



People In Societies

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

Allen Say (2004). Houghton Mifflin & Company.

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

Marion H. Pomernac (1998). Albert Whitman and Co.

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

W. Nikola-Lisa (1994). Live Oak Media. Michael Bryant, illustrator.

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

Lisa Shook Begaye (1993). Northland Publishing Co.

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

Juanita Alba (2000). Lectorum Publications, Inc. Amado Pena, illustrator.

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

Bobbie Kalman (2001). Crabtree Publishing Company.

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

Linda Lowery (2005). Ediciones Lerner. Barbara Knutson, illustrator.

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

Lynn Ainsworth Olawsky (1997). Learner Publishing Group. Janice Lee Porter, illustrator.

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

Grace Lin (2003). Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers.

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

Joseph Bruchac (1999). Penguin Young Reader's Group. Dan Andreason, illustrator.

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

Judy Nayer (1998). Troll Communications. Yuri Salzman, illustrator.

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

(1991). Holiday House Inc.

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

Jerry Craven (1996). Rourke Publishing, LLC. Photophile, illustrator.

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

Jeanette Winter (1992). Knopf Publishing Group.

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

Jake Swamp (2003). Lee & Low Books, Inc. Erwin Printup, illustrator.

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

Allen Say (1993). Walter Lorraine Books.

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

Joy Nelkin N. Wieder (1999). Hachai Publishing.

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

Catherine Nichols (2002). Scholastic, Inc. Brian Dennington, illustrator.

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

Deborah Chancellor (2000). DK Publishing.

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

Eve Bunting (1990). Houghton Mifflin Company. Beth Peck, illustrator.

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

Julia Alvarez (1992). Penguin Group Publishers, Grades 4-6

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

Rosa Parks & James Haskins (1999). Penguin Young Reader's Group. Will Clay, illustrator.

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

Natasha Anastasia Tarpley (1998). Little Brown Children's Books. E.B. Lewis, illustrator.

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.

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

I Love You Like Crazy Cakes

Rose A. Lewis (2003). Little, Brown, & Co.. Jane Dyer, illustrator.

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.

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

If Your Name was Changed at Ellis Island

Ellen Levine (1994). Scholastic Inc. Wayne Parmenter, illustrator.

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.

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

In the Time of the Drums

Kim L. Siegelson (1999). Hyperion Books for Children. Brian Pinkney, illustrator.

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.

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

Jingle Dancer

Cynthia Leitich Smith & Morrow Junior (2000). HarperCollins Publisher.

Cornelius Van Wright, illustrator.

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

Patricia Polacco (1990). Bantam Doubleday.

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

Eric Sonderling (1997). Steck-Vaughn Publishing. Wendy Wassink Ackison, illustrator.

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

Jonny Zucker (2003). Barron's Educational Series, Incorporated. Jan Barger Cohen, illustrator.

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

Karen Hesse (1993). Penguin Young Readers Group.

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

Miles Harvey (2003). Scholastic Library Publishing.

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

Sherry Garland (1997). Harcourt Children's Books. Tatsuro Kiuchi, illustrator.

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

Elizabeth Spurr (1995). Harcourt Children's Books. Enrique O Sanchez, illustrator.

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

Patricia Reilly Giff (2005). Bantam Doubleday Dell Brooks for Young Readers.

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

Doreen Rappaport, Bryan Collier (2001). Hyperion Books.

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

Valerie Tripp and Susan McAliley (1999). Pleasant Company Publications. Jean Paul Tibbles, illustrator.

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

Elvira Woodruff (1999). Scholastic, Inc. Michael Dooling, illustrator.

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.

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

Minty, A Story of Young Harriet Tubman

Alan Schroeder (2000). Penguin Young Readers Group. Jerry Pinkney, illustrator.

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.

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

Molly's Pilgrim

Barbara Cohen (1998). Bantam. Michael Deraney and Daniel Duffy, illustrators.

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.

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

Moses Goes to a Concert

Issac Millman (2002). Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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.

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

Mrs. Katz and Tush

Patricia Polacco (1994). Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers.

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

Karen Katz (2003). Henry Holt and Co., Inc.

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

Gloria Houston (1992). Harper Collins. Susan Condie Lamb, illustrator.

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

Gail Gibbons (1997). HarperCollins Publishers.

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

Eva Wiseman (2004). Tundra.

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

David Murdoch & Stanley Freed (2005). DK Publishing, Inc. Lynton Gardiner, photographer.

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

David Adler (1995). Harcourt Brace. Lloyd Bloom, illustrator.

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.

K-2 A, B

3-5 A, B

Peppe The Lamplighter

Elisa Bartone (1993). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. Ted Lewin, illustrator.

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

Scott Russell Sanders (1997). Atheneum Books.

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

Rafe Martin. (1998). Scholastic. David Shannon, illustrator.

There are a reported 1500 different Cinderella stories from cultures around the world – this books 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

Janell Cannon & Jewell Cannon (1993). Harcourt.

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

Hans Lans (2002). Kwela Books. Fernando Luango, illustrator.

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

Caryn Jenner (2000). DK Publishing.

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

Robert Coles (2004). Scholastic, Inc. George Ford, illustrator.

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

Gail Gibbons (1995). Holiday House.

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

Margy Burns Knight (1992). Tilbury House Publishers. Anne Sibley O'Brien, illustrator.

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

Laura Krauss Melmed (2001). Harper Collins Publisher.

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

Bryan Collier (2003). Holt, Henry Books for Young Readers.

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

Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard & Tony Diterlizzi (2000). Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. E.B. Lewis & Earl Lewis, illustrators.

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

Riki Levinson (1995). Penguin Young Readers Group. Diane Good, illustrator.

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

Cynthia Rylant (1982). Penguin Young Reader's Group. Diane Good, illustrator.

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

Amy Hest (2003). Candlewick Press. P.J. Lynch, illustrator.

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

Jean Davies Okimota and Elaine M. Aoki (2002). Houghton Mifflin Company. Meilo So, illustrator.

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

Evelyn Coleman (1996). Albert Whitman & Company. Tyrone Geter, illustrator.

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.

K-2 A, B

3-5 A, B

Who Belongs Here? An American Story

Margy Burns Knight (1993). Tilbury House Publishers. Anne Sibley O'Brien, illustrator.

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.

3-5 A, B

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Mem Fox (1989). Kane/Miller Book Publishers. Julie Vivas, illustrator.

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.

K-2 A, B

3-5 A, B