

Teaching Social Justice Values Through Children's Literature

Jackie Winokur

African American

Altman, Susan and Lechner, Susan. **Followers of the North Star. Rhymes about African American Heroes, Heroines, and Historical Times.** Illustrated by Byron Wooden. Children's Press. 1993. "A collection of poems about some of the historical experiences of African Americans and about such prominent people as Benjamin Banneker, Matthew Henson, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and Leontyne Price." (Publisher) Juvenile Poetry

Bandy, Michael S. and Stein, Eric. **White Water.** Illustrated by Shadra Strickland. Candlewick Press. 2011. "After tasting the warm, rusty water from the fountain designated for African Americans, a young boy questions why he cannot drink the cool, refreshing water from the 'Whites Only' fountain. Based on a true experience co-author Michael S. Bandy had as a boy." (Publisher) Young Readers

Blue, Rose and Naden, Corrine J. **Ron's Big Mission.** Illustrated by Don Tate. Dutton Children's Books, a Division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 2009. *Ron McNair, a future scientist and shuttle astronaut, took an important stand as a young boy and, in so doing, desegregated his public library. This is a powerful and inspirational story.* Young Readers

Coleman, Evelyn. **White Socks Only.** Illustrations by Tyrone Geter. Albert Whitman & Company. 1996. "A quiet, stunning foray into segregated Mississippi: one hot afternoon, a little girl from the country, venturing for the first time into town, drinks from the 'Whites Only' fountain. Eventually, in places like this, courage would transcend hate; this extraordinary book helps us, and our children, to understand how that transformation came to be." -*Smithsonian Magazine*. 1996 Notable Book for Children

Edwards, Pamela Duncan. **Barefoot.** Illustrated by Henry Cole. Harper Collins Publishers. 1997. "Under a cover of darkness, a Barefoot, an escaped slave, flees for his life. His captors are on his trail. He is terrified.... With the creatures of the night to guide him, he finds refuge. In spare text and exquisite pictures," this book makes a powerful impression. (Publisher) Ages 5-9

Evans, Freddi Williams. **A Bus of Our Own.** Illustrated by Shawn Costello. Albert Whitman & Company. 2001. *Based on real events in Mississippi, this is the story of how a group of sharecroppers got a bus to take their children to school – "a gentle tribute to determination."* Kirkus Reviews. Young Readers

Faulkner, Matt. **A Taste of Colored Water.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2008. "It's my wish that we take strength from the courageous ones who came before us and learn to question oppression, racism, segregation – and all forms of intolerance – and begin to promote compassion for all." Matt Faulkner. Ages 6-8

Giovanni, Nikki. **Rosa.** Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry Holt and Company. 2005. *Mrs. Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus to a white man sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and several subsequent civil rights demonstrations over the next decade.* Juvenile Literature

Gray, Libba Moore. **Dear Willie Rudd,** Illustrated by Peter M. Fiore. Aladdin Paperbacks, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. 1993. "With great subtlety, Gray unfolds the story of a life – and a country's shameful history.... A beautiful and significant book." -*Publisher's Weekly*, starred review. Ages 5-8

- Levine, Ellen. **Henry's Freedom Box. A True Story from the Underground Railroad.** Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Scholastic Press. 2007. "Henry 'Box' Brown became one of the most famous runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad – the man who mailed himself to freedom." (Author) Young Readers
- Lorbiecki, Marybeth. **Jackie's Bat.** Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2006. "Joey, the bat boy for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, learns a hard lesson about respect for people of different races after Jackie [Robinson] joins the team." (Publisher) Ages 5-8
- Malaspina, Ann. **Finding Lincoln.** Paintings by Colin Bootman. Albert Whitman & Company. 2009. *This fictional story is based on historical information about library segregation in the South. It is set in Alabama in 1951 when libraries were only for white people.* Young Readers
- Miller, William. **Richard Wright and the Library Card.** Illustrated by Gregory Christie. Lee & Low Books, Inc. 1997. "Based on a scene from Wright's autobiography, **Black Boy**, in which the seventeen-year-old borrows a white man's library card and devours every book as a ticket to freedom." (Publisher) Ages 5-9
- Polacco, Patricia. **Pink and Say.** Philomel Books. 1994. *This is a moving and powerful Civil War story passed down through generations about two Union soldiers – one white and one black – who are separated from their outfits in Confederate territory.* Written in memory of Pinkus Aylee for Young Readers
- Ramsey, Calvin Alexander with Strauss, Gwen. **Ruth and the Green Book.** Illustrations by Floyd Cooper. Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc. 2010. *This story, although fiction, explains the role of The Green Book in helping African Americans find suitable lodging, food, and gas as they traveled throughout the Jim Crow South.* Young Readers
- Ringgold, Faith. **Tar Beach.** Dragonfly Books, 1991. "A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name." (Publisher) "A book of joy and hope and beauty." – Oakland Tribune. Winner of the Parents' Choice Gold Award. Young Readers
- Shore, Diane Z. & Alexander, Jessica. **This Is the Dream.** Illustrated by James Ransome. Harper Collins Publishers. 2006. "**This is the Dream** celebrates the power of non-violent change. It is a simple look at the way some things used to be, the steps ordinary people took to change those things, and the way they are in America today. The journey is not over, however; imperfections and inequalities remain in our society, and there is always room in our world for the kind of bravery that takes nonviolent action to create a better place." (Author) Young Readers
- Sullivan, Charles, editor. **Children of Promise: African-American Literature and Art for Young People.** Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers. 1991. "In this dramatic and colorful anthology...vivid examples of literature and art draw the reader into the African-American experience in America and trace its history from slavery, colonial times, and the American Revolution through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries." (Publisher) Older Readers
- Tate, Don. **Poet - The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton.** Peachtree Publishers. 2015. *George Moses Horton was the first southern African-American man to be published. He taught himself to read, and while still enslaved, he wrote and recited poetry. An inspiring story of talent and determination.* Young Readers

Walker, Alice. **Langston Hughes, American Poet.** Paintings by Catherine Deeter. Harper Collins Publishers. 2002. *Influenced by Langston Hughes, Alice Walker wrote this biography of the great African American poet so that children everywhere would come to know his story and his love for his people.* Ages 7-11

Wiles, Deborah. **Freedom Summer.** Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. 2001. *This is the story of two friends – one white and one black – who continue to experience racism and prejudice in spite of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act during Freedom Summer.* Ages 4-8

Winter, Jeanette. **Follow the Drinking Gourd.** Dragonfly Books. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1988. *"It sounded like a simple folk song sung by slaves, but it was really a map to freedom – for hidden in the lyrics were directions to the escape route known as the Underground Railroad."* (Publisher) *"An extraordinary and inspiring tribute to a unique part of African-American history."* – Boston Globe. *Words and music and a matching game for children appear at the end of the story.* Young Readers

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Show Way.** Illustrated by Hudson Talbott. G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 2005. *"Soonie's family makes SHOW WAYS – quilts with secret meanings that are maps to freedom. Her family tells stories of bravery that inspire courage. Each generation passes on to the next the belief that there is a road to a better place."* (Publisher) *A family history told in a unique and beautiful way.* Appropriate for all children

_____. **The Other Side.** Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 2001. *"...a moving, lyrical narrative told in the hopeful voice of a child confused about the fence someone else has built in her yard and the racial tension that divides her world."* (Publisher) Appropriate for all children

Holocaust

Bunting, Eve. **One Candle.** Illustrated by K. Wendy Popp. Joanna Cotler Books, An imprint of Harper Collins Publishers. 2002. *On Hanukkah, a grandmother and aunt retell the story of their Hanukkah celebration while in a German concentration camp. The family holiday, marked by remembrance of this story of perseverance, continues to give hope for the future. The artwork, capturing "then" and "now," is extraordinary.* Bunting has written over 200 books for children. Older Children

_____. **Terrible Things. An Allegory of the Holocaust.** Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Harper & Row. 1980. *"In this unique introduction to the Holocaust, Ms. Bunting encourages young children to stand up for what they think is right, without waiting for others to join them."* –The Jewish Publication Society. Appropriate for all children

Deedy, Carmen Agra. **The Yellow Star. The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark.** Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Peachtree Publishers, Ltd. 2000. *"...a graceful and moving exploration of moral courage."* - USA Today. Parent's Choice Gold Award

Gallaz, Christophe and Innocenti, Roberto. **Rose Blanche.** Illustrated by Roberto Innocenti. Creative Paperbacks. 1985. *"An excellent book to use not only to teach about the Holocaust, but also about living a life of ethics, compassion, and honesty."* -School Library Journal

Hoestlandt, Jo. **Star of Fear, Star of Hope.** Illustrations by Johanna Kang. Scholastic, Inc. 1993. *This story is set in 1942 in the north of France following the invasion of the German army and chronicles the round-up of the Jews following the mandate that they wear the yellow star on their clothing.*

Kushner, Tony. **Brundibar**. Pictures by Maurice Sendak. Hyperion Books for Children. 2003. *This story, about two children defeating a bully, is based on a Czech opera completed in 1938 and performed 55 times by the children of Terezin.* Juvenile Literature

McCann, Michelle R. as told by Luba Trzszynska-Frederick. **Luba, The Angel of Bergen-Belsen**. Illustrated by Ann Marshall. Tricycle Press, a division of Ten Speed Press. 2003. *This is a biographical story based on actual events that occurred during Luba Trzszynska-Frederick's life. It is the true story of a hero of the Holocaust and the children who gave her a reason to live.* (Publisher) The author's 7th book for children Juvenile Literature

Mochizuki, Ken. **Passage to Freedom. The Sugihara Story**. Illustrated by Dom Lee. Afterward by Hiroki Sugihara. Lee & Low Books, Inc. 1997. *This book is a "tribute to Chiune Sugihara and his family... who place(d) the welfare of others before themselves."* (Author) *"It is estimated that he saved as many as 10,000 Jewish refugees."* (Publisher) Sugihara received the Righteous Among Nations award from Yad Vashem in 1985. A powerful, inspirational account. Juvenile Literature

Oppenheim, Shulamith Levey. **The Lily Cupboard. A Story of the Holocaust**. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. A Charlotte Zolotow Book. Harper Trophy. 1992. *"...the author weaves into a powerful story the specific details of everyday life... with the anguish of fear and separation from one's family."* - ALA Booklist Ages 6-8

Polacco, Patricia. **The Butterfly**. Philomel Books. 2000. *Patricia Polacco writes from her family history, this time about a friendship during the French Resistance at the time of the Nazi occupation.* Young Readers

Volavkova, Hana, editor. **Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1942-1944**. Schocket Books. 1993. *"A selection of children's poems and drawings reflecting their surroundings in Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia from 1942-1944."* (Publisher)

Wild, Margaret. **Let the Celebrations Begin!** Illustrated by Julie Vivas. Orchard Books. 1991. *The women of the Belsen concentration camp make toys for the children out of scraps and rags. They will celebrate when the war is over. "An outstanding book, filled with reverent awe at the nobility of the human spirit."* -Pointer, Kirkus Reviews. Older Readers

Homelessness/Immigration/Migrants/Refugees

Bunting, Eve. **A Day's Work**. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company imprint. 1994. *"...a touching immigration story (Mexican-American) about the reversal of roles between child and adult... the universal immigrant experience in which the child must help the adult interpret the new world, while the wise adult still has much to teach the child about enduring values."* - School Library Journal. Young Readers

_____. **Fly Away Home**. Illustrated by Ronald Himler. Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company imprint. 1991. *"The problem of homelessness, so distressing and so difficult to explain to children, has found moving expression in a simple, universal picture book.... A grave concern transmuted into a work of art."* -The Horn Book Young Readers

_____. **One Green Apple**. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company imprint. 2006. *"Ted Lewin's gorgeous, sun-drenched paintings and Eve Bunting's sensitive text immediately put the reader into another child's shoes in this touching story of a young Muslim immigrant."* (Publisher) Young Readers

Choi, Yangsook. **The Name Jar**. Dragonfly Books 2001. *“After Unhei moves from Korea to the United States, her new classmates help her decide what her name should be.”* (Publisher) This is a beautiful story of new friendship. Ages 5-8

Del Rizzo, Suzanne. **My Beautiful Birds**. Pajama Press Inc. 2016. *“Fleeing a home destroyed in the Syrian Civil War, Sami worries about the pet pigeons he left behind. Even in the relative safety of a refugee camp, the boy struggles to participate in daily activities, consumed by thoughts of what he has lost. At last, when new birds in need of care enter his life, Sami begins the long road to healing.”* (Publisher) Juvenile Fiction

Dumont, Jean-Francois. **I Am a Bear**. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 2015. *A homeless bear living in a city has a hard time getting by, but when a little girl makes friends with him, his life becomes brighter.* Young Readers

Grant, Karima. **Sofie and the City**. Illustrated by Janet Montecalvo. Boyds Mills Press. 2006. *“When Sofie calls her grandmother in Senegal on Sundays, she complains about the ugliness of the city she now lives in, but her life changes when she makes a new friend.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

Hest, Amy. **When Jessie Came Across the Sea**. Illustrated by P.J. Lynch. Candlewick Press. 1997. *“A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and emigrates [from Ireland] to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States too.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

Krull, Kathleen. **Harvesting Hope. The Story of Cesar Chavez**. Illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt Inc. 2003. *“A biography of Cesar Chavez from age ten when he and his family lived happily on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers’ miserable working conditions. Chavez was one of America’s most inspiring civil rights leaders.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

Kuntz, Doug and Shrodes, Amy. **Lost and Found Cat. The True Story of Kunkush’s Incredible Journey**. Illustrated by Sue Cornelison. Crown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books. 2017. *“This is the story of the family’s flight from Iraq with their beloved pet who was lost in Greece and subsequently reunited with his family. His story focuses on the refugee crisis and helps us remember that we all need each other.”* Young Readers

O’Brien, Anne Sibley. **I’m New Here**. Charlesbridge. 2015. *Three children from other countries (Somalia, Guatemala, and Korea) struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States.* (Publisher) Young Readers

Reorvits, Helen. **My Name is Yoon**. Pictures by Gabi Swiatkowska. Douglas & McIntyre Ltd. 2003. *Korean-born Yoon dislikes her name in English and refers to herself by other words to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.* Young Readers

Ruurs, Margriet, **Stepping Stones, A Refugee Family’s Journey**. Artwork by Nizar Ali Badr. Orca Book Publishers. 2016. *“In this dual language picture book (English and Arabic), a young girl and her family are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the civil war and make their way toward safety in Europe.”* (Publisher) *“The extraordinary images in this book are neither painted nor drawn – they are composed entirely of stone... stones that tell a story expressing love, anguish, sorrow or joy.”* (Author) *The story of how author and artist came together is in itself compelling and inspirational. A visually stunning book.* All Readers

Sanna, Francesca. **The Journey**. Flying Eye Books, an imprint of Ltd. London.2016. *“Almost every day on the news we hear the terms ‘migrants’ and ‘refugees,’ but we rarely... hear the personal journeys that they have had to take. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.”* (Francesca Sanna) Young Readers

Williams, Karen Lynn and Mohammed, Khadra. **Four Feet, Two Sandals**. Illustrated by Doug Chayka. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009. *Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. The experience of these fictional characters is shared by many refugees around the world.* Young Readers

_____. **My Name is Sangoel**. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009. *This story of identity and belonging will help young readers understand the plight of the millions of children in the world who are refugees.* Young Readers

Japanese American

Atkins, Laura and Yogi, Stan. **Fighting for Justice. Fred Korematsu Speaks Up**. Illustrated by Yutaka Houlette. Heyday Books. 2017. *This book tells the story of Fred Korematsu who actively resisted the internment of the Japanese during WWII and finally won a law suit against the government 40 years later. It was determined that the government lawyers had lied to the U.S. Supreme Court: they had no evidence that there was a “military necessity” to imprison Japanese Americans. This is an important social justice story told in a comprehensive way.* Older Readers

Bunting, Eve. **So Far from the Sea**. Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet. Clarion Books, a Houghton Mifflin Company imprint. 1998. *This story, set in 1972, finds a fictional Japanese-American family visiting the Manzanar Relocation Center where their father and grandfather had been interned during World War II. Manzanar was one of ten such centers, and had a population of approximately 10,000. Powerful illustrations capture “then” and “now.”* Juvenile Fiction

Faulkner, Matt. **Gaijin. American Prisoner of War**. Disney. Hyperion Books.2014. *This graphic novel tells the story of the Japanese internment from the point of view of a thirteen-year-old California boy who is half Japanese. “The story is based on the history of the author’s great-aunt.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

Mochizuki, Ken. **Baseball Saved Us**. Illustrated by Dom Lee. Lee & Low Books. Reprint Edition March 1995. *“After briefly describing the way his family was removed from their home and sent to an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II, the narrator, ‘Shorty’ tells how baseball was used as a diversion from the dire situation in which the camp’s inhabitants found themselves.”* - School Library Journal. Juvenile Fiction

Say, Allen. **Grandfather’s Journey**. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1993. *“Through compelling reminiscences of his grandfather’s life in America and Japan, Allen Say delivers a poignant account of his family’s unique cross-cultural experience...and his own love for his two countries.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

_____. **Home of the Brave**. Houghton Mifflin Company. 2002. *“In this sophisticated surreal dream sequence, a man symbolically confronts the trauma of incarceration in a Japanese internment camp. During WWII, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced into ten such camps. This picture book captures the confusion, desolation, and helplessness those prisoners must have felt.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

Uchida, Yoshiko, **The Bracelet**. Illustrated by Joanna Yardley. The Putman & Grosset Group. 1996. *“Rooted as this story is, it is about the wartime refugee experience everywhere, and kids will identify with the injustice that could suddenly invade an ordinary home right here on their street.”*
– Booklist. Juvenile Fiction

Yamasaki, Katie. **Fish for Jimmy**. Holiday House. 2013. *“When brothers Taro and Jimmy and their mother are forced to move from their home in California to a Japanese internment camp in the wake of the 1941 Pearl Harbor bombing, Taro daringly escapes the camp to find fresh fish for his grieving brother.”* (Publisher) Juvenile Fiction

Native American/Indigenous Peoples

Baylor, Byrd. **When Clay Sings**. Illustrated by Tom Bahti. Aladdin Paperbacks. 1972. *Pieces of broken pots are scattered over the desert hillsides of the Southwest. The Indians treat them with respect – “Every piece of clay is a piece of someone’s life,” they say. And the children try to imagine those lives that took place in the desert they think of as their own.* (publisher) *This prose-poem sings as powerfully as the clay pots.* – Caldecott Honor Book description Ages 6-9

Bruchac, Joseph. **Between Earth and Sky, Legends of Native American Sacred Places**. Illustrated by Thomas Locker. Voyager Books, Harcourt Brace & Company. 1996. *“With grace and drama, Abenaki poet and author Joseph Bruchac retells ten Native American legends of awe-inspiring landscapes. These wise stories, together with Thomas Locker’s illuminating paintings, evoke the sacred places above, below and within us all.”* (publisher) *“Beautifully designed, and filled with luminous paintings and haunting poetry.”* - Publishers Weekly Older Readers

Dupuis, Jenny Kay and Kacer, Kathy. **I Am Not a Number**. Illustrated by Gillian Newland. Second Story Press. 2016. *This book is based on the true story of the author’s grandmother, an Anishinaabe woman who was born into a First Nation community ... in Northern Ontario. She and her two brothers were taken... by the Canadian government to live in a Spanish Indian Residential School.* (Afterword by Jenny Kay Dupuis) Juvenile Fiction

Harjo, Joy. **For a Girl Becoming**. Illustrated by Mercedes McDonald. The University of Arizona Press, 2009. *This is a gorgeous native American welcome to a child being born and reflects the values of the culture.* Older Readers and Adults

Highway, Tomson. **Dragonfly Kites. Pimithaagansa**. Illustrated by Julie Flett. Fifth House Publishers, 2016. (Harper Collins edition published in 2002.) *This story, written in both English and Cree, tells of two boys living close to nature whose dreams take flight, filling their days with creativity and a sense of wonder.* (Publisher) Juvenile Fiction

Keams, Geri. **Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun, A Cherokee Story**. Illustrated by James Bernardin. Northland Publishing. 1995. *This folktale “teaches us to respect and honor Fire, Grandmother Spider, and our four-legged friends, just as the Cherokee do.”* (Author) Juvenile Fiction

Martin, Jr. Bill and Archambault, John. **Knots on a Counting Rope**. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Henry Holt and Company. 1987. *In this poignant story, the counting rope is a metaphor for the passage of time and for the boy’s emerging confidence in facing his greatest challenge – his blindness.”* (Publisher) *“...While classified as an Indian story, the love, hope, and courage expressed are universal.”* -Booklist. Juvenile Fiction

Morris, Ann. **Grandma Maxine Remembers. A Native American Family Story**. Photographs and illustrations by Peter Linenthal. The Millbrook Press, Inc. 2002. *“A Shoshone grandmother relates family and cultural history to her granddaughter as they share their daily tasks on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Includes a recipe, craft, and activities.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

Pruski, Jeffrey. **Bring Back the Deer**. Illustrated by Neil Waldman. Harcourt Brace & Co. 1988. *“A young brave’s hunting ritual, in which he pursues a deer through the winter forest, brings him to an understanding of his identity and inner strength.”* (Publisher) Juvenile Fiction

Seattle, Chief. **Brother Eagle, Sister Sky**. Illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Puffin Books. 1991. *At the close of the Indian Wars of the late 1800’s, Chief Seattle delivered this speech at a meeting with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs who was presenting an offer to purchase the lands of Chief Seattle’s people. He warned that to waste or destroy nature and its wonders would be to destroy life itself. Gorgeous paintings reinforce the message of the text.* Older Readers

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. **Enduring Wisdom. Sayings from Native Americans**. With paintings by Synthia Saint James. Holiday House. 2003. *“Through centuries of unwelcome change and anguishing trials, Native Americans have held on to their heritages and histories. With this collection of sayings, distinguished Sioux author Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve and award-winning Cherokee-and-Africa-American artist Synthia Saint James pay tribute to the words of wisdom that have helped sustain these people.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

Tingle, Tim. **Walking the Choctaw Road: Stories from Red People Memory**. Cinco Puntos Press. 2003. *“... twelve stories of the Choctaw People, including traditional lore arising from beliefs and myths, historical tales passed down through generations, and personal stories of contemporary life.”* This book for older readers *“explores the heart of what it means to be Choctaw.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

Waldman, Neil. **Wounded Knee**. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2001. *“Recounts the events leading to the massacre at Wounded Knee, concluding with a description of the battle itself.”* Juvenile Literature

Wood, Nancy. **Spirit Walker**. Paintings by Frank Howell. A Doubleday Book for Young Readers, Delacorte Press, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc. 1993. *“The author’s poems reflect the deep spirituality and value of the Taos Indians and their interconnectedness to the earth.”* (Publisher) Older Readers and Adults

Yolen, Jane. **Encounter**. Illustrated by David Shannon. Voyager Books, Harcourt, Inc. 1992. *This book tells the moving story of Columbus’ arrival in the New World from the perspective of the Taino people who lived on the land he claimed for Spain. The story explains how the lives of the indigenous peoples changed forever.* Juvenile Fiction

Values/Ethics/Activism/Understanding

Ancona, George. **Can we help? Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities**. Candlewick Press. 2015. *This beautifully photographed book chronicles ways in which children, ages 8-18, can do meaningful volunteer work to make their communities better places.* All Ages

Brown, Tricia. **Salaam. A Muslim American Boy’s Story**. Photographs by Ken Cardwell. Henry Holt & Company. 2006. *This book introduces “Imran, a young Muslim American boy. He likes to do the same things as most kids his age – play in the park, take karate lessons, and tell jokes with his best friend Trevor. Imran knows that not everyone understands what it means to be Muslim. He wants to help everyone see that Muslims strive to be good people, just like those of other faiths do. This is a warm, sensitive portrait of a boy and his family who are both Muslim and American at the same time.”* (Publisher) Juvenile Readers

de la Pena, Matt. **Last Stop on Market Street**. Pictures by Christian Robinson. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. 2015. *“A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.”* (Publisher) He also learns to appreciate their weekly ritual of serving food at the soup kitchen. Young Readers

DiSalvo, Dyanne. **A Castle on Viola Street.** Harper Collins. 2001. *This book tells the story of families who volunteer to fix up old houses in exchange for eventually qualifying to work on one for themselves. It illustrates the work of Habitat for Humanity and its affiliates who address the shortage of adequate housing across the world.* Young Readers

Durell, Ann and Sachs, Marilyn, editors. **The Big Book for Peace.** Designed by Jane Byers Bierhorst. Dutton Children's Books, 1990. *"The wisdom of peace and the absurdity of fighting are demonstrated in seventeen stories and poems by outstanding authors... and illustrated by famous illustrators..." (Publisher) Royalties from the sale of this book were donated to Amnesty International, The Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program at Emory University, Greenpeace, The Lion and the Lamb Peace Arts Center, and SANE/FREEZE: Campaign for Global Security.* Older Readers

Heard, Georgia, editor. **This Place I Know. Poems of Comfort.** Illustrated by Eighteen Renowned Picture Book Artists. Candlewick Press. 2002. *In memory of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, eighteen picture book artists illustrated poetry by several different poets. "The words and images of grief, comfort, and hope are for all of us, at any time, as we endeavor to find our way – and our place – in this world."* Appropriate for Older Children

Herthel, Jessica and Jennings, Jazz. **I Am Jazz.** Pictures by Shelagh McNicholas. Dial Books for Young Readers, The Penguin Group. 2014. *She was born this way which confused her family until they sought help. "This true story is told in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers." (Publisher)* For families facing LGBTQ+ issues and those eager to understand

Javernick, Ellen. **What If Everybody Did That?** Illustrated by Colleen M. Madden. Amazon Children's Publishing. 2010. *"A child learns that there are consequences of thoughtless behavior, from feeding popcorn to a bear at the zoo to dropping an empty can out of a car window." (Publisher) The colorful illustrations demonstrate those consequences vividly.* Juvenile Readers

LeBox, Annette. **Peace is an Offering.** Pictures by Stephanie Graegin. Dial Books for Young Readers, The Penguin Group. 2015. *"Neighborhood children find love in everyday things... and learn that peace is all around, if you just look for it." A simple, beautiful rhyming text that will resonate with adults as well as children.* Young Readers

Lovell, Patty. **Stand Tall, Molly Lou Mellon.** Illustrated by David Catrow. G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. 2001. *"Even when the class bully at her new school makes fun of her, Molly remembers what her grandmother told her and feels good about herself." (Publisher)* Young Readers

McCarney, Rosemary with Plan International. **Dear Malala, We Stand with You.** Crown Books for Young Readers. 2014. *"Fifteen-year-old Malala Yousafzai captured the attention of the world by standing up to the Taliban in Pakistan, even though they shot her for going to school – a basic right denied millions of girls. But Malala would not be silenced. Through her bravery, she gives a voice to girls everywhere." (Publisher) This book is a letter to Malala from girls around the world.* Older Readers

McCloud, Carol. **Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids.** Illustrated by David Messing. Ferne Press, an imprint of Nelson Publishing and Marketing. 2006. *"Filling a bucket" is a symbol for expressing kindness, appreciation, and love daily. This heart-warming book encourages positive behavior in this simple and powerful way.* Young Readers

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. **Hammerin' Hank. The Life of Hank Greenberg.** Illustrated by Malcah Zeldis. Walker Publishing Company, Inc. 2006 *Hank Greenberg, baseball's first Jewish superstar, played in the 1930's, a time when "outsiders" were not welcome in major league baseball. He became baseball's first Jewish superstar.* Older Readers

Meiners, Cheri J. **Reach Out and Give**. Illustrated by Meredith Johnson. Free Spirit Publishing Inc. 2006. *“The Learning to Get Along Series is a powerful tool for teaching children essential social skills such as empathy, respect, cooperation, and kindness.”* Dr. Stephen R. Covey, Author, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Early Childhood Social Skills

Nagara, Innosanto. **A is for Activist**. A Triangle Square Books for Young Readers Edition, Seven Stories Press. 2013. *This book “is a rhyming, alliterative, word-rich wonder, introducing concepts of justice, respect, activism, diversity, LGBT rights, workers’ and environmental rights and everything else that activists believe in and fight for.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

O’Neill, Alexis. **The Recess Queen**. Illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith. Scholastic Press. 2002. *“Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean’s status as the Recess Queen.”* (Publisher) Young Readers

Otoshi, Kathryn. **One**. KO Kids Books. 2008. *“There are many stories about bullies, but few have looked at the subject in such an attractive, original way.”* – Booklist (starred review) Young Readers

Pearson, Emily. **Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed**. Illustrations by Fumi Kosaka. Gibbs Smith, Publisher. 2002. *“A young girl’s good deed is multiplied as it is passed on by those who have been touched by the kindness of others.”* Young Readers

Polacco, Patricia. **Chicken Sunday**. Philomel Books. 1992. *In this moving picture book, the hatred sometimes engendered by racial and religious differences is overpowered by the love of people who recognize their common humanity.* – Booklist Juvenile Readers

Pomeranc, Marion Hess. **The Can-Do Thanksgiving**. Pictures by Nancy Cote. Albert Whitman & Company. 1998. *A child helps prepare and serve food at a church-sponsored community Thanksgiving for the needy.* Young Readers

Raschka, Chris. **Yo! Yes?** Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc. 1993. *Two kids meet on a street and a conversation turns strangers into friends. This book is a celebration of differences and how just a few words can overcome them.* Young Readers

Stein, David Ezra. **Because Amelia Smiled**. Candlewick Press. 2012. *One smile inspires another which inspires another. “And so, the good feelings travel around the world, inspiring ever more smiles, kindness, and love along the way.”* (Publisher) *The author explains that this is the story of how we are connected – to people we love and to people we don’t even know. The happy, bright, whimsical illustrations support the text in a rich and colorful way.* Young Readers

Stover, Jo Ann. **If Everybody Did**. BJU Press. 1989. *What would happen if everybody misbehaved? “Take your child on a hilarious sightseeing tour of what the world would be like if everyone did!”* Ages 2-6

Tyler, Michael. **The Skin You Live In**. Illustrated by David Lee Csicsko. Chicago Children’s Museum. 2005. *This delightful rhyming book, with cheerful and whimsical illustrations, captures the various skin tones we humans come in, and yet emphasizes how alike we are! “We are special and different and just the same, too!”* Young Readers

Weber, Elka. **The Yankee at the Seder**. Illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Tricycle Press. 2009. *“This true story about a Jewish Yankee soldier joining a Southern family’s Passover meal shows how common values can overcome even the most divisive differences. Gathered around the Seder table, the group discusses what it means to be free – a subject as relevant today as it was during the War between the States and during Exodus.”* (Publisher) Older Readers

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Each Kindness**. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Nancy Paulson Books, The Penguin Group. 2012. *A lesson in how even small acts of kindness can change the world.*
Young Readers

Yahgulanaas, Michael Nicoll. **The Little Hummingbird**. Greystone Books Ltd. 2010. *The message of this book, that one who is not afraid to act can make the biggest difference, applies to saving the environment as well as to improving relationships with others.*
Young Readers

Samples of Social Justice Books Recommended for PreK-1

Andreae, Giles. **Giraffes Can't Dance**. Illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees. Orchard Books. 1999. *Gerald the giraffe is too clumsy to dance with all the other animals at the Jungle Dance, until he finds the right music. A story with very engaging text and pictures about being different.*

Fox, Mem. **Whoever You Are**. Illustrated by Leslie Staub. Voyager Books. Harcourt, Inc. 1997 and 2001. *"An essential book that acknowledges in the simplest of terms our common humanity."*
-Kirkus Reviews

Lester, Helen. **Tacky, the Penguin**. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Scholastic, Inc. 1988. *The story of a penguin who is different illustrates that being an individual has advantages.*

Mayer, Mercer and Marianna. **One Frog Too Many**. Dial Books for Young Readers. 1975. *This delightful wordless picture book is the story of an adventurous little boy and his animal friends, one of whom needs to learn a lesson about kindness and acceptance.*

Munsch, Robert. **The Paper Bag Princess**. Art by Michael Martchenko. Annick Press Ltd. 1980. (Eighty-second printing, December 2015.) *This is a prince and princess story with a funny, feminist twist. Great Fun!*

Pinkney, Jerry. **The Lion and the Mouse**. Little, Brown and Company. 2009. *"In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's stunningly rendered wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted." (Publisher)*

Vagin, Vladimir. **Here Comes the Cat**. Illustrated by Frank Asch. Scholastic, Inc. 1989. *Minimal text picture book with surprising twist shows that our fears can be unfounded. Written by an American writer and a Russian illustrator following Glasnost. "Among the few impressive efforts in the antiwar genre." –Newsweek*

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. **Hop Jump**. Harcourt Brace. 1993. *Bored with hopping and jumping, a frog discovers dancing. We discover the importance of tolerance and acceptance.*

Willems, Mo. **City Dog, Country Frog**. Pictures by John J Muth. Hyperion Books for Children. 2010. *"Mo Willems' spare, poignant text and Jon J Muth's expressive watercolors team up to present a reflection on the natural course of friendship [a seemingly unlikely friendship] – and life – that will resonate with readers of all ages." (Publisher) A beautiful story!*