



## *Books Used to Teach Multiple Standards*

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**

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 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**

Emily Arnold McCully (1998). Bantom Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers.

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**

Ken Mochizuki (1993). Lee and Low Books. Dom Lee, illustrator.

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**

Eleanor Batezat Sisulu (1996). Little, Brown, and Company. Sharon Wilson, illustrator.

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.**

Eve Bunting, Ronald Himler (1994). Clarion Books.

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**

Scott Russel Sanders (1995). Macmillan. Helen Coganchery, illustrator.

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

### **Granddaddy's Gift**

M. Mitchell (1997). U.S.A. BridgeWater Books.

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**

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."

H, PS, G, CR

### **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.

H, PS, G, E, GT, CR

### **Jamaica Louise James**

Amy Hest (1997). Candlewick.

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**

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.

H, PS, G, GT, CR

### **More Than Anything Else**

Marie Bradby, Chris Soentpiet, (1995). Orchard Books.

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**

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

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**

Donald Hall (1983). Puffin Books

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**

Mary Kay Kroeger and Louis Borden (1996). Ted Lewin, illustrator.

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**

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

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**

Lynne Cherry (1992). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

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**

Peter Golenbock (1990). Gulliver Books. Paul Bacon, illustrator.

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**

Margaree King Mitchell (1993). Scholastic. James Ransome, illustrator.

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**

Scott Russell Sanders (1992). Bradbury Press. Helen Cogancherry, illustrator.

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**

Cynthia Rylant (1982). Penguin Young Reader's Group. Diane Goode, 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 positive perspective and the concept of regions is reinforced.

H, PS, G, E, CR

### **White Socks Only**

Evelyn Coleman (1996). Albert Whitman & Company.

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**

Jeannie Baker (1991). Greenwill Books

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