 A, B
St. Patrick’s Day

This book provides an introduction to the St. Patrick’s Day holiday, and how it began. The life and works of St. Patrick, and the various ways in which the day is celebrated is described. The book also shows pictures of different symbols we use to depict St. Patrick’s Day.

K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B

Talking Walls

This book shows that walls can serve the function of memory; as well as barriers. In the process, young readers are introduced to the walls of different cultures. It celebrates the similarities and differences among the world’s people. For teachers, there is an additional guide for Talking Walls. The book provides ideas in geography, math, social studies, art, cooking, research projects, for several grades.

3-5  A, B

This First Thanksgiving Day

This book is about a count down to the first Thanksgiving. It is a great way for the reader to follow the Pilgrims and Wampanoag friends, as both Pilgrims and Indians prepare for a wonderful feast.

K-2  A, B

Uptown

This book is full of a rich mix of flavors, colors, sounds, and cultures that come together to create a community unlike any in the world. It is seen through the eyes of one little boy who lives there. He gives us a guided tour of his home in New York City’s Harlem. The Metro-North railroad, chicken and waffles, shopping on 125th Street, the Apollo Theater, jazz, and summer basketball games at the playground are all part of his neighborhood’s charm.

K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B
Virgie Goes To School With Us Boys

In the post-Civil War South, a young African American girl is determined to prove that she can go to school just like her older brothers. Virgie wins and her parents let her go to a Quaker school seven miles away. As her father says “All free people need learning; old folks, young folks and small girls too.” The distance is so great that the children bring their clean clothes and food so they can spend the week there.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Watch the Stars Come Out

This is the story of a little girl who is told the story of another red-haired little girl – her great-grandmother – who sailed across the ocean to America with her brother. Upon arriving at Ellis Island, she and her brother were reunited with their parents.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

When I was Young in the Mountains

This book depicts the everyday happenings of the lives of an elderly Appalachian couple as seen through the eyes of their granddaughter. Appalachian culture is presented from a very positive perspective and the concept of regions is reinforced.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

When Jessie Came Across the Sea

This is the story of a 13-year-old girl who crosses the ocean from Eastern Europe to America. It proudly displays the courage that immigrants must possess when traveling to America.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

The White Express: A Story About Adoption

Four baby girls in China await the arrival of their new adoptive families. These families prepare to bring the girls to their new homes in North America.
K-2 A, B
White Socks Only

When Grandma was a little girl in Mississippi, she went into town one sizzling hot day to see if she could fry an egg on the sidewalk. Soon she was thirsty. The water fountain said “Whites Only,” so Grandma took off her shoes and stepped right up in her clean white socks. Suddenly she was thrown to the ground. “Can’t you read, girl?” a big white man yelled at her. But the black community pulled together, and bigotry got a slap in the face.

Who Belongs Here? An American Story

This is the story of Nary, a Cambodian refugee who flees his war-torn country to come to America. Many of his classmates tease him and call him “chink,” telling him to go back to his native country. Issues of prejudice and tolerance are addressed.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

This story is about a small boy named Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge. His house was next door to an old people’s home, and he knew all the people who lived there. His favorite was Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper, because she had four names too. In an effort to help preserve her memory, Wilfrid fills a basket full of objects to spark Miss Nancy’s memories.
Students use knowledge of geographic locations, patterns and processes to show the interrelationship between the physical environment and human activity, and to explain the interactions that occur in an increasingly interdependent world.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:
By the end of the K-2 program:

A. Identify the location of the state of Ohio, the United States, the continents and oceans on maps, globes and other geographic representations.
B. Identify physical and human features of places.
C. Explain how environmental processes influence human activity and ways humans depend on and adapt to the environment.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

A. Use map elements or coordinates to locate physical and human features of North America.
B. Identify the physical and human characteristics of places and regions in North America.
C. Identify and explain ways people have affected the physical environment of North America and analyze the positive and negative consequences.
D. Analyze ways that transportation and communication relate to patterns of settlement and economic activity.
All the Places to Love

On the day Eli is born, his grandmother holds him up to the window, so that the first thing he hears is the wind, and what he sees first are all the places to love: the valley, the river, the hilltop where blueberries grow. Everyone in Eli’s family has a favorite place, and Eli will grow up knowing that no matter where his life takes him, all the places to love are right here, connected to a way of life that has time for love, affection and simple pleasures. This is an excellent resource for teaching the concept of place.

K-2 B, C  3-5 B

The Amazing Pop-Up Geography Book
Kate Petty (2000). Dutton Juvenile Publishers

Here is a geography book that pops up, spins, and reveals many of the world’s features in three-dimensional form. Scientific, political, and geographical information is presented in an easy-to-absorb, lighthearted way, so even the reluctant geographer will have no problem mastering the basics and more.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

America Is . . .

This picture book describes many aspects of America in terms of physical features, regions, symbols, and people. By the book’s end, the text and beautiful illustrations help the reader more fully understand the complex and diverse characteristics that make up our nation.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B, D

The Armadillo from Amarillo

An armadillo name Sasparillo wonders how big the entire world is and where his place on earth and in the universe might be. He leaves his home in San Antonio and travels north through the canyons and prairies of Texas. In Amarillo, he meets an eagle and with her help he finds the answers to his questions.

K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B

Around the World: Who’s Been Here?
Lindsay Barrett, George (1999). Greenwillow Books

A teacher, Miss Lewis, travels around the world aboard the ship Explorer and views animals in their natural habitats. From Antarctica to Kenya, China to Alaska, there are natural wonders to observe and logical clues to piece together.
She reports her findings and experiences in photographs and sketches and sends these along with letters back to the students in her classroom.

K-2 A, B  
3-5 A, B, D
Bananas-From Manolo to Margie
George Ancona (1982). Clarion Books
This story follows a crop of bananas from a plantation in Honduras to the breakfast table of a child in the United States. Along the way the bananas are handled by many workers and carried on different forms of transportation.
K-2 B, C  3-5 A, B, C, D

Blast Off to Earth! : A Look at Geography
Loreen Leedy (1992). Holiday House
Mr. Quark takes his class, which are all aliens, aboard a spaceship on a field trip to earth to learn about geography. The students learn about the earth’s surface, the poles, equator, and the continents. As the class visits each continent, they learn details about the area’s physical characteristics, the people, and the animals.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B, C, D

Brooklyn: Then and Now
Marcia Reiss (2002).
Physical features of the city such as bridges, buildings, and storefronts are shown in this informative book, showing the remarkable changes that have taken place in the Brooklyn from the early years until now. History and culture are both highlighted.
K-2 B  3-5 B, C, D

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky, A Message from Chief Seattle
Susan Jeffers (2002).
During the 1850s, Chief Seattle, head of the Suqamish and Duwamish Indians, spoke to the white man about the importance of preserving the earth. His speech eloquently conveys the message that we must respect the Earth and all it has on it.
K-2 B, C  3-5 B, C

The Coast Mappers
This beautifully illustrated book describes difficulties encountered by George Davidson and others as they attempted to create nautical charts to complete the U.S. Coast Survey of the West Coast in the mid-nineteenth century. This book provides insight into what California was like just after the gold rush, how difficult it was to travel to remote places in our country at that time, and what some of the relations were like with local Native Americans in that region. Cartographic methods are explained throughout.
K-2 A, B  3-5 A, D
Exploring and Mapping the American West

This book describes the exploration and mapping of the American West beginning with prehistoric Indian maps. Students will learn about Spanish explorers, the expeditions of Lewis and Clark, and the mapping done by the U.S. Army and the railroad companies.

K-2  A, B, C    3-5  A, B, C, D

The Floating House

In 1815, the McClure family floats down the Ohio River in a flatboat loaded with all their worldly possessions. They are looking for Jeffersonville, Indiana where they will build their new home. As they get closer, the children, Mary and Jonathan wonder the timeless question—"when will we get there?" A helpful map of their trip is provided on the inside flap.

K-2  A, B, C    3-5  A, B, C, D

Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest

A man goes into the forest to chop down the great Kapok tree. The animals of the forest watch him to see what he is going to do. After the man becomes tired and falls asleep in the forest, all of the animals come out to plead with the sleeping man not to chop down the trees. When the man wakes up, he is so amazed to see all of the animals of the forest standing around him. He picks up the ax and leaves the forest.

K-2  A, B, C    3-5  A

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

Since the market is closed and the reader wants to make an apple pie, you are led around the world to get what you need. From the jungles of Sri Lanka to the apple orchards of Vermont, the apple pie ingredients are collected and finally put together. A recipe for baking an apple pie is included in the back of the book.

K-2  A, B, C    3-5  A, B, C, D

If You’re Not from the Prairie

Children who do not know what it is like to live in the prairie can read this book and gain a better understanding through words and pictures. Written to give a perspective and appreciation of a region not often fully understood, the
author and illustrator do an excellent job of bringing out the best qualities of prairie life.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D
In My Own Backyard

Told with a sense of mystery, this story follows the views of a child who looks out her window to see her backyard in various time periods, from prehistoric times through the ice age, the settlement by Native Americans, and later modern immigrants. Wonderful illustrations allow for different historical and environmental perspectives to be highlighted.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Kids Learn America: Bringing Geography to Life with People, Places and History

Organized by regions, this book allows for coloring while providing a great deal of factual and interesting information about the geography, history, and culture of the states and territories of the United States.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Letters From Felix: A Little Rabbit on a World Tour

When a stuffed rabbit is accidentally left behind at an airport, it begins to travel the world sending postcards of each of his visits to his owner. Felix’s stops include England, Egypt, France, Italy, Kenya, and the United States.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Life in San Francisco’s Chinatown
Sally Senzell Isaacs (2002). Heinemann

This book describes what life might have been like for a Chinese immigrant living in San Francisco’s Chinatown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Family life, traditions, education, occupations, clothing, and food are all examined.
K-2  C  3-5  B, C, D

Maps and Globes
Jack Knowlton (1986). Harper Trophy

This book introduces children to maps and globes providing a brief history of mapmaking and how to read maps and globes. The maps tell you about the world, where various countries are located and how to find your way around your home town.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B
Me on the Map

A child describes her place in the world starting with her room and going out to locate her house, town, state, country, and world using a map for each. Each two-page layout provides both a ground level and bird’s eye view of the area being “mapped.”
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Mist Over the Mountains: Appalachia and Its People

This book illustrates the Appalachian culture, and it’s people, landforms, ways of life, and origins. It lays out facts about the area to portray an accurate description of the Appalachian features rather than its stereotype. There are color pictures throughout the book showing the scenic areas, housing, people, work, religion, and crafts of the culture.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

Mountain Alphabet

This book makes the case that there is much more to a mountain than first may meet the eye. While looking for hidden objects in the wonderfully illustrated pictures that start with each letter of the alphabet, the reader is provided details that one can typically find in the mountains, including types of trees, flowers, differing terrain, and natural inhabitants.
K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

My House Has Stars
Megan McDonald, Peter Catalanotto (1996). Orchard Books

This book has children from around the world describe their homes. While each home is unique in how it reflects the child’s own culture and geographic location, each home shares one common bond—stars that shine overhead every night.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D

NY Public Library (2002). Andrea Sutcliffe, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Over two hundred questions and answers provide information about the climate, landforms, people, and places of the United States. Topics include: The United States in the world, weather and climate, land and water, people and places and a look at each of the unique regions that make up this country.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C, D
Next Stop, New York City!: The Polk Street Kids on Tour
Patricia Reilly Giff (1997).

Students have a chance to travel with Ms. Rooney’s class as they visit New York City including trips to the Museum of Natural History, the Bronx Zoo, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty and many other exciting places. Includes a guide for visiting New York City.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Night in the Country

In the country the darkness of the night awakens the animals. Night in the country describes the different things that happen and the peacefulness it brings. This book helps students understand the world around them during that time when they are fast asleep.
K-2  B, C  3-5 B, C

Nine O’Clock Lullaby

When it’s 9 P.M. in Brooklyn, it’s 10 P.M. in Puerto Rico, and midnight on the mid-Atlantic. Far from the vroom of New York traffic, the Puerto Rican night is filled with conga music, sweet rice, and fruit ice. In India, villagers begin their morning chores as well ropes squeak, buckets splash, and bracelets jangle. Meanwhile, in Australia, a sly kookaburra is ready for a noontime feast. This book takes the reader through different time zones and distant lands on a delightful bedtime journey.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C

Oh Say Can You Say What’s the Weather Today? All About Weather
Tish Rabe (2004). Random House Books for Young Readers

This book is one in a series from the Cat in the Hat Learning Library. In this story, the Cat and company travel by hot air balloon up and into various weather phenomena including rain, snow, thunder, tornadoes, and even hurricanes. Along the way they learn about thermometers, anemometers, wind vanes, cloud formations, humidity, fog, smog, weather folklore, and how to stay safe in lightning.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Our Earth

This book provides simple, easy to understand information about the North and South Poles, how an island is born, the path water takes to the sea, hot
deserts, damp caves, high mountains, and tropical forests, all in rhythmic text with watercolor illustrations.

K-2  A, B, C  
3-5  A, B, C
P is for Passport: A World Alphabet
Devin Scillian (2003)

With each letter of the alphabet, the reader is taken to a different part of the globe to explore the lands, animals and cultures from around the world. A wide variety of topics are explored as each letter page highlights as many cross-cultural references as possible around a particular theme.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Paddle-to-the-Sea

This is a story about a small Indian boy who carves a canoe and travels through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. While his journey continues, the book shows a pictorial story of the historical and geological background the land holds.
K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D

Peter’s Place
Sally Grindley, Michael Foreman (1996). Harcourt Brace

Peter plays on the shores by his home everyday, exploring and enjoying the wide variety of life that thrives there. One day an oil tanker crashes nearby and spills its load into the sea, almost destroying Peter’s special place. Peter, and many others help clean and scrub in an effort to rescue the habitat. The fragile aspect of nature is taught along with the value of working together to help make a difference.
K-2  B, C  3-5  C, D

Possum Magic

This book is the tale of a young possum who wants to be visible again. Her grandmother helps her try to find the spell that works. The author takes us on a journey around the Australian countryside to make this wish a reality.
K-2  A, B

Railroad Fever: Building the Transcontinental Railroad 1830-1870
Monica Halpern (2004). National Geographic Children’s Books

By the 1840s, daring Americans were trickling westward to begin a new life in the great wide open. Construction problems and hard times confronted American workers, Chinese immigrants, and former slaves.
K-2  C  3-5  C, D
A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History

A wonderfully illustrated book which tells the history of the Nashua river (in what is now Massachusetts). Tells the Native Americans’ perspective on how to live with the river. An important message here is that people can work together to make a positive change, stressing a sense of efficacy.
K-2   B, C  3-5   A, B, C, D

The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle
Lynne Cherry (2004). Farrar, Straus and Giroux

This book follows the life cycle of the mangrove, from seedling to a tree, to a tangle of trees, to an island of trees, for over 100 years. Richly illustrated, this book stresses the interdependence found in a complex ecosystem and the value such systems have for other plants, animals, and humans. Maps of mangroves from around the world are included.
K-2   B, C  3-5   B, C

Scrambled States of America

It was starting out to be an ordinary day in the good old U.S. of A. when the states were waking up and enjoying the beautiful sunrise. At the first annual states party, Virginia and Idaho devise a plan to swap spots so each other could see another part of the country and before the party is over all of the states switch places. At the end all of the states return to their correct spot on the map.
K-2   A, B  3-5   A, B

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Deborah Hopkinson, James Ransome (1993). Alfred A. Knopf

Clara, who works as a seamstress in the Big House, dreams of the day when she and her mother can run away together—north to freedom. When Clara hears two slaves talking about how they could find the Underground Railroad if they only had a map, she sews a map of the land—a freedom quilt—that no master will ever suspect.
K-2   A, B  3-5   A, B, D

There’s a Map in My Lap! All about Maps
Tish Rabe (2002). Random House Children’s Books

The Cat in the Hat introduces readers to maps including city, state, and world. The book includes the differences in between globes and atlases and provides information on the tools that are used to read maps, such as symbols, scales and compasses. Throughout the book there are fun facts about the places they visit.
K-2  A, B, C  
3-5  A, B, C, D
**Tundra Discoveries**

This book takes a look at the tundra through a month-by-month walk-through. From April to April, each season is examined in this little known region of the world focusing on how the climate changes affect the animal life, vegetation, and the residents of the Tundra.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

**U. S. Geography Journey**
Linda Adelman (1994). Galef Institute

U.S. Geography Journey uses motivating activities like mysteries, match-ups, and searches to teach children about U.S. geography. This book covers concepts of latitude, longitude, map symbols, and more.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

**When I was Young in the Mountains**

This book depicts the everyday happenings of the lives of an elderly Appalachian couple as seen through the eyes of their grand-daughter. Appalachian culture is presented from a very positive perspective and the concept of regions is reinforced.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

**Where Do I Live?**

This book begins in a child’s room, places it in a home, on a street, in a town, in a city, in a state, country, continent, and finally the planet Earth. The child is then drawn back to their home and starts to question about where they live in the world.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A

**Where in the World?: Around the Globe in Thirteen Works of Art**

Paintings and photographs of places from around the world are displayed. Accompanying each picture is information about the artist and the area of the world represented in the art. This book provides an excellent avenue to integrate visual arts into the study of place and perspective.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B
Window

This book depicts changes to the environment as observed by a boy from the window of his room at various stages of his life (i.e. as a baby to age 24 as the father of a baby). No text is provided, only wonderful pictures that view the same scene at two-year intervals with each turn of the page.

K-2 C  3-5 C

World of Wonders: Geographic Travels in Verse and Rhyme

This book incorporates interesting geography and people facts in poetic form. The reader travels the globe to discover amazing things about interesting spaces and places in the world and, in the process, gets answers to questions such as, how to tell latitude from longitude and how the Sandwich Islands got their name.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C, D
Economics

Students use economic reasoning skills and knowledge of major economic concepts, issues and systems in order to make informed choices as producers, consumers, savers, investors, workers and citizens in an interdependent world.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:
A. Explain how the scarcity of resources requires people to make choices to satisfy their wants.
B. Distinguish between goods and services and explain how people can be both buyers and sellers of goods and services.
C. Explain ways that people may obtain goods and services.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

A. Explain the opportunity costs involved in the allocation of scarce productive resources.
B. Explain why entrepreneurship, capital goods, technology, specialization and division of labor are important in the production of goods and services.
C. Explain how competition affects producers and consumers in a market economy and why specialization facilitates trade.
Apple Farmer Annie
Monica Wellington (2004). Puffin Books

Annie is a young girl who is in charge of caring for an orchard. Every fall Annie picks the apples and turns them into applesauce, apple cider, apple cake, and apple muffins. She saves the best apples so that she can sell them at the market.

K-2  B, C  3-5  A, B, C

Abuela’s Weave

Esperanza and her grandmother work hard at their weaving to produce goods for the market in a nearby Guatemalan town. They wonder if it will be possible for them to produce the beautiful items that people will buy, especially since the items sold by other vendors are machine-made. Throughout the book a number of Guatemalan traditions and legends are discussed.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C

Apple Picking Time

Everybody helps out during apple picking time and there are only three weeks to get everything done. This book follows the daily routines of the apple pickers as they take off from their regular jobs for this seasonal family and community event, including the satisfaction of having a half-moon punched in your purple ticket for a full load. Apple recipes and “purple ticket arithmetic” activities are included.

K-2  B, C  3-5  A, B, C

Arthur’s Funny Money

Arthur has a problem – he needs to buy a T-shirt and matching cap for his Frisbee team, but he does not have enough money. His little sister wants help with her numbers problem. Together they decide to go into business, washing bikes. Many dilemmas are encountered along the way and both learn important business principles in the process.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C
A Band of Angels
Hopkinson, Deborah (1999). Atheneum Books for Young Readers
This book describes the life of the narrator’s great grandmother, Ella, and her ambition to attend college. Ella was 14 years old when the Civil War and slavery ended and, at that time, it was very rare to see African-Americans attending college. But Ella saved all of her money from playing the piano and scrubbing clothes to attend Fisk School in Nashville. While at school, she joins the school’s chorus because of her piano talent and her amazing voice. The chorus group was told that their school building was in need of repair, but the school lacked the funds to fix it. To raise money to repair the building, the choir goes on the road to perform.
K-2   A, B, C   3-5  A, B, C

Behind the Mountains
Celiane is a young girl who lives in Haiti. During election time, her family travels from their rural home to the capital city of Port-au-Prince, where bombs are exploding. Celiane and her mother are nearly killed. Celiane experiences a new desire to be reunited with her father in Brooklyn, New York. After moving there, she sees the difficulties that her family is still facing, such as finding jobs and dealing with a new school.
K-2   A   3-5  A

Benny’s Pennies
Benny McBride has five pennies to spend and strolls through the afternoon sun deciding what to buy. Instead of being selfish he ends up buying goods for his family, and nothing for himself. In the process, young readers learn not only about generosity but also the difference between goods and services.
K-2   A, B   3-5  A

The Big Green Pocketbook
A little girl goes to town to run errands with her mother and carries her big green pocketbook with her, to match her mother’s blue one. But she is not sure what to do with it. During the day many stores and businesses are visited and, along the way, she finds many interesting and helpful ways to put her purse to good use.
K-2   B, C   3-5  B
Bunny Cakes.

Max and Ruby, a brother and sister, are going to make their grandmother a birthday cake. Max makes a birthday cake out of mud and earthworms. Ruby then tells him that they are going to make an angel surprise cake with raspberry icing. Max wanted to help Ruby, but he dropped the eggs. Ruby sent him to the store with a list of things to get, and Max added red-hot marshmallow squirters to the list. The grocer gave Max the eggs. Max returned home, and spilled the milk, and eventually the flour. Each time, Ruby sends him back to the store Max adds red-hot marshmallow squirters to the list. But the grocer is not able to read Max’s writing. Finally, Max heads back to the store for more supplies and draws a picture of the red-hot marshmallow squirters. The grocer understands and both bunnies are able to finish making their cake to the delight of their grandmother, who loves both cakes equally.

K-2   A, B, C  3-5   A

Bunny Money

In this book Max and Ruby go shopping to buy their grandmother a birthday present. Ruby has saved some money, and she takes her brother along to help pick out a gift for their grandma. Little by little, they make some not-so-good choices and their supply of money decreases. They then realize that they don’t have enough money, and must start over on their decisions of how to best spend the money.

K-2   A, B, C  3-5   A

A Chair For My Mother
Vera B. Williams (1982). Scholastic

After all their furniture is lost in a house fire, family members save coins to buy a comfortable chair. The mother, a waitress in the Blue Tile Diner, empties all the change from tips out of her purse nightly. She, her mother and daughter count the money and put it in a large jar. When the jar is completely full, they go out to buy the most beautiful, fattest, softest armchair they can find.

K-2   A, B, C  3-5   A

Dan’s Pants
Merle Good, Cheryl A. Benner (illustrator) (2004). Good Books

Dan is a sales man who goes around town wearing funny looking pants while he sales fabric to his customers. Every season his wife makes him a new pair of pants from the fabric that he sells. Imagine having ninety pairs of these attention-grabbing pants. Dan’s collection grows in size with each passing year.
This book, based on a true story, provides some insight to what country stores and other small businesses might have looked like in the past.

K-2  B, C          3-5  B, C
**Down Buttermilk Lane**  
This story follows an Amish family as they travel in their buggy to the local village where they visit and do errands. Many of the cultural ways of the Amish are interwoven in the dialogue and pictures.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B  

**Eyewitness Books: Money**  
This book provides hundreds of interesting pictures and drawings that follow the history of money, discusses various forms of trade, looks at money from nations around the world, and examines the role of checks and credit cards. A timeline and glossary are also provided.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B  

**Esperanza Rising**  
Pam Muñoz Ryan (2002). Scholastic, Inc.  
Right before the Great Depression, Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their home in Mexico where they have wealth and privilege to live in Southern California. In their new setting they have to face and adjust to the harsh circumstances of being Mexican farm workers.  
K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B  

**Family Farm**  
Thomas Locker (1988). Dial Books  
A farm family nearly loses their home until they hit on the idea of growing and selling pumpkins and flowers to supplement their corn and milk sales. Wonderfully illustrated throughout, this book shows the value of determination and diversification.  
K-2 A, B  3-5 A, B, C  

**From Plant to Blue Jeans: A Photo Essay**  
This book explores the step-by-step process how the cotton plant is used to make clothing, specifically, blue jeans. The harvesting of the cotton, the weaving process, and the sewing of the final product are all included.  
K-2 C  3-5 B, C  

**Get Growing**  
This book examines the challenges of keeping the Earth's people supplied with food. Methods to conserve nutrients in the soil along with other effective
farming techniques are discussed along with conservation issues such as deforestation and dust bowl problems.
K-2  A, B  3-5  A, B, C
The Gift.
A little girl receives her Hanukkah money and tries to decide on how to best spend it. Nothing seems quite right until she hears the soft melody of street musician's accordion. Suddenly, she knows what her gift is for. In addition to the concepts of scarcity and opportunity costs, an important message of the value of charity for both the giver and the receiver is presented.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The Go-Around Dollar
Each two-page layout simultaneously follows the course of a dollar bill that Matt finds on his way home from school as it passes from owner to owner and while also providing factual information and interesting anecdotes about dollar bills.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

The Goat in the Rug
Geraldine, a goat, describes each step as she and her Navajo friend go through to make a rug, from the hair clipping and carding to the dyeing and actual weaving. The pride and attention to detail that goes into making handmade crafts, as well as the need and importance of cooperation, are all highlighted.
K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Lemonade for Sale
In order to fix their clubhouse a group of young children decides to set up a lemonade stand to raise money. They use bar graphs to help them keep track of how much they are selling. After a sudden drop in sales, the children learn that they have some heavy competition. They decide to invite the competition to set up his lemonade stand beside theirs and are surprised to discover that sales drastically increase.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C
Little Nino’s Pizzeria
Tony is a young boy who helps his father at his pizzeria, Little Nino’s, by kneading the pizza dough, stirring sauce, grating cheese, and bussing tables. Nino, Tony’s father, has such a successful pizzeria, that a businessman came to talk with him about opening a more fancy and expensive restaurant. Tony’s father closes his small restaurant. Tony later discovers that he misses the old way of doing things and decides that he will reopen his small pizzeria. This time he will rename the restaurant, Little Tony’s.
K-2  B, C  3-5  B, C

Make Way for Ducklings
Robert McCloskey (1941). The Viking Press
Mr. & Mrs. Mallard are looking for a place to live. Every time Mr. Mallard finds a place, Mrs. Mallard says it is not a good place to raise a family. They finally decide on a place in Boston along the Charles River. Mrs. Mallard has eight ducklings and decides to leave the Charles River site and settle in the Boston Commons. The trip from the river to the Commons becomes quite a problem for Michael, the policeman, who oversees the adventure.
K-2  A

Mama is a Miner
This story is about a little girl’s feelings about having a Mama who works in the coalmines of Kentucky. The descriptive text and beautiful illustrations take the reader down the crowded mantrip car into the heart of Black Mountain for a peek at the life of a miner. Included are also informative sections about the mining industry.
K-2  B, C  3-5  B, C

Market
This book describes, in simple text and rich illustrations, the special characteristics of different types of markets throughout the world. Some of the sites visited include: Fulton Fish Markets in New York; a market high in the Andes Mountains; Durbar Square in Patan; a small village market in Ireland; and many more.
K-2  B, C  3-5  B, C
**Milk Makers**  
In order for cows to make good milk, they must eat special feed. From beginning to end, this book takes the reader through the process of milk production, providing a great opportunity to teach children about producers and consumers.

K-2  B, C  
3-5  B, C

**My Rows and Piles of Coins**  
This book is about a young boy, Saruni, who wants a bike more than anything else. He receives money from his mother and father for helping on market day. He saves his money, but is unable to save enough for the cost of the bike. In the end his parents give him a bike as a reward for his help and efforts.

K-2  A, B  
3-5  A

**Ultimate Kids’ Money Book**  
This book provides an overview of economics and money, including earning, spending, saving, checks and credit cards, banks, and the history of money.

K-2  A, B, C  
3-5  A, B

**A New Coat for Anna**  
Set in post-World War II, Anna’s mother barters valuable items with her neighbors for wool and the services needed, such as spinning, weaving, and tailoring, so that she can have a coat. It culminates with a Christmas party in which all the people who contributed to the coat are invited.

K-2  A, B, C  
3-5  A, B

**Once Upon a Company… A True Story**  
This book is a true story about a sister and brother who are bored and decide to start their own company selling Christmas wreaths. It goes through the steps that they have to take to start their own business. They decide to save all of the profit they make and put it in a college fund. The book follows the children through six years and shows how their company expands, and starts selling new products and adding distributors. They end up making over sixteen thousand dollars for their college fund.

K-2  B, C  
3-5  B, C

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Ox Cart Man

Describes the yearly economic cycle of a New England family in the early nineteenth century. The cottage industry of the family, the system of trade, and the daily routines of the seasons are described in this classic text.
K-2   B, C   3-5   B, C

Pancakes, Pancakes

When Jack wakes up and wants pancakes for breakfast. Jack’s mother agrees, but requires Jack’s help to gather all the necessary ingredients. He is sent in pursuit of the wheat that must be cut and threshed and taken to the miller, the eggs from the hen, and the milk from the cow to be made into butter, and the jam that goes on top. Illustrated in Eric Carle’s well-known style.
K-2   A, B, C   3-5   A, B

Potato: A Tale From the Great Depression
Kate Lied (1997). National Geographic Society

Clarence lost his job and the bank forecloses on his house. Since there were no jobs available, Clarence, his wife Agnes, and daughter Dorothy set off for Idaho. They borrowed a car and money for gas and left to find a job in Idaho picking potatoes, where Clarence and his family were allowed to have the leftover potatoes from the fields. They traded potatoes for other things, such as groceries. Eventually, they earned enough money to go home.
K-2   A, B, C   3-5   A, B

Reuben and the Quilt
Merle Good (1999). Good Books

This is the story of an Amish family who works to help a friend in a time of need. One of Reuben’s neighbors became ill and needed money to have an operation. In order to raise the money, Reuben’s entire family sewed a quilt to sell at an auction. The day before the auction, the quilt disappears off the front porch. Disappointed and upset, Reuben’s family nearly gives up. However, the father had an idea that results in the quilt being returned safely. Enough money was raised to complete the neighbor’s operation and the generous grocery store owner who bought the quilt gave it to the neighbor to stay warm under as he rested.
K-2   A, B, C   3-5   A, B
Saturday’s Sancocho

Wanting to make chicken sancocho for their usual Saturday meal, but not having money or the needed ingredients, Maira’s mother takes what she does have (a dozen eggs) to the market. Here she sells and barters back and forth until all the necessary items are obtained. Included in the book is a recipe for making chicken sancocho.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B

A Street Called Home

An accordion style flap-book written about African American life at the turn of the century, which takes place in a shantytown called the Blackberry Patch in Columbus, Ohio. Look inside the figure flaps to learn about the Chickenfoot Woman, the Vegetable Man, the Rag Man, and all the others who were merchants on Mount Vernon Avenue at that time.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B, C

The Story of Money

This book takes a historical look at the “evolution” of money from the early days of bartering to the present use of credit cards. It also explores the many forms that money has taken across many parts of the world.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A, B

Something Special for Me
Vera B. Williams (1983). Greenwillow

Rosa’s mother and grandmother decide to let her shop for her own birthday present from the jar of money they had saved. Rosa had trouble deciding what to buy – she wants something special that everyone can enjoy. Finally, she buys a new chair big enough to hold them all.

K-2  A, B, C  3-5  A

Uncle Jed’s Barbershop

Sarah Jean’s Uncle Jed is the only African-American barber in the county. He dreams of opening his own barbershop some day. When Sarah Jean is in need of an operation, Uncle Jed loans her parents money from his “barbershop” savings. Then, when the bank fails during the Great Depression all of Uncle Jed’s savings are gone for a second time. Finally, on his 79th birthday, Uncle Jed opens his own barbershop. The life of a poor southern African-American family in the first half of the twentieth century is recalled by the author.

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K-2 A, B, C
3-5 A, B, C
Warm as Wool

The hardships of one of the early pioneer families to Northwest Ohio are told in this story. A vivid picture of life on the frontier is described as well as the strength of a mother’s love determined to keep her family warm. In the process, she buys sheep, works to keep them safe, shears wool, and goes through each of the steps to create warm clothing for her family.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
Students use knowledge of the purposes, structures and processes of political systems at the local, state, national and international levels in order to understand that people create systems of government as structures of power and authority to provide order, maintain stability and promote the general welfare.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

**Benchmarks:**

By the end of the K-2 program:

A. Identify elected leaders and authority figures in the home, school and community and explain reasons for having persons in authority.

B. Recognize and explain the importance of symbols and landmarks of the United States.

C. Explain the purposes of rules in different settings and the results of adherence to, or violation of, the rules.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

A. Identify the responsibilities of the branches of the United States government and explain why they are necessary.

B. Give examples of documents that specify the structure of state and national governments in the United States and explain how these documents foster self-government in a democracy.
**America: A Patriotic Primer**  

The author chooses twenty-six people and ideas from American’s past - one for every letter of the alphabet -- to celebrate the nation’s “history, diversity, tenacity, and faith.” Examples covered from the book include: Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence, as well as concepts such as heroes, patriotism, and suffrage.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

**America Votes: How Our President is Elected**  

The book tells the history of voting and who was allowed to vote throughout history. It also describes the different political parties, what the president does, and how the electoral college works.

3-5 A, B

**The American Flag**  

This book traces the history of the flag. From the Grand Union Flag to the flag we know today. This book provides fast facts about our nation’s flag and dispels old myths. This book provides a timeline of the history of the American Flag.

K-2 B, C  3-5 A, B

**American Too**  

This book is about a girl who first sees the Statue of Liberty when arriving in America and decides she wants to be just like it. This girl believes that anything is possible for her. In the book she does everything she can to fit in and be like an American girl, such as change her name, food, find her own husband and most of all, be free. Her father wants her to be the queen at the Italian feast of San Gennaro. She refuses because it is not modern; she wants to show everyone that she really is American. She decides to surprise everyone and show up at the feast dressed like the Statue of Liberty, which makes her dream come true.

K-2 B, C  3-5 B
The American Wei

The American Wei is a story about a little boy and his parents who are all just about to become citizens of the United States through a process called naturalization. On the way to the ceremony the little boy loses his tooth on the sidewalk. In an effort to find it, people from all over the world help with the search. Finally, the tooth is found and the ceremony takes place. The family took the “Oath of Allegiance” and then said the “Pledge of Allegiance: and ended with the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B

Ballot Box Battle

In this story of women’s rights leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Stanton tells a young girl her inspirational tale of her struggle for women’s equality. Throughout the book, McCully’s theme is to encourage readers to have faith in themselves and their possibilities.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 B

Capital! Washington D.C. from A to Z

The author explores the many museums, memorials, and monuments that make up Washington D.C. Readers travel to the White House, learn how bills are printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and take a peek at a session of Congress. Many fascinating facts about famous people and places are shared.

3-5 A, B

The Constitution

This text describes what life was like before the Constitution. It gives a comparison of what a game would be like without rules and what our country would be like without laws. It explains how and why the Constitution was created and ratified and the significance of the Bill of Rights.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Constitution Translated for Kids

This book actually breaks down the hard-to-read Constitution into understandable “kids” language. This creative book helps students become familiar with the U.S. Constitution as the actual Constitution is located right above the “translated” information.
K-2 A, B, C
D is for Democracy a Citizen’s Alphabet  
This book takes the reader through the government’s structure from A-Z. It gives the reader definitions of basic components and concepts of the government.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

A Day in Court with Mrs. Trinh  
This book allows readers to follow a legal aid attorney throughout her day. The reader experiences her duties and responsibilities including researching a case, putting together a “proof,” and conferring with her client.  
K-2 A, B, C

Don’t Know Much about the Presidents  
This book gives children fun facts and achievements of the presidents. It also tells how life in the White House has changed over the years.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A

Duck for President  
Duck was tired of the farmer’s rules, so he decided to hold an election for a new president. Skilled in the art of campaigning, Duck wins the election! The book tells the reader how a person runs for office and about the voting process.  
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Election Day  
Election Day is a book that focuses on the role of the American citizen in our government. It discusses the importance of voting and different ways to vote, as well as the significance voting has in our interaction with the government.  
K-2 A, B, C

The Executive Branch  
How can someone become president? The duties and responsibilities of the president are clearly outlined with corresponding pictures. This book
discusses the importance of the Executive Branch of the United States government.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
The Flag We Love

_The Flag We Love_ presents a journey through the history of our nation’s most enduring symbol. Enjoy a red-white-and-blue introduction to our country’s steadfast ideals: pride, individual rights, respect, honor, patriotism and more. This memorable book will remind you that you do indeed have a flag to love!

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

George Washington’s Teeth

This book describes one of the highly known and most parodied facts of our first president. Two portrayals of the story are given: a rhyming poetry version and an expository version with excerpts from his diary. Also described are scenes from Washington’s life, including family, wartime experiences, and home life.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

Grandaddy’s Gift

Little Joe and her brother and sisters live with their grandparents in Mississippi. One night grandpa takes the children to a meeting that is about blacks trying to vote and about the segregation laws. He volunteers to go to town the next day and register to vote. It was very dangerous for them to stand up for their rights, but he decides to do it anyway. After they arrive, grandpa finds out that he has to take a test on the Mississippi Constitution. While a lawyer helps him, many people get mad and won’t let him buy things from their stores. Some of Little Joe’s friends are not allowed to play with her. Grandpa passes the test. When Little Joe turns 18 she registers to vote, and all she had to do is fill out a card. Her grandpa even goes with her.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney!

_Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney!_ is a story of the people of a small town getting ready to celebrate Independence Day. It focuses on pride, multiculturalism, and the different ways to celebrate the 4th of July. The book also contains a fact page about the American flag, the Bald Eagle, the Declaration of Independence, and other components of Independence Day.

K-2 A, B, C
The Hatmaker’s Sign: A Story of Benjamin Franklin  

This book describes the friendship between two major leaders in our country’s history, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. As changes were being made to Jefferson’s work (the Declaration of Independence), Franklin tries to comfort him with a story about a hat maker and his sign.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

House Mouse, Senate Mouse  

America’s mice have a government very similar to our own. Mrs. Tuftmouse’s class is learning all about the government, and writes a letter to Congress about a law to designate a national cheese. They send it off to Washington, where the Squeaker of the House and the Mouse-jority Leader take a look at it and create a bill. The reader is then taken through the process of how a bill becomes a law, showing each step and who is involved. There is even a debate of opinions over which cheese would be the best for the American mice. They finally settle on American cheese as the National cheese, because although all the mice are different, they are all Americans. Mrs. Tuftmouse’s class celebrates when they find out that they were able to come together to create something to benefit all American mice.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

I Pledge Allegiance  

Children have been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance since 1892 and for about that long, they have found its words a bit confusing. This book gives children a chance to understand this patriotic poem once and for all.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

If a Bus Could Talk: Story of Rosa Parks  

Marcie, a young African American girl, gets on a bus one morning. It was not her usual bus but she didn’t want to be late for school, so she got on it anyway. This was not a normal bus though. It was a talking bus! After Marcie sat down, the bus kindly asked her to move to a different seat because that one is left open in remembrance of Rosa Parks on her birthday. The bus then begins to tell her the story of Rosa Parks and the beginning of the civil rights movement.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B
If I Were President

This book provides a simple description of the duties, responsibilities, and traditions of the office of the President to a little boy who is dreaming of becoming President of the United States. It gives information about the Constitutional requirements for president, as well as information about the job’s fun benefits.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Keeping You Safe: A Book About Police Officers

This book helps readers understand what a police officer does in order to keep the public safe. It portrays police officers in patrol cars, those on horseback, and those working with other officers of the K-9 unit. It highlights many of their important duties, such as taking fingerprints and arresting people who break laws. Words to know, further reading, and Web sites also are listed.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Know and Follow Rules

Rules are important to help keep everyone safe and to allow time for learning. Positive rules that are enforced in this story are using good manners and listening to others. Children can stay out of trouble and develop a sense of pride if they follow the rules. Activities and questions for children are included.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

The Lincoln Memorial

This book gives a detailed description of the Lincoln Memorial, where it is, how it was built and why. It also tells about President Abraham Lincoln and his life.
K-2 A, B, C

Little Miss Liberty

Little Miss Liberty describes the birth of Miss Liberty in Paris, and follows her as a toddler, reaching for the cookie jar and always looking a little green. She eventually outgrows her classmates, city, and country. As she sets out to travel the world, she finds just the right spot to settle.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
Lost at the White House: a 1909 Easter Story
This book describes the White House and President Taft in 1909 through the eyes of a young girl. When Rena gets lost during the egg roll, a guard allows her to meet President Taft.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

A More Perfect Union the Story of Our Constitution
This book tells why the Constitution was written. It also describes how the Constitution became such an important document to our country.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

My Grandma’s the Mayor
Annie does not quite understand the importance of her grandmother’s job until a problem arises, and her grandmother helps a family in need. Annie learns how she can help and is proud that her grandmother is a leader in her community.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

The Old Ladies Who Liked Cats
An island with a town in middle of it is kept safe because the Navy circles it. The island’s safety really depends on the way many things work together, such as the cows, clover, bees, mice, cats, and the old ladies who like the cats. The town realizes this when the mayor trips over a cat and makes a law keeping all cats inside at night. The chain falls apart one by one and invaders claim the island. The old ladies who like cats tell the mayor that the law must be reversed in order to save the island. The cats once again come out at night and the whole ecological chain is restored. They kick out the invaders and the island is safe once more.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

One Nation: America by the Numbers
Each number represents an important American symbol, landmark, or event. The states, Mount Rushmore, the Supreme Court, the Bill of Rights, the Statue of Liberty, and the 100 dollar bill are a few of the examples related to the U.S. government.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B
Papa's Mark

This is the story of a man named Samuel T. Blow. His son teaches him to write his name so he can cast his ballot in the first election in which African-Americans are allowed to vote.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

A Picnic in October

Tony and his family go to Liberty Island every year to celebrate the birthday of the Statue of Liberty. He thinks it is silly until he realizes what freedom really means when he meets a family who has just arrived in America. He learns the history behind the Statue of Liberty and why this symbol is important to his grandmother. Tony becomes proud instead of embarrassed.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Policeman Small

This book describes how a traffic cop enforces the law each day. We see Policeman Small directing traffic at his post, helping children safely cross the street, helping a fire truck and ambulance maneuver through the intersection, and even leading a parade on his motorcycle.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

The President and Mom's Apple Pie

This fictional story gives a humorous glimpse of President William H. Taft’s character and temptations. The author tells a vivid tale of Mr. Taft stopping in a town to dedicate a flagpole when he suddenly catches the scent of apple pie and completely abandons the ceremony. The author plays on Taft’s love of food and fun, as well as his large size.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

President's Day

President’s Day discusses the lives and achievements of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It teaches students the importance of the holiday that we celebrate every February.

K-2 A, B, C
Purple Mountain Majesties
This is the story of Katharine Lee Bates, author of “America the Beautiful”. We learn of the numerous acts Katharine did as a teacher and citizen of America. She was able to travel across the country and see all of its beauty, as well as many of its hardships. She worked for many years helping others in the community and writing poetry, which ended up becoming a song that unites all Americans. Katharine had visions for a better world and envisioned a country where everyone would join together to make a better life for everyone. The end discusses her song, and the praise she received from the American people for her efforts.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Red, White, and Blue The Story of the American Flag
This book tells the story and history of our nation’s flag. It also tells the different names the flag has been called. This book is a great example of how the flag has changed over the years.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 B

Rosa
This book is full of illustrations depicting Rosa Parks. Her famous ride is brought to life again as Rosa Parks’ actions of refusing to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama to a white man are remembered and celebrated.

K-2 A, B, C

Rushmore
Mt. Rushmore is explored through the steps of how it was created in South Dakota. The story revolves around the creators of this national symbol and how it came about. The pictures vividly depict the national pride behind the symbol.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B

Saving the Liberty Bell
Readers will experience the excitement that a small boy faces as he and his father are given a secret mission to transport the Liberty Bell during a Redcoat attack in Philadelphia. A mixture of folklore and historical fiction, this book
portrays events that might of occurred during the effort to preserve what today is one of our key national symbols.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
School Rules

Mrs. Toddle’s class was not listening very well. Three children decide to help the classroom by coming up with rules to help everyone get along. They discuss the problems and solutions with their classmates until they come up with a decision about how they want to treat each other.
K-2 A, B, C

Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution

The story of the trials and tensions that led up to the writing of the Constitution are laid out in this book, wonderfully illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Individual characteristics of key delegates, such as Ben Franklin and George Washington, help to personalize this historic event. The back of the book contains four pages of notes from delegates on the debates during the convention.
3-5 A, B

Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag

This book tells about the significance of the American flag. The book also explains how the flag has changed over the years and what the stars and stripes really stand for.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court has several duties and powers. This book discusses the system of checks and balances and provides information about the Chief Justices and their important decisions.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The U.S. Constitution and You

This book examines the Constitution and explains how it affects and protects people today. Detailed information about the federal government’s three branches is also provided, by referencing back to student’s own experiences.
K-2 A, B, C

Uncle Sam and Old Glory: Stories of America
Delno West, Jean West, Christopher Manson (2000), Atheneum Books.
Many of the stories behind the symbols of American history are explained in simple terms in this book, such as waving the American flag, playing with Lincoln logs, and eating turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

K-2 A, B, C  3-5 A, B
Voice of the People: American Democracy in Action
This book describes how and why the Constitution was created and how the different branches of the government was formed to balance the powers. It explains how the Senate and the House work and the differences between the duties of the national and the state governments. It also includes historical facts, a list of Presidents, amendments, and a glossary of terms.
3-5 A, B

Vote!
This book explains voting by using fictional characters that are running for office and following them through the campaign process to election day. Easy to read with pictures that are engaging, the reader is informed of the details of the entire election procedure. A timeline and glossary of key terms is also included.
3-5 A, B

We the Kids: A Preamble to the Constitution of the United States
This fun-filled book puts the Preamble into a child’s perspective! This book presents an introduction to the Preamble, which creates great discussions in the classroom.
K-2 A, B, C

We the People: The Constitution of the United States of American
The author takes the reader through the history of the Constitution and shows examples of how the Constitution was important to people when it was written and how it continues to be important to people today.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

When Mr. Jefferson Came To Philadelphia: What I Learned of Freedom, 1776
Readers get to see Thomas Jefferson through the eyes of Ned, a young boy who is part of a family Jefferson stays with in Philadelphia during the Second Continental Congress in 1776. The longer Mr. Jefferson stays, the more Ned forgets the simple wants of a young boy and gets caught up in the spirit of freedom that is sweeping the colonies.
K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B
What If Everybody Did That?

This book provides a whimsical look at the implications of what would happen if no one considered the impact of their actions. A child who drops a can out of the car window, races his cart at the grocery store, interrupts, and commits other transgressions is constantly asked, “what if everyone did that?”
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

What Presidents are Made Of

This book takes a look at seventeen presidents sharing characteristics and moments that are often not found in history books. Each president’s features are re-created in collage format, while anecdotes such as Ronald Reagan experiences with Bonzo the monkey, Andrew Jackson’s famous temper, and Theodore Roosevelt’s endless energy are shared. Factual information about every president is presented at the end of the book.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

Why Do We Have Rules?

Why Do We Have Rules? explains why we need rules within a society. It gives a brief discussion of how our government was created and how officials are elected.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B

Woodrow, the White House Mouse

Woodrow G. Washingtail takes the readers through rooms and special activities that are performed at the White House and describes some of the jobs that the president, also known as “the big cheese,” has to do. This is a book to introduce readers to the role of the United States President.
K-2 A, B, C  3-5  A, B
Students use knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in order to examine and evaluate civic ideals and to participate in community life and the American democratic system.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

**Benchmarks:**

**By the end of the K-2 program:**

A. Describe the results of cooperation in group settings and demonstrate the necessary skills.

B. Demonstrate personal accountability, including making choices and taking responsibility for personal actions.

**By the end of the 3-5 program:**

A. Explain how citizens take part in civic life in order to promote the common good.

B. Identify rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States that are important for preserving democratic government.
Amazing Grace
Grace loves stories and often acts them out, giving herself the most important parts. When her school puts on the play “Peter Pan,” Grace naturally wants to play Peter, but is told by a classmate that she “can’t” because “He isn’t black.” Supported by her family, Grace tries for the lead anyway and is so good that her classmates overwhelmingly vote to give her the part. Grace learns the value of believing in yourself and that anything can be done if you “put your mind to it.”
K-2 A,B

American Symbols: The White House
This book walks through the main parts of the White House. The book also discusses key vocabulary words. The book explains why the White House has become a symbol of liberty to the nation’s citizens.
K-2 A,B 3-5 A, B

The American Wei
The American Wei is a story about a little boy and his parents who are becoming citizens of the United States through a process called naturalization. On the way to the ceremony the little boy loses his tooth on the sidewalk. Finally, the tooth is found and the ceremony takes place. The family takes the “Oath of Allegiance” and then says the “Pledge of Allegiance, and the ceremony ends with singing the “Star Spangled Banner.”
K-2 B 3-5 A, B

Being Danny’s Dog
Ten-year-old T.R. and his brother, twelve-year-old Danny, move to Rose Mary Acres with their mother. They find new friends, as well as many community rules to follow.
3-5 A, B

The Bus Ride that Changed Everything: The Story of Rosa Parks
This is an introduction to Rosa Parks’ life in Alabama when it was a "Jim Crow" state with strict rules segregating people by race. The small sketches of several children help to illustrate and clarify the text. The repetition of “...because
one woman was brave“ underscores Rosa Parks’ impact as a part of the Civil Rights Movement.

3-5  A, B
Chicken Sunday

The author tells the story of her special neighbors, Stewart and Winston, and their grandmother, Eula Mae Walker. Eula Mae Walker tells the children how much she loves a special Easter bonnet. The story ends as Mr. Kadinski wraps the bonnet for Miss Eula, and Miss Eula cries with happiness over the children’s thoughtfulness.

K-2 A,B 3-5 A

The Day Gogo Went to Vote

Thembi and Gogo are very close. Gogo never leaves the house, so it is a big surprise to Thembi and her family when Gogo tells them that she will vote in the upcoming election. This will be the first time black people have been permitted to vote in South Africa. When the big day comes, Thembi and her grandmother ride to the voting place in their neighbor’s big car, and Gogo proudly casts her ballot. A grand celebration follows to honor the township’s oldest voter.

K-2 A,B 3-5 A, B

A Day’s Work.

A newly immigrated Mexican grandfather finds work at a daily labor pick-up station in Los Angeles with the help of his young grandson. Francisco, the grandson, sees a truck driven by a man looking for a gardener. He tells the man that his grandfather is a fine gardener, although this is not true. That day Francisco and his grandfather are trusted to work alone. Out of ignorance, they do everything wrong. When the employer returns and is angry, the grandfather discovers Francisco’s lie. He then volunteers the services of both the next day to make things right in the garden.

K-2 A,B 3-5 A

The Declaration of Independence
Sam Fink (2000). Scholastic Inc.

This nonfiction book contains the full text of the Declaration of Independence accompanied by witty illustrations. The book also contains a 1748-1776 events chronology, a glossary, and a list of recommended online and print resources.

3-5 A, B
Grandaddy’s Gift

Little Joe and her brother and sisters live with their grandparents in Mississippi. One night grandpa takes the children to a meeting that is about blacks trying to vote and about the segregation laws. He volunteers to go to town the next day and register to vote. It was very dangerous for them to stand up for their rights, but he decides to do it anyway. After they arrive, Grandpa finds out that he has to take a test on the Mississippi Constitution. While a lawyer helps him, many people get mad and won’t let him buy things from their stores. Some of Little Joe’s friends aren’t allowed to play with her. Grandpa passes the test. When Little Joe turns 18 she registers to vote, and all she had to do is fill out a card. Her Grandpa even goes with her.

K-2 A,B  3-5 A, B

Jamaica Louise James

Jamaica Louise James is a spunky girl who lives in New York City with her grammy and her mama. When she receives a real paint set for her birthday she gets a brilliant idea – she decides to brighten the tile walls of the subway station where her grammy works. Her idea results in more than making her grammy happy – people in the subway begin talking to each other, and some even smile! Her efforts are rewarded with a plaque bearing her name, hung on the subway wall.

K-2 A,B  3-5 A, B

Labor Day

This book describes the days before Labor Day and why we as a nation decided that it was time to honor our workers. This book also teaches key terms such as labor unions, goods, trade, and honor.

K-2 A,B

Lady In The Box

Confronted each day with the presence of a lady living in a box in their neighborhood, two children – Lizzie and Bed – decide to help. They sneak Dorrie food, blankets and clothes from their home. However, they soon find out that their mother can not be fooled, so they share their secret with her. She also begins to help and teaches the children another way to help the homeless – by working in a soup kitchen. Through the process of reaching out to a homeless
person, they learn the value of sharing and begin to grasp the essence of community.
K-2 A,B  3-5 A, B
Marvin Redpost Class President

Marvin and his third grade class all come to school in clothes with holes to celebrate “hole day.” They are shocked to learn that on this particular day they will be welcoming a surprise guest – the President of the United States. Despite his attire, Marvin is able to impress the President and learn about citizenship along the way.

3-5  A, B

Miss Rumphius

Young Alice tells her grandfather she wants to be just like him when she grows up. She tells him she wants to travel to faraway places and then live by the sea when she grows old. He tells her there is a third thing she must do--she must do something to make the world more beautiful. When Alice grows up, she travels the world and eventually settles down at a house by the sea, and she is “almost perfectly happy.” When Alice, who is now known as Miss Rumphius, discovers in the spring the beauty of the lupines she planted the previous year, she decides to plant more with the help of the wind and the birds.

K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

More Than Anything Else

This book gives tribute to Booker T. Washington as it chronicles his early years. As a young boy, in 1865, Booker must work hard in the nearby salt mines. Though his muscles ache and his stomach is often empty, the real pain he feels is in his head. More than anything else, he wants to learn to read. It is a lofty goal by the standards of those around him, but, with the help of a local newspaperman, he sees his chance to achieve his dream.

K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

Mr. Lincoln’s Way

Mr. Lincoln is “the coolest principal in the whole world.” Mean Gene, the school bully is the only one who does not like him. When Mr. Lincoln discovers that Eugene knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.

K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B
Old Henry.

Henry’s neighbors are scandalized that he ignores them and lets his property get run down; until they drive him away and find that they miss him. This book helps children understand that we should not quickly judge someone just because they are different.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

Peter’s Place

Peter plays on the shores by his home everyday, exploring and enjoying the wide variety of life that thrives there. One day an oil tanker crashes nearby and spills its load into the sea, almost destroying Peter’s special place. Peter and many others help clean and scrub in an effort to rescue the habitat. The fragile aspect of nature is taught along with the value of working together to help make a difference.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

President’s Day
This is a book that gives great details on how President’s Day began, why we honor our presidents, and other national facts about our presidents. The book also tells about different exciting stories about certain presidents.
K-2  A,B

Rainbow Fish

The rainbow fish, with his shimmering scales, is the most beautiful fish in the ocean. He is proud and vain and none of the other fish want to be his friends – until he learns to give away some of his most prized possessions.
K-2  A,B

A Rose for Abby

Abby does a series of good deeds to help a homeless lady; she leaves some gloves in a paper bag in the trash for the homeless lady to find. Abby leaves a hat band for her; Abby even asks her father to feed all the hungry people on her street at his church. Citizens in the community volunteer to help cook, donate bowls and silverware, and one man at the local market donates to Abby some vegetables.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B
Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink

This book teaches students in the younger grades about rules and values. Because he thinks Margaret and Lewis have been mean to him, Gilbert writes a mean poem on each one’s Valentine and then signs the other’s name. Soon, Margaret and Lewis figure out that Gilbert is responsible. When no one will play with Gilbert as recess, he regrets his actions, and he and his friends are able to resolve their problem.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

School Rules

Mrs. Toddle’s class was not listening very well. Three children decide to help the classroom by coming up with rules to help everyone get along. They discuss the problems and solutions with their classmates until they come up with a decision about how they want to treat each other.
K-2  A,B

Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation
Diane Stanley, Joanna Cotler (2004).

This story about two children who go to see their grandmother for Thanksgiving as they dress up in old family member’s clothing and travel back in time. The children are able to see what it was like to be a pilgrim and how Thanksgiving came to be.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B

That’s Not Fair, Hare!

A greedy hare insists on eating more than his share of the cabbages. He proposes a race to decide who shall have them all, while Muggs the turtle only wants what is fair.
K-2  A,B

A Tree That Would Not Die

This is the story of a tree that has for lived more than 500 years and some of the dramatic events the tree has witnessed. This tree is given the name “Treaty Oak” for it was said the First People and Stephen Austin made peace beneath its branches. One night a stranger poisons this tree. The community must work together in an effort to save the tree.
K-2  A,B  3-5  A, B
A Very Important Day

With this book young readers can explore the concepts of rights, privileges, and civic participation. On a snowy morning in New York City, families from many countries prepare for a very important event. Not until they arrive at the courthouse downtown does the reader find out that someone in each family is becoming a naturalized citizen on that day. Pride and a sense of celebration mark this very important day.

Veterans Day

This book teaches readers all about what a veteran is, why we honor them, and what we did before Veteran’s Day. This book also discusses the different wars that our veterans have participated in.

Vote!

This book explains voting by using fictional characters that are running for office and following them through the campaign process to election day. Easy to read with pictures that are engaging, the reader is informed of the details of the entire election procedure. A timeline and glossary of key terms is also included.

The Wall

This is the story of a little boy and his father. They have come from far away to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy’s grandfather. Other visitors pass by, searching for the names of their loved ones. Finally, the father’s fingers stop moving along the wall. “Here he is,” he says. This book deals with the impact of the Vietnam War and its consequences.

Why Do We Have Rules?

Why Do We Have Rules explains the reasons we need rules within a society. The book provides a brief discussion about our how our government was created and how officials are elected.
Young Abraham Lincoln…Log Cabin President
This book explores the life of Abraham Lincoln and what his life was like as he grew up. Abraham found himself interested in law and reading about the law every chance he got. Lincoln eventually became president in 1861.
K-2 A,B 3-5 A, B

Young George Washington Americas First President
The story of George Washington’s life is told. This book talks about the games he played, his birthday celebrations, the farm he lived on, and how he became a leader and eventually the first president.
K-2 A,B 3-5 A, B

Zinnia and Dot
Zinnia and Dot should be friends. They sit in the same henhouse day after day and fight over whose eggs are better. One day a weasel steals their eggs, leaving them only one. After fighting over whose it is, who gets to sit on it first, and who it will look like when it is born, a new crisis forces them to recognize the value of cooperation.
K-2 A,B 3-5 A, B
Almost all the books listed in the preceding chapters can be used to teach multiple standards of the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Social Studies. Listed below are a group of books that the authors believe do this exceptionally well. We believe that at least four of the six content area standards could be covered fairly easily by the use of each of these books. Following each abstract is an abbreviation for the Standards this particular book may be used to cover:

H – History; PS – People in Societies; G – Geography; E – Economics; GT – Government; CR – Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

The American Wei

The American Wei is a story about a little boy and his parents who are all just about to become citizens of the United States through a process called naturalization. On the way to the ceremony the little boy loses his tooth on the sidewalk. In an effort to find it, people from all over the world help with the search. Finally, the tooth is found and the ceremony takes place. The family took the “Oath of Allegiance” and then said the “Pledge of Allegiance” and ended with the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

PS, G, GT, CR

Ballot Box Battle

In this story of women’s rights leader, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a young girl is told by Mrs. Stanton of her inspirational tale of struggle for women’s
equality. One theme found throughout the book is to encourage young readers to have faith in themselves and their possibilities.
H, PS, G, E, CR
Baseball Saved Us

In this story, the inhabitants of one of the internment camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II decides to build a ball field to give everyone something to do. The narrator of the story relates an incident where the staring gaze of the guard in the tower made him angry enough to hit the ball out of the park for a home-run. Years later, when he was out of the camp, but not away from the prejudices of the war, the staring gaze of the pitcher on a little league team and the cry “Jap” from the crowd brings back the memory of the internment camp. It also brings back the determination that produced the winning hit. Once more, the ball is knocked out of the park for a home-run.
H, PS, G, E, GT, CR

The Day Gogo Went to Vote

Thembi and Gogo are very close. Gogo never leaves the house, so it is a big surprise to Thembi and her family when Gogo tells them that she will vote in the upcoming election. This will be the first time black people have been permitted to vote in South Africa. When the big day comes, Thembi and her grandmother ride to the voting place in their neighbor’s big car, and Gogo proudly casts her ballot. A grand celebration follows to honor the township’s oldest voter.
H, PS, G, GT, CR

A Day’s Work.

A newly immigrated Mexican grandfather finds work at a daily labor pick-up station in Los Angeles with the help of his young grandson. Francisco, the grandson, sees a truck driven by a man looking for a gardener. He tells the man that his grandfather is a fine gardener, although this is not true. That day Francisco and his grandfather are trusted to work alone. Out of ignorance, they do everything wrong. When the employer returns and is angry, the grandfather discovers Francisco’s lie. He then volunteers the services of both the next day to make things right in the garden.
PS, G, E, CR
The Floating House

In 1815, the McClure family floats down the Ohio River in a flatboat loaded with all their worldly possessions. They are looking for Jeffersonville, Indiana where they will build their new home. Each day brings new adventure as the family floats past key cities along the Ohio River. As they get closer, the children, Mary and Jonathan wonder the timeless question—"when will we get there?" A map of the territory they cover is provided on the inside cover.
H, G, E, GT, CR

The Gift.
Aliana Brodmann, Anthony Carnabuci (1993). Simon & Schuster,

A little girl receives her Hanukkah money and tries to decide on how to spend it. Nothing seems quite right until she hears the soft melody of street musician's accordion. Suddenly, she knows what her gift is for. An important message of the value of charity to both the giver and the receiver are presented.
PS, G, E, CR

Grandaddy’s Gift

Little Joe and her brother and sisters live with their grandparents in Mississippi. One night grandpa takes the children to a meeting that is about blacks trying to vote and about the segregation laws. He volunteers to go to town the next day and register to vote. It was very dangerous for them to stand up for their rights, but he decides to do it anyway. After they arrive, grandpa finds out that he has to take a test on the Mississippi Constitution. While a lawyer helps him, many people get mad and refuse to let him buy things from their stores. Some of Little Joe’s friends are not allowed to play with her. Grandpa passes the test. When Little Joe turns 18 she registers to vote, and all she had to do is fill out a card. Her grandpa even goes with her.
H, G, E, GT, CR

Grandfather's Journey

This story is a Japanese-American’s personal account of his grandfather’s unique cross-cultural experiences. He loves both his native Japan and California, but has trouble choosing between the two. Torn between two countries and two cultures, the grandfather finds that "when in one country, he invariably misses the other."
H, PS, G, CR
How Many Days to America? A Thanksgiving Story
Refugees from a Caribbean Island embark on a dangerous boat trip to America. Along the way they endure many hardships that come with trying to escape to America. They finally arrive in America on Thanksgiving Day and they have a special reason to celebrate.
H, PS, G, E, GT, CR

Jamaica Louise James
Jamaica Louise James is a spunky girl who lives in New York City with her grammy and her mama. When she receives a real paint set for her birthday she gets a brilliant idea – she decides to brighten the tile walls of the subway station where her grammy works. Her idea results in more than making her grammy happy – people in the subway begin talking to each other, and some even smile! Her efforts are rewarded with a plaque bearing her name, hung on the subway wall.
PS, G, E, CR

The Memory Coat: An Ellis Island Story
Rachel and Grisha grow up as best friends in Russia. Sadly, Grisha’s parents die in an epidemic, and he goes to live with Rachel’s family. Word spreads that the Cossacks are coming to kill anyone who is Jewish, so Rachel’s family decides to head for America. To make a good impression for the inspectors at Ellis Island, they want to make Grisha a new coat, but he refuses. His old coat is the only reminder he has of his mother. Now, the only problem is whether or not they will make it through the inspection.
H, PS, G, GT, CR

More Than Anything Else
This book gives tribute to Booker T. Washington as it chronicles his early years. As a young boy, in 1865, Booker must work hard in the nearby salt mines. Though his muscles ache and his stomach is often empty, the real pain he feels is in his head. More than anything else, he wants to learn to read. It is a lofty goal by the standards of those around him, but, with the help of a local newspaperman, he sees his chance to achieve his dream.
H, PS, E, CR
One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story

Morris Kaplan owns the flower shop that Jonathan and Ilana come to visit each week to buy flowers for the Sabbath. One week, when the children come to buy a special bouquet for the first night of Hanukkah, they discover that Morris, a Holocaust survivor, no longer celebrates this holiday. The children invite Morris to their house for the celebration, and though he is reluctant because it reminds him of his past in Poland, he attends and celebrates with the family.

H, PS, G, E, CR

Ox Cart Man

Describes the yearly economic cycle of a New England family in the early nineteenth century. The cottage industry of the family, the system of trade, modes of transportation, and the daily routines of the seasons are described in this classic text. This book provides an excellent avenue for students to compare then and now.

H, PS, G, E, CR

Paperboy

Willie Brinkman is proud to be helping his family with the money he earns as a paperboy. The setting is in Cincinnati in 1927, the major story of the day is the Jack Dempsey/Gene Tunney heavyweight fight, and the story is of a young boy who knows the value of an honest effort despite any disappointments one might encounter.

H, E, GT, CR

Peppe The Lamplighter

This looks at the life of an immigrant family living in Little Italy around the turn of the century. Peppe, a young boy, seeks work to help support his family. The job he gets is to light the streetlights, and his father does not approve of this job. By the story’s end, the whole family believes Peppe has one of the best jobs in the city. The story uses “then and now” comparisons and provides a message of the value of all work.

H, PS, G, E, CR
Peter’s Place
Sally Grindley, Michael Foreman (1996). Harcourt Brace

Peter plays on the shores by his home everyday, exploring and enjoying the wide variety of life that thrives there. One day an oil tanker crashes nearby and spills its load into the sea, almost destroying Peter’s special place. Peter, and many others help clean and scrub in an effort to rescue the habitat. The fragile aspect of nature is taught along with the value of working together to help make a difference.
H, G, E, GT, CR

Pink and Say
Patricia Polacco (1994). Philomel Books

Here is a Civil War story that has been passed down through the generations until the author puts it into words and pictures for us. Sheldon (Say) has been wounded in a fierce Civil War battle and left for dead. He is rescued by Pinkus (who fought for the “Forty-eighth Colored”) taken home, and nursed back to health by Pinkus's mother, placing the entire family in danger.
H, PS, G, GT, CR

A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History

A wonderfully illustrated book which tells the history of the Nashua river (in what is now Massachusetts). Tells the Native Americans’ perspective on how to live with the river. An important message here is that people can work together to make a positive change, stressing a sense of efficacy.
H, PS, G, E, GT, CR

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Deborah Hopkinson, James Ransome (1993). Alfred A. Knopf

Clara, who works as a seamstress in the Big House, dreams of the day when she and her mother can run away together—north to freedom. When Clara hears two slaves talking about how they could find the Underground Railroad if they only had a map, she sews a map of the land—a freedom quilt—that no master will ever suspect.
H, PS, G, CR

Teammates

Tells the story of Jackie Robinson’s difficult first season with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 as he had to endure being the first African-American to play professional baseball. The strength and perseverance of Jackie Robinson is retold.
as well as the courage of Pee Wee Reese, a southern-born white teammate, who was among the first to publicly support his friend.
H, PS, G, CR
Uncle Jed’s Barbershop

Sarah Jean’s Uncle Jed is the only African-American barber in the county. He dreams of opening his own barbershop some day. When Sarah Jean is in need of an operation, Uncle Jed loans her parents money from his “barbershop” savings. Then, when the bank fails during the Great Depression all of Uncle Jed’s savings are gone for a second time. Finally, on his 79th birthday, Uncle Jed opens his own barbershop. The life of a poor southern African-American family in the first half of the twentieth century is recalled by the author.

H, PS, G, E, GT, CR

Warm as Wool

The hardships of one of the early pioneer families to Northwest Ohio are told in this story. A vivid picture of life on the frontier is described as well as the strength of a mother’s love determined to keep her family warm.

H, G, E, GT, CR

When I was Young in the Mountains

This book depicts the everyday happenings of the lives of an elderly Appalachian couple as seen through the eyes of their granddaughter. Appalachian culture is presented from a positive perspective and the concept of regions is reinforced.

H, PS, G, E, CR

White Socks Only

When Grandma was a little girl in Mississippi, she sneaked into town one sizzling hot day to see if she could fry an egg on the sidewalk. Soon she was thirsty. The water fountain said “Whites Only,” so Grandma took off her shoes and stepped right up in her clean white socks. Suddenly she was thrown to the ground. “Can’t you read, girl?” a big white man yelled at her. Now there was trouble. But the black community pulled together, along with the Chicken Man who still “did things he knowed all the way from Africa.” This story is inspired by the author’s memories of the places she could not go and things she could not do because of her skin color.

H, PS, GT, CR

Window
This book depicts changes to the environment as observed by a boy from the window of his room at various stages of his life (i.e. as a baby to age 24 as the father of a baby). No text is provided, only wonderful pictures that view the same scene at two-year intervals with each turn of the page.

H, G, E, CR
Students are required in the Ohio Academic Content Standards for social studies, specifically in the 4th grade, to “use materials drawn from the diversity of human experience to analyze and interpret significant events, patterns and themes in the history, politics, economics, geography, government, and social issues of Ohio.” The books listed below are particularly useful for this purpose, keeping in mind that each of these books may also be used to teach multiple standards at other grade levels as well.

**Aurora Means Dawn**

In the 1800’s, the Sheldon’s travel from Connecticut to Ohio to start a new life in the settlement of Aurora. Many things along the way, from the weather to the trees, surprise them about this new land. When they arrive they find that they are not coming to an established community as they were led to believe. They discover instead that they are the first family there and will be starting this new community by themselves.

**B is for Buckeye: An Ohio Alphabet**

Each letter of the alphabet is highlighted with events and people from Ohio that begin with that letter. With A through Z connections to Ohio all wonderfully illustrated, this book is fun to read, and brings Ohio history and information to life for all ages.

**Cardinal Numbers: An Ohio Counting Book**

In this book, Ohio’s “cardinal” numbers are told in a unique way. Numbers 1-14 are represented, and a poem tells the story of something important in Ohio’s history that corresponds with each number. Interesting facts are given about Ohio, telling readers about the state’s animals, including the state bird, state reptile, and state tree.

**Flatboats on the Ohio**

The story of a family decision to take a flatboat from Pennsylvania to the Ohio River is related. The adventures and successes of the family are presented in a way to involve young learners in Ohio history.
The Floating House
In 1815, the McClure family floats down the Ohio River in a flatboat loaded with all their worldly possessions. They are looking for Jeffersonville, Indiana, where they will build their new home. As they get closer, the children, Mary and Jonathan, wonder the timeless question—"when will we get there?"

Here Comes the Mystery Man
This book, while set in southeastern Indiana, describes a time and place very similar to those found in southwest Ohio. The story is of a traveling peddler who visits the Goodwin family’s pioneer home and brings wondrous things and amazing tales from far away.

The Legend of Ohio
Dikewamis, an Iroquois girl, tells the story of how her family moves from place to place. Eventually they establish themselves in the plentiful land of Ohio. What a great journey it turns out to be!

Ohio
This book is perfect for taking a trip through Ohio. This book describes the history, people, culture, government, geography, and attractions of Ohio. This book features a timeline of Ohio, interesting facts, state symbols, Ohio recipes, and the words to the state song.

Ohio: Facts and Symbols
This book also provides places to visit, fun facts, and vocabulary – all in and around Ohio.

Ohio Timeline: A Chronology of Ohio History, Mystery, Trivia, Legend, Lore and More
In this book, a timeline of Ohio is given in order for readers to get a further understanding of how Ohio began, and describes how Ohio developed. Many other interesting facts are given about Ohio.
**Paperboy**  
Willie Brinkman is proud to be helping his family with the money he earns as a paperboy. The setting is in Cincinnati in 1927, the major story of the day is the Jack Demsey/Gene Tunney heavyweight fight, and the story is of a young boy who knows the value of an honest effort despite any disappointments one might encounter.

**The Story of Johnny Appleseed**  
Johnny Appleseed was born during apple picking season. Johnny Appleseed grew up working in his father’s orchard. As soon as he was old enough Johnny went to the Ohio Valley and planted apple seeds. Johnny took no money for his work, making friends with Native American’s and white settlers. Johnny Appleseed had no worldly possessions, but he did exhibit passion for his work.

**A Street Called Home**  
An accordion style flap-book written about African American life at the turn of the century. This story takes place in a shantytown called the Blackberry Patch in Columbus, Ohio. Look inside the figure flaps to learn about the Chickenfoot Woman, the Vegetable Man, the Rag Man, and all the others who were merchants on Mount Vernon Avenue at that time.

**Teammates**  
Tells the story of Jackie Robinson’s difficult first season with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 as he had to endure being the first African-American to play professional baseball. The strength and perseverance of Jackie Robinson is retold as well as the courage of Pee Wee Reese, a southern-born white teammate, who was among the first to publicly support his friend.

**Walk Two Moons**  
Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle is proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood." In order to learn more, she travels from Ohio to Idaho with her unusual grandparents.

**Warm as Wool**  
The hardships of one of the early pioneer families to Northwest Ohio are told in this story. A vivid picture of life on the frontier is described as well as the strength of the love of a mother, who works to keep her family warm.
Welcome to Kit’s World, 1934: Growing Up During America’s Great Depression

In this book, a young girl is giving an account of her life during the 1930’s. The book starts out in the “Roaring ‘20’s” before talking about the “crash” and how everything changed from that point on in day-to-day life for many people. Accounts are also given about the people who made a difference during this “down” time for America including Amelia Earhart, Franklin Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, as well as, Langston Hughes. This book tells of the country during the Great Depression and how everyone’s life was impacted due to the “crash.”

The Wright Brothers

This book describes the Wright brothers’ attempts at flying the first powered airplane. The information is repetitive in a way that will help children remember it. The text is informative, and there are mice characters who give additional information in captions and who make the story more enjoyable for younger students. The book also contains an extensive timeline of the history of airplanes.

Websites for Social Studies and Children’s Literature

Teachers must often collect, organize, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources including reliable and dependable websites in order to find appropriate children’s literature. The following websites have been assessed by the authors, and are recommended to Ohio’s social studies educators.

Children’s Literature in the Social Studies Classroom
http://www.indiana.edu/~reading/ieo/bibs/childsoc.html

The following materials are intended to provide an introduction to Children’s Literature in the Social Studies Classroom. These materials were assembled from the World Wide Web, ERIC Database, and a variety of other bibliographic resources. Instructions for acquiring the full text of the ERIC records are presented at the end of this file.
Learning History through Children’s Literature. ERIC Digest.
Teaching history using children’s literature, both fiction and non-fiction, is a well developed concept enjoying new vitality in the elementary school curriculum. This Digest discusses (1) the revival of interest in teaching history through children’s literature, (2) research-based guidelines for teachers of history and children’s literature, and (3) an innovative method of teaching history using children’s literature.

NCSS Notable Trade Books for Young People
http://www.ncss.org/resources/notable
The books that appear in these annotated book lists were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and assembled in cooperation with the Children’s Book Council (CBC).

Opening Doors to Social Studies With Children’s Literature
http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLRESOURCES/units/byrnes-literature/lit.html
Created by:
Students in ELED 405, Teaching Social Studies
Department of Elementary Education
Utah State University
Spring, 1997
Contact Person: Deborah A. Byrnes (byrnes@cc.usu.edu)

The Year’s Best Books: Annual Roundup Lists
http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/lists.html
The lists here were compiled by a wide range of groups. Their recommendations should greatly assist Ohio’s teachers.
# Academic Content Standards K-12 Social Studies Correlations

*H = History, PS = People in Societies, G = Geography, E = Economics, GT = Government, CR = Citizens Rights & Responsibilities*

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