PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

SOCIAL STUDIES

BOOK LIST

LITERATURE THAT EXPLORES
ACTIVISM, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, CIVICS, AND
NOTABLE EVENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY
Inside this brochure, you’ll find books that your students can use to become global citizens, comprehend their social environments and the history behind them, and discover and better understand the world around them.

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GETTING CIVIL: BOOKS ABOUT US CIVICS!

From Gold Star father and beloved Democratic National Convention speaker Khizr Khan comes a book for young people about the Constitution—what it says and why it matters for everyone. Notes throughout share Khizr Khan’s reflections on and connections to the US Constitution.

The fascinating history of why and how the Constitution was written includes an article-by-article and section by section, easy-to-follow explanation of what the Constitution means as well as the complete texts of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

This is Our Constitution: What It Is and Why It Matters
by Khizr Kahn


One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote
by Bonnie Worth
illustrated by Aristides Ruiz and Joe Mathieu

Learn the basic principles of democracy, how political parties are formed, who (Electio-Day) is held in early November, and much, much more!

PB ISBN: 9780448483559 | $5.99 | 112 pages | Grades 3-7 | Lexile 780L

What’s the Big Deal About Elections
by Ruby Shimizu
illustrated by Matt Faulkner

“A great choice for group reading before election season.”
—School Library Journal


Start Now! You Can Make a Difference
by Chelsea Clinton

For the youngest activists among us, a book geared just for them full of facts, stories, and tips on how to change the world.


Where Is the White House?
by Megan Stine

The story of how the White House was built to become home to the president of the nation.

HC ISBN: 9780375812569 | $34.99 | 368 pages | Grades 3-7 | Lexile 1050L | F&P: V

The American Story:
100 True Tales from American History
by Jennifer Armstrong
illustrated by Roger Roth

One hundred true tales of triumph and tragedy from the Wright brothers taking to the air to Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon.


The Hope Chest
by Karen Schimack

Includes back matter with period photographs, historical notes about the suffrage movement, and a Voting in America timeline.


Thomas Jefferson:
President and Philosopher
by Jon Meacham

Learn about the life and political philosophy of one of our Founding Fathers.


This Is Our Constitution
by Khizr Khan


Paper Over Board ISBN: 9781945510009
$18.00 | 206 pages | Grades 7 & up

The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History
by Jennifer Armstrong
illustrated by Roger Roth

One hundred true tales of triumph and tragedy from the Wright brothers taking to the air to Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon.


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Educators’ Guide Available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com
STORIES ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award
★ “A triumphantly moving book.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that’s what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year’s Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past... and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await.

THE DEVIL’S ARITHMETIC by Jane Yolen
PB ISBN: 9780440040195 | $17.99 | 208 pages | Grades 5 & up | Lexile 730L

“The kind of book that can be life-changing.” —The New York Times

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

THE BOOK THIEF by Markus Zusak
REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION STORIES

**A 2019 Newbery Honor Book**

It’s 1947, and India, newly freed from British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. Many people are killed crossing borders as tensions flare. Nisha, who has always carried two parts in her: Muslim and Hindu, doesn’t know which side she has to be on or why she must choose. Nisha has already lost her mother. She can’t imagine losing her homeland, too. But Papa says it’s too dangerous for them to stay in Pakistan. And so Nisha and her family become refugees and embark on a treacherous journey by train and by foot to reach their new home on the other side of the border.

Told through letters Nisha writes to her mother in her journal, *The Night Diary* is a poignant story of the largest human migration in history and of one girl’s search for home, her own identity, and a hopeful future.

*THE NIGHT DIARY* by Veera Hiranandani


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**Refugee and Immigration Stories**

“A poignant and resilient telling of a child immigrant’s struggle to recover from an accident and find her home in America.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

**Lucky Broken Girl** by Byatt Behar


A 2019 National Book Award Finalist

**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepety

PB ISBN: 9780593204966 | $8.99 | 344 pages | Grades 7 & up | Lexile 650L

**We Are All That’s Left** by Carrie Arcos

PB ISBN: 9780593135340 | $9.99 | 300 pages | Grades 7 & up | Lexile 650L

**Before We Were Free** by Julia Alvarez


**The Far Away Brothers** by R. J. Palacio

PB ISBN: 9780399546853 | $10.99 | 448 pages | Grades 7 & up | Lexile HL560L

**Salt to the Sea**

PB ISBN: 9780399546853 | $8.99 | 344 pages | Grades 7 & up | Lexile 650L

**The Night Diary**


**Return to Sender**


**AMERICANIZED: REBEL WITHOUT A GREEN CARD** by Sara Saedi


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**AMERICANIZED: REBEL WITHOUT A GREEN CARD**

“Filled with pop culture references, journal excerpts, photographs, and relatable coming-of-age content, this book will keep readers fully entertained while pushing them to deeper cultural understandings.” —School Library Journal, starred review

“With gumption, Saedi draws from her American-ness and Iranian-ness for a successful depiction of immigrant life in the US: a must-read.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

The hilarious, poignant, and true story of one teen’s experience growing up in America as an undocumented immigrant from the Middle East.
**STORIES INTRODUCING**

“Saeed’s middle grade debut shares an empowering message about the importance of family, literacy, and cultural ties. The rich storytelling, nuanced characterization of an all-Pakistani cast, complex and layered look at the socioeconomics of the region, and richly described setting make this ultimately hopeful contemporary tale...a strong choice for all middle grade shelves.”

—School Library Journal, starred review

The compelling story of a girl’s fight to regain her life, her education, and her dreams after being forced into indentured servitude.

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**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

From the author of critically acclaimed and bestselling memoir Failing Leaves, this is a poignant and moving true account of her childhood growing up as an unloved daughter in 1940s China.

Adeline’s affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother; while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled with gifts and attention. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for—the love and understanding of her family. Like the classic Cinderella story, this powerful memoir is a moving story of resilience and hope.

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**AMAL UNBOUND by Aisha Saeed**

HC ISBN: 9780399544682 | $17.99 | 240 pages | Grades 5 & up | Lexile HL600L

A powerful coming-of-age story about growing up Pakistani, successful combinations on Hispanic culture with familiar and recognizable childhood themes.

—School Library Journal

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**CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER by Adeline Yen Mah**


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**Let Your Heart Decide**

Darius篡改s never really fit in at home. He knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.

—Booklist

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**I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter**

A National Book Award Finalist

A moving tale of a 14-year-old girl’s journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro’s revolution.

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**The Red Umbrella**

A moving tale of a 14-year-old girl’s journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro’s revolution.

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**What the World Eats**

In partnership with We Need Diverse Books, this bold short story collection features stories by written by Kwame Alexander, Meg Medina, Jacqueline Woodson, and more!

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**Flying Lessons & Other Stories**

In partnership with We Need Diverse Books, this bold short story collection features stories by written by Kwame Alexander, Meg Medina, Jacqueline Woodson, and more!

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**We Need Diverse Books**

A moving tale of a 14-year-old girl’s journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro’s revolution.

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**Educators’ Guide Available at PenguinClassroom.com**
WORLD WAR AND CIVIL WAR STORIES

On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane’s bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War. The lieutenant’s name was Louis Zamperini; ahead of him lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a sinking raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would respond to desperation with ingenuity, suffering with hope and humor, brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would hang on the fraying wire of his will.

UNBROKEN: AN OLYMPIAN’S JOURNEY FROM AIRMAN TO CASTAWAY TO CAPTIVE by Laura Hillenbrand
PB ISBN: 9780307342528 | $10.99 | 320 pages | Grades 7 & up | Lexile 850L

The unforgettable chronicle of a famous moment in American military history, the raising of the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima.

Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima
by James Bradley and Ron Powers

304 pages | Grades 4-7

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

A young girl’s family is torn apart as they are sent to a work camp in Siberia during WWII.

Purchase the World War II titles at PenguinClassroom.com

Educators’ Guide Available at PenguinClassroom.com

Educators’ Guide Available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com
A 2015 Newbery Honor Book
★ “A memoir-inverse so immediate that readers will feel they are experiencing the author’s childhood right along with her... An extraordinary—indeed brilliant—portrait of a writer as a young girl.”
—The Horn Book, starred review

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the civil rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child’s soul as she searches for her place in the world.

BROWN GIRL DREAMING by Jacqueline Woodson

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

CIVIL RIGHTS STORIES

A 1996 Newbery Honor Book
★ “Startling, innovative, and effective.” —BCCB, starred review
The Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honororee about the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan—from Christopher Paul Curtis, author of Bud, Not Buddy.

Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family. There’s Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who’s thirteen and an “official juvenile delinquent.”

When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma’s church is blown up.

Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote by Paula Young Shelton

TRouble Don’t Last by Shelley Pearsall

A Thousand Never Evers by Shana Burg
Set in Rockcastle, Mississippi, 1863, Addie Pickett finds the voice to lead a civil rights march all on her own and change the future for her people.
VIETNAM WAR STORIES

★ “Personal, moving foray into the Vietnam War and its impact... Partridge’s narrative storytelling is incisive and masterfully woven together.” — Kirkus Reviews, starred review
★ “This indispensable volume brings a wise and humane lens to a confused and brutal conflict.” — The Horn Book, starred review
★ “A necessary, conscientious look at a factitious time in American and world history.” — Booklist, starred review

GOODBYE, VIETNAM by Gloria Whelan
When Mai’s family discovers that Vietnam government soldiers will soon apprehend her father and grandmother, the family slips away in the night. The gut-wrenching trip to Hong Kong is just another step toward a new life.

THE Mailbox by Audrey Shuley
A sympathetic portrayal of veterans and the burdens they carry throughout their lives. Partridge’s narrative storytelling is incisive and masterfully woven together.

WHAT Was the Vietnam War? by Jim O’Connor
Learn how the United States ended up fighting for twenty years in a remote country on the other side of the world.

by Mary Pope Osborne
How the United States ended up fighting for twenty years in a remote country on the other side of the world.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

The Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie back to ancient Greece. What did the ancient Greeks wear? What did they do for fun? Find out the answers to these questions and more as Jack and Annie track the facts.

MAGIC TREE HOUSE #16: HOUR OF THE OLYMPICS by Mary Pope Osborne; illustrated by Sal Murdocca

MAGIC TREE HOUSE FACT TRACKER: ANCIENT GREECE AND THE OLYMPICS by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce; illustrated by Sal Murdocca

THE Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt by Elizabeth Payne
This book explains how archaeologists have pieced together their discoveries to slowly reveal the history of Egypt’s people, its pharaohs, and its golden days.

Fun sidebars, illustrations, and facts guide you as you time travel to Ancient Greece!
TWO ROADS by Joseph Bruchac
PB ISBN: 9780763652287 | $7.99 | 320 pages | Grades 5 & up | Lexile 740

A boy discovers his Native American heritage in this Depression-era tale of identity and friendship by the author of Code Talker.

NO SMALL POTATOES: JUNIUS G. GROVES AND HIS KINGDOM IN KANSAS by Tonya Bolden; Illustrated by Don Tate

Discover the incredible true story of how one of history’s most successful potato farmers began life as a slave and worked until he was named the “Potato King of the World!” Junius G. Groves came from humble beginnings in the Bluegrass State. Born into slavery in Kentucky, freedom came when he was still a young man and he intended to make a name for himself. Junius walked west and stopped in Kansas. He never quit working hard, even as the naysayers doubted him, and soon he had five hundred acres!
**GET ACTIVE: BOOKS ON**

★ “This amazing outpouring of strength and honesty offers inspirational personal accounts for every reader who wonders what to do when everything seems impossible.”
—Booklist, starred review

Hope is a decision, but it is a hard one to recognize in the face of oppression, belittlement, alienation, and defeat. To help embolden hope, here is a powerhouse collection of essays and personal stories that speak directly to teens and all YA readers. Featuring Angie Thomas, Marie Lu, Nicola Yoon, David Levithan, Libba Bray, Jason Reynolds, Renée Ahdieh, and many more!

**HOPE NATION edited by Rose Brock**
PB ISBN: 9781524741853 | $10.99 | 288 Pages | Grades 7 & up

Don’t Let Them Disappear
by Chelsea Clinton
Illustrated by Gianna Marino
A beautiful book about the animals who share our planet—and what we can do to help them survive.

Peace Is an Offering
by Annette Libby
Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin
A warm, comforting poem about finding peace in a community of neighbors.

Raise Your Hand
by Alex Paul Tapper
Illustrated by Marta Kissi
This picture book illustrates Alice Tapper’s determination, bravery, and unrelentlessness to accept the status quo. Young readers everywhere will want to raise their hand!

The Pink Hat
by Andrew Joyner
Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin
A picture book about conscientiousness and standing up to injustice. "When a group of children and adults participate in a protest, one in a pink hat stands out with her courage and integrity." — Kirkus Reviews

Put Peace First
by Eric David Dawson
A walk-the-walk, talk-the-talk, hands-on, say-it-loud handbook for activist kids who want to change the world!

Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World
by Eric David Dawson
“Mysteriously inspirational call to arms, the book is subtly anchored in reality, providing concrete, manageable actions and resources, as well as practical advice.” —VOYR

Raise This Country: A Handbook for Resistance, Persistence, and Finding Almost Everything
by Alexandra Stryan
A walk-the-talk, talk-the-talk, hands-on, social handbook for activist kids who want to change the world.

The Story of My Life: Remembering the Montgomery Bus Boycott
by John Lewis
"This book is a powerful and much-needed resource that beautifully and clearly tells the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott through the eyes of the man at the center of it all. . . . Suitable for ages 9 and up." —VOYR

We Say #NeverAgain: Reporting by the Children of Change from Young Female Staffers of the Obama White House
compiled by Molly Dillon
"An excellent guide to the law and why it is a life of public service.” —Amy Poehler

**ACTIVISM FOR YOUNG READERS**

Here are the stories of ten leaders who strove to win the right to vote for American women. From well-known figures, such as Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth, to lesser-known women such as Alice Paul and Mary Church Terrell, these are heroes who dreamed big and never gave up.

**BOLD & BRAVE: TEN HEROES WHO WON WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE**
by Kristen Gillibrand; Illustrated by Maira Kalman

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices
edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson
“The compelling story of [a] legal practice...founded to protect the rights of people on the margins of American society.” —VOYR

Almost Everything
by Sophie Uzielli
"This amazing outpouring of strength and honesty offers inspirational personal accounts for every reader who wonders what to do when everything seems impossible.”
—Booklist, starred review

Defiant:100 Protestors Who Changed America
by Emily Garland
Illustrated by Zayne Chen
This lushly illustrated picture book introduces young readers to America’s most influential protesters.

Enought! 20 Protesters Who Changed America
by Emily Garland
Illustrated by Zayne Chen
This lushly illustrated picture book introduces young readers to America’s most influential protesters.

Enough!: 20 Protesters Who Changed America
by Emily Garland
Illustrated by Zayne Chen
This lushly illustrated picture book introduces young readers to America’s most influential protesters.

Hope Is a Decision, but It is a Hard One to Recognize in the Face of Oppression, Belittlement, Alienation, and Defeat. To Help Embolden Hope, Here Is a Powerhouse Collection of Essays and Personal Stories That Speak Directly to Teens and All YA Readers. Featuring Angie Thomas, Marie Lu, Nicola Yoon, David Levithan, Libba Bray, Jason Reynolds, Renée Ahdieh, and Many More!

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