

Democratic Practice Book Reviews for Students Grades K-6

Adler, David. A. (1996). A picture Book of Davy Crockett. Library of Congress Catalog-in-Publication Data, New York. ISBN# : 0-8234-1212-1.

This book is wonderful because it familiarizes the students with a part of our history. It explores the life of Davy Crockett and how his life impacted our history. The book explores how there wasn't much of a democracy and many choices were made for you back in those times. This story is appropriate for grades 1-3.

Aulaire, Ingri. Abraham Lincoln. New York: Dell, 1993.

This book would teach children about democracy because it tells the life of one of the most influential democratic figures in American History. Abraham Lincoln gives the teacher an enormous amount of information about what takes place in a democracy. The book tells about Lincoln's journey from a backwoods boy to American President. The book is filled with tons of information about what happens in America when democracy is threatened by Civil War.

Barner, Bob. (1991). The Bike Race. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston ISBN # 0-395-62583-1.

This book promotes democratic practice because it deals with the issue of friendship. It is about these two friends who are competing against each other in a bike race. During the story they get caught up in trying to win that they don't pay attention and they run into a tree. They wreck both of their bikes and decide to build a new bike together and win the race as a team. This teaches kids that friendship is more important than winning. You could probably use this book in kindergarten or first grade.

Beers, V. Gilbert. (1991). Friends are Helpers. Educational Publishing Concepts, Inc., Michigan ISBN # 0997-9-395.

This book also deals with the issue of friendship and how friends should help each other out. You could use this book with kindergarten students because it is simple and easy to read. It gives a message to students saying that we should help our friends out how ever we can.

Berenstain, Stan. (1983). The Berenstain Bears and The Truth. New York: Random.

This is a wonderful book to teach children about democracy. From this book children will learn about having justice and fairness in a relationship. Children will get an understanding of what happens when children do something wrong and try to lie about what they did. Children can learn in a democracy people, as well as children, have to be truthful for a relationship to work. If people in our democratic system were dishonest, the system would not work. If children lie about something they did wrong the relationship between parent and child will not work.

Berenstain, Jan and Stan. (1983). The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Money. New York: Random House Incorporated.

This book shows the importance of saving via a regular allowance. It shows what happens when you don't and what you can do with all of the money if you do save it. It also explains the figures of speech like "made of money" and "money doesn't grow on trees". This book is good because money management is a big responsibility and children should learn to be responsible.

Berenstain, Stan and Berenstain, Jan. (1991). The Berenstain Bears are a family. Random House, New York.

The book is about the Berenstain bear family and how they all work together and help each other. You can use the content of the book to demonstrate how you would like the children to treat each other in the classroom. The book could be used for kindergarten during the first few days of school, because your class can be like a "school family" who works together in a learning environment.

Berenstain, Jan and Stan. (1999). The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need. New York: Random House Incorporated.

After realizing that they have too much stuff, the Berenstains' decide to share what they have by taking it to the Old Bears Home, the Young Cubs Hospital, and the Bears Who Care (resembling the Salvation Army). They talk about how good they feel about taking care of those who don't have much. This book should spur children on to be good citizens and care for others who aren't as fortunate.

Borden, Louise.(2002). America Is. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.

In this book, Louise Borden helps children to understand exactly what America is made up of. The people who live in America are farmers, teachers, miners, factory workers, bakers, and bankers, and millions of others working at many different kinds of jobs. Some are descendants of the very first people to live here, while others come from countries all over the world, but all are Americans.

Brown, Marc. (1979). Arthur's Eyes. Scholastic Inc. New York. ISBN# 0-590-13487-6.

This book is a great book for children. You could use this book in first and second grade. It deals with a student struggling to fit in with his classmates now that he has glasses. At first the students make fun of him, but then one of his friends gets glasses too and makes him feel accepted. It shows the democratic practice of equality; that all students are equal no matter what they look like.

Brown, Marc. (1991). Arthur Meets the President. New York: Little, Brown and Company. ISBN# 0-606-02222-8

(Grade Level: K-3rd) Arthur wins a writing contest that sends him and his class to the White House to meet the President. Arthur struggles with nerves because he discovers that he must memorize his essay and recite it to the President. Arthur and his

classmates take a short tour of Washington before the special ceremony.

Brown, Margaret Wise. (1993). The Little Fireman. Harper Collins Publishers, Mexico. ISBN 0-06-021476-7. Grades K-1, TEK K.7

The student understands the importance of jobs. This book explains to children what a fireman does. It also compares a big fireman to a little fireman. It shows kids that a big and little fireman can do the same things.

Brown, M. (?Year). Stone Soup. New York; Charles Scribner's Sons. This book is about three soldiers who are very hungry and decide to stop in a village to ask for food. However, the people pretend that they do not have enough food. So the soldiers begin to make stone soup and in the process teach the villagers the valuable democratic practice of sharing.

Bull, Angela. (2000). Free at last: The story of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dorling Kindersley, New York. ISBN: 0-7894-5717-2. (Grades: 3rd-5th). This book is also part of the "Dorling Kindersley Readers" series and focuses on Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement of the 1960's. It highlights many notable events that happened during the movement and covers important people and vocabulary.

Bunting, Eve. (1994). Smokey Night. Harcourt Brace & Company. San Diego, CA. ISBN: # 0-15-201884-0. Grade Level: 1-3.

In Los Angeles, a young boy witnesses riots breaking out in the street below his apartment window. The boy and his mother learn about how they need to get along with their neighbors and others no matter what nationality or background. When the riots are finally over, the boy's mother invites her neighbor over to come and visit so they can all try to be peacemakers.

Burton, V. (1939). Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

This children's book is enjoyable for all, but most appropriate between the ages of four to eight. It is about a man named Mike and his beloved steam Shovel, Mary Anne. Mary Anne comes alive in the book and is loved by the community and praised for her ability to dig a cellar in just one day. This book shows a deep friendship in which the two work together to help out the community.

Charnan, Simon, & Handelman, Dorothy. (1999). I Like to Win. Connecticut: Millbrook.

This is a great book to have younger kids read. It stresses the importance of playing games to just have fun. If you win, win with grace. If you lose, be a good sport about it. It is a very easy read, but the message is simple and can be understood by most everyone.

Cheney, L. (2002). America: A Patriotic Primer. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc. ISBN 0-439-45994-X .

This story is an alphabet book that describes all the aspects of the American democratic government. It teaches children the basics of the history of the US and democracy. Examples of topics covered are the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Luther King.

Clark, Margaret Goff. (1980). Freedom Crossing . New York: Scholastic Book Services. ISBN: 0-590-31299-5.

Freedom Crossing is a suspenseful story for students between the reading level of the third and fifth grades who are interested in learning about the Underground Railway. Laura the main character of the story must travel to freedom in Canada and avoid being caught by the slave catchers. The story unites family, friendship and a very traumatic part of United States history.

Couric,K. (?Year). The Brand New Kid. New York: Doubleday.

This book is about a boy who is new to the area and although it does not say so he is probably new to the country. I believe this book is democratic because it teaches the importance of friendship and treating others the way you would like to be treated. It also teaches that everyone is important.

Cowen-Fletcher, Jane. (1994). It Takes A Village. Scholastic: New York.

This story is about a young girl named Yemi who watches her brother, Kokou, by herself for the very first time while her mother sells mangoes at the market. Yemi takes her eyes off of Kokou for only a moment and he runs away. Yemi learns that Kokou was safe all along, under the watchful eyes of their fellow villagers. Yemi finds out that it takes a village to raise a child.

Curtis, C. (1995). The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963. New York:Bantam Doubleday Dell.

This book follows an African American family from Flint, Michigan and their travel to visit family to Birmingham, Alabama. The book is humorous but also involves the tragedy of a bombing. In the book, the Watson children experience segregation firsthand. The parents must explain segregation and their desire for equality to their children.

D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar Parin. (1957). Abraham Lincoln. New York: Doubleday & Company. Inc.

Abraham Lincoln is a wonderful book that guides children through the life of Abraham Lincoln. It begins from when he was born until his victory in the Civil War. The description of his lifestyle is interesting, and easy for children to relate to. It's pictures are great! It received the Caldecott Medal. (3rd or 4th grade)

Davidson, Margaret. (1968). Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom. Scholastic Inc, NY, NY. ISBN: 0-590-42218-9.

The book is about the life and accomplishments of Frederick Douglass. It begins by discussing his life as a slave, and then talks about liberty and freedom that he gained. Later, he became an activist for equality and equal opportunity, so the book is a good example of democratic practices.

DePaola, Tommy.(2002). Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story. New York: Putnam.

This book would teach children about democracy because the children can look at how Cinderella wanted freedom from persecution from her stepmother. It also would teach the children about equality in relationships. This book gives the children valuable information about being able to overcome huge odds and become a productive member of society. The teacher could explain to the children that in a democracy people are given the opportunity to rise up and make something of themselves.

DePaola,T. (?Year). The Legend of the Bluebonnet. New York:G.P.Putnam's Sons. This book is about a young girl who's most valued possession is a doll made by her now dead parents. The Great Spirits say they will not send rain until someone makes a great unselfish sacrifice. The democratic practice illustrated in this book is one of caring for others needs above your own wants. The girl sacrifices her doll to save her people.

Drummond, Allan. (2002). Liberty! 2002Farrar, Straus and Giroux; New York. ISBN: 0-374-34385-3.

This is a great book about how the Statue of Liberty was created and how it symbolizes liberty and freedom in America. It is told by a young boy who got to be apart of unveiling the Statue of Liberty. The author does a good job in discussing freedom and what means. This is a good book for second to third graders to read on thier own but can be taught out of from grades kindergarten to sixth grade.

Flanagan, Alice K. & Christine Osinski. (1998). Officer Brown Keeps Neighborhoods Safe. NY: Grolier.

This book follows the duties of one female police officer named Officer Brown. The book takes you on a tour of her life and how she got to the highest ranked position for a female officer in Connecticut. The book also makes it clear that a police officer is a good person and is there to keep things safe for everyone.

Fontes, Justin and Ron. (2001). George Washington Soldier, Hero, and President. Dorling Kindersley Publishing Inc. New York, NY. ISBN 0-7894-7377-1

This book tells the life story of our first president. It describes his life as a surveyor, a soldier, a farmer, a friend, a statesman, a general, and a president.

Fox, Mem. (2001). Whoever You Are. Voyager Books, New York. ISBN# : 0-15-200787-3.

This is an excellent book to read at the beginning of the year with your students because it explores all the different cultures. It will open the students eyes to the different cultures in their own classroom and allow the children the choice to explore them on their own. This book is appropriate for ages k-5.

Freedman, Russell. (1987). Lincoln: An Autobiography. New York: Clarion Books. ISBN # 0-395-51848-2.

(Grade Level: 4th-8th) This book chronicles Lincoln's life from his humble birth in a log cabin to his tragic assassination. Many pictures and photographs accompany the text. Lincoln's political career is discussed in detail but in a way that children can easily understand.

Fremont, Eleanor. (?Year). Pooh Just Be Nice. Golden Books Publishing Co, Inc: New York. ISBN: 0-3-7-12980-2.

This book explains that playing rough is not fun for others. Tigger learns a lesson from his friends that his bouncing on people and their things is not appreciated by others. At the end, Tigger and his friends compromise and Tigger uses the "bouncing thing" that he friends gave him as a present to jump on instead of bouncing on his friends. (Pre-K/K).

Fritz, J. (1991). Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! New York: Penguin Putnam Books.

This 115-page biography is appropriate for young adults, between the fifth and ninth grade. The book follows the childhood, personal life and political career of the twenty-sixth president. With a focus on his love and appreciation for life and social consciousness, Teddy Roosevelt is depicted as the memorable president he was.

Fritz, Jean. (?year). Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address. Publisher?

This book tells about Presidents Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. It discusses Lincoln's family life and the many things that he did for the US. This book further gives a little information about the Battle at Gettysburg to explain why the president was giving the speech.

George, Judith St. (2000). So You Want to be President? Philomel Books, New York. ISBN 0-399-23407-1. Grades K-3 TEK K.2.

This book presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents. It starts with George Washington and ends with Bill Clinton. The illustrations in the book help to make it interesting for kids.

Gonzalez, Catherine. (1997). Chacho & Ellie Sanchez, citizens! Austin, TX, An Imprint of Sunbelt Media, Inc. ISBN 1-57168-114-0.

When eleven-year old Maria Elena and her family immigrate to Texas in 1917, she and her father eagerly prepare for citizenship but face prejudice and many other challenges. Throughout this journey, American citizen students can be thankful that they are able to enjoy these freedoms without the hassle.

Graves, Charles P. (1963). A Holiday Book: Fourth of July. Champaign, IL: Garrard Publishing Company. ISBN# 63-13625.

This book provides an overview of the many reasons we celebrate living in the United States and the things that are symbolic of this country. Early independence is discussed, along with national symbols and the Civil War. Monuments, statues, fireworks and the flag are also referred to when speaking of freedom. This book would be appropriate for second and third grade.

Greene, Carol. (1989). Abraham Lincoln. Chicago, IL: Children's Press. ISBN# 0-516-04206-8.

This book is a biography of Abraham Lincoln. It tells of his hard life as a boy growing up in Indiana and later in Illinois. It follows his life as an adult from serving as a lawyer, to becoming the President of the United States. The book would be appropriate to read to first grade and for second and third grade to read for themselves.

Grindley, Sally & Penny Dann. (1998). What are friends for? Scholastic, New York.

What are Friends for? is a book that discusses friendship qualities through a relationship between a bear and a fox. In the story, the friends get into a disagreement, but at the end, they discover that "a true friend is forever." The book could be used in kindergarten (they could draw a picture of their friends, and write a sentence about them) or first grade (the students could write a poem about their friends).

Havill, Juanita. (1999). Jamaica and the Substitute Teacher. Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston.

This story is about a class that receives a substitute teacher and one little girl who finds her to be very special. Jamaica tries all week to please Mrs. Duval and receives praise for her excellent work during hidden object, reading, and math time. During the spelling test, Jamaica does not want to disappoint Mrs. Duval when she does not know how to spell one of the words. When Jamaica chooses to copy, she risks disappointing Mrs. Duval even further.

Hazen, Barbara Shook. (1998). That Toad is Mine! USA: HarperFestival.
This book is about two friends who share everything until one day they come across something that they both want but cannot have at the same time. (PreK-K)

Hearne, Betsey. (1997). Seven Brave Women. Greenwillow Books, 1997, Singapore. ISBN 0-688-14502-7. Grades K-2 TEK K.2

The student understands how historical figures and ordinary people helped to shape the community, state, and nation. This book is about a young girl who tells about all of the brave things her female ancestors did. It is neat because it starts off with her great-great-great grandmother. It is democratic because it shows ordinary women doing brave things.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. (1999). And to Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc. ISBN# 0-517-80070-5
Grade Level: (K-5th) A disagreement between a brother and a sister soon turns into a parade that includes the town, the country, and even the world. This book celebrates diversity, friendship, and community. Children will love the rhyming text and colorful pictures.

Hoffman, Mary. (1991). Amazing Grace. Dial Books for Young Reader, New York, NY. ISBN 0-8037-1040-2.

This picture book tells the story of a girl who wants to try out for the part of Peter Pan in the school play. Her classmates tell her she won't get it because she is a girl. With the encouragement of her family, she tries out anyway and get the part.

Joseph, L. (1998). Fly, Bessie, Fly. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. ISBN 0-689-81339-2.

This book is a biography about the first black woman pilot in the world, Bessie Coleman. The book tells her life story from childhood until adulthood about the many obstacles that she had to overcome to reach her goal. Because of prejudices in America at the time, Bessie was unable to take flying lessons here. She learned to fly in France and returned to the US as the first black woman pilot.

Kind, David C. (1996). First Facts About American Heroes. Blackbirch Press, Inc., Woodbridge, CT

This book is all about heroes found throughout the history of our nation. The heroes date back to the early colonial times and reach to heroes from the 21st century. There is biographical information about each hero and what he or she did that was heroic to our nation. I think this book could be shared with 2nd graders and up.

Krull, Kathleen. (1996). Wilma Unlimited. Harcourt Inc. San Diego, CA. ISBN#: 0-15-202098-5. (Grade Level: 1-3)

This is a biography about Wilma Rudolph and how she became one of the world's fastest runners in the Olympics. Wilma is an African American woman who overcame the disease polio as a child to later prove herself to be riotous of winning three gold medals in track in a single Olympics. Her inspiring story makes her a hero not only in the realm of sports but also in the democratic society we live in today.

Lepthien, Emilie U. (1985). The Cherokee. Children's Press: Chicago. SBN: 0-516-41938-2.

This is a wonderful book about the Cherokee culture, past hardships endured over the years, and their current lifestyles. The book also goes into the relationship that the Cherokees had with the American settlers and the American government. At the end of the book, there's a vocabulary section, as well. (3rd/4th).

Littlest Sugar, A., & Cooper, F. (2001). Freedom School, Yes! Scholastic Inc, NY, NY. ISBN: 0-439-37600-9.

The book is about the opening of the first African American School, which is taught by a white woman, in a small town. It discusses the problems and emotions felt by a young African American girl who is to attend the school. The book demonstrates equality or equal opportunity through the opening of education to all races.

Maestro, Betsy and Maestro Giulio (?Year). A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution. Publisher?

This book takes you back to a time when there was no government in the US. It discusses how leaders of the states got together to discuss how to save the US before it fell apart. This is when the constitution was written. The book also breaks the Constitution down into simpler parts at the end of the book.

Mayer, Mercer. (1983). All By Myself. : New York: Western Publishing Company Incorporated.

The main character boasts of being responsible, but the pictures show that he doesn't always get it right. This shows that being self-reliant and having good hygiene is important.

McKissack, Patricia & Frederick. (1991). Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, Inc. ISBN# 0-89490-302-0.

This book opens with a short review of the early life of Martin Luther King, Jr. The book also explains how prejudices faced many African Americans in the 1950's and 60's. The book makes its end with Dr. King's protest and his famous speech he gave before his death. This book would be appropriate for second through fourth grade.

Miller, Scott, Elaine, and Margaret. (2000). Friends! NY: Atheneum.

This book is a great book to read to elementary school kids. This book talks about friendships and why they are important. It gives some discussion questions for the class to talk about after each subject area. The book mentions helping friends in need, solving disagreements, sharing, keeping secrets, as well as many other topic areas.

Mochizuki, Ken. (1993). Baseball saved us. Lee & Low Books Inc., New York. ISBN #: 1-880000-19-9. (Grade Level: 2-5)

During World War II many Japanese American families were forced to live in internment camps against their will. A young Japanese American boy learns how to play baseball during his time spent at the internment camp which will later on help him become the hero of the championship game. The boy's determination and strength prevails after the war, in return, he is a true survivor and winner.

Morrison, Toni. (1980). The Big Box. New York: Hyperion Books for Children. ISBN: 0-590-31299-5.

The Big Box is a children's story, which tells about three friends desire for personal freedom. The book illuminates the conflict between adults and children concerning kids having the freedom to be themselves. The children show their need for personal choices and the right to be "kids".

Munsch, Robert. (1999). We Share Everything! Canada: Scholastic Inc.

This book is about Amanda and Jeremiah learning to share; however, they take their sharing a little too far when their teacher tells them that they must share everything. (K)

Munson, Derek. (2000). Enemy Pie. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC.

This book is about a boy who wants to get rid of his enemy, but in the process, makes a friend instead. (1-2)

Nestor, Carl E. (1997). When Drugs Came to Josh's Street. Brighter Child, Brighter Choices. A.S.I 45790.

Josh sees that some of his friends are starting to take drugs and drink alcohol. His friends think it's a lot of fun and that they are cool to being doing drugs. Josh's friends get caught and then a police officer goes to the school and talks about the harmful side effects of taking drugs. (2nd/3rd).

Paatma, Lucia. (2000). Caring. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press. ISBN#: 0-7368-0366-1.

This book presents the act and mentality of caring as a virtue. It gives suggestions for ways in which caring can be shown such as donating to the needy, recycling, and helping others who need assistance. This book is written at a 2.9 reading level and it is a picture book.

Paatma, Lucia. (2000). Responsibility. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press. ISBN#: 0-7368-0372-6.

This book explains the virtue of responsibility. It gives examples of how kids can be responsible and practice responsibility at school, at home, and in their lives. I feel that it is a wonderful book for character education; it is a picture book written on the 2.9 reading level.

Parr, Todd. (2000). It's Okay to be Different. Boston: Little Brown and Company.

Todd Parr uses this book and his bright colorful illustrations to explain to children that not everyone is the same and that it is ok to be different. This book explains to children why it is important to accept everyone's differences. This wonderful book cleverly delivers its important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in a child-friendly package.

Peck, Ira. (1968) . The Life and Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholastic Inc, NY, NY. IBSN: 0-590-43827-1.

The book discusses the life, work, and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to society. The book discusses equality or equal opportunity to all ethnicities and how his dream can be accomplished peacefully.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. (2002). Ella Fitzgerald. New York, New York. Andrea Davis Pinkney.

Ella Fitzgerald is narrated by a cat named Scat Cat Monroe. He was named by Ella Fitzgerald who invented the sound of scat. She was a woman who had a dream of singing and dancing and it came true. The book describes Ella's musical talent and career path. The book includes wonderful pictures full of color by Davis Pinkney. (3rd or 4th grade)

Pollacco, Patricia. (1994). Pink and Say. Scholastic Inc., New York.

This book takes place during the Civil War and follows two boys in their journeys. The book addresses an unlikely friendship that happened by chance, and follows the boys until they are finally separated at a prison camp. It is told by a child who is retelling it because the story has become part of her family's history. This book is touching and could be read to children grade school on up through high school.

Ready, Dee. (1997). Community Helpers- Police Officers. Capstone Press, Minnesota. ISBN# : 1-56065-513-5.

This excellent book is a part of a series of books on community helpers. This book explores the role a police officer plays in our society. This book explores the different ways to make right or wrong decisions. This book is appropriate for ages k-2.

Ready, Dee. (1997). Fire fighters. Capstone Press, Minnesota. ISBN:1-56065-510-0.

This book discusses what a fireman does, what kind of gear they wear, and how they live their lives as a fireman. It also discusses how they help other people in the community. This book is a good book to get the general idea of what a fireman does. I would recommend this book for a high reader in kindergarten and any first grader.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. (1996). The Flag We Love. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. Pam Munoz Ryan uses the wonderful book to let children have the opportunity to learn exactly what makes up the American Flag. This book is cleverly written by using rhyming words and beautiful pictures. Each page includes a brief history of the flag, like who made it, where it is flown and the history of the pledge. This book is overall a great book when wanting to teach about the American flag.

Santrey, Laurence. (?Year). Young Frederick Douglass Fight for Freedom. Publisher?

Frederick Douglass growing up as a slave on a plantation. It tells of how he voiced his opinion against slavery. It also discusses how Frederick went to talk to Abe Lincoln

about recruiting black men to fight in the war. Soon after, black men were fighting for the North.

Scarf, Maggi. (1996). Meet Benjamin Franklin. New York, NY: Random House. ISBN # 0-375-81524-4.

This book is a biography of Benjamin Franklin which is appropriate for use with 2nd grade through upper elementary (58 pg chapter book). The book illustrates the hardships and efforts that Benjamin Franklin made on his journey to being a forefather of this nation. History of the United states, including the writing of the declaration Independence is visited in this well written biography for young readers.

Scher, Linda & Johnson, Mary Oates. (1997). Candidates, Campaigns, and Elections. Scholastic, Inc., New York. ISBN: 0-590-48805-8. (Grades: 4th and up). This book is a collection of projects, activities, and literature links to be used to teach students about campaigns and the electoral process. While the book is geared toward higher grades (grades 4-8), the activities could be modified to suit the needs of younger students. This book contains some good lesson ideas, as well as pages that can be reproduced for student use.

Sisulu, E. B. (1996). The Day Gogo Went to Vote. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. ISBN 0-316-70267-6.

This story, set in South Africa, is about how Thembi's great-grandmother, Gogo, voted for the first time. In April 1994, it is announced that blacks in South Africa can vote for the first time in a governmental election. This story is about taking pride in one's country and one's right to vote.

Spinelli, Jerry. (1990). Maniac Magee. Little Brown and Company, Boston.

This book is about a young boy who becomes an unlikely hero in a town that needs one desperately. It is a historical myth that incorporates the real life struggles of the civil rights movement through the eyes of a naive boy who manages to unite the town. This is appropriate for fourth graders to read on their own, but could be read aloud to a second or third classroom.

Steins, Richard (1994). Our Elections Brookfield, CT, The Millbrook Press. ISBN 1-56294-446-0.

This book covers the United States government and explains the democratic process from elections to voting. By discussing what campaigns consist of all the way to the election of a new office, this book allows students to understand why their opinions matter, as well as how their votes count. It also recounts some important elections that shaped the history of the United States, which reflect that the public's opinion does matter.

Tanaka, Shelley. (2001). Attack on Pearl Harbor The True Story of the Day America Entered World War II. New York, New York: The Madison Press Limited.

Attack on Pearl Harbor informs children of this tragic day in our history. It begins by introducing a young boy named Peter Nottage. The book focuses on how Peter reacted to this tragedy, along with giving many detailed facts about the attack itself. There are tons of pictures from the actual event itself. This book was a Texas Bluebonnet 2002-2003 nominee. (4th or 5th grade)

The Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarteners. (1991). We are all alike, we are all different. Scholastic, New York.

This book was written by a kindergarten class and addresses the issue of diversity. It shows children of all different ethnic backgrounds, and how they each have unique traits. It could be used in the classroom to discuss diversity, and then your class could write and illustrate an original book.

VanAllsburg, Chris. (1993). The Sweetest Fig. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

This ironic tale gives children a glimpse into the life of a selfish man. The story has an interesting twist that teaches the lesson, what goes around comes around. This book offers an enjoyable tale for students of all ages.

Waite, Michael P. (1987). Sylvester the Jester: A book about Accepting Others, Chariot Books, Elgin, Illinois.

This is a book about accepting others. By reading this book children will learn to accept others for who they are on the inside, not for what they look like on the outside. This book can be shared with children as young as Pre-kindergarten and older kids of course.

Waite, Michael P. (1997). Handy-Dandy Helpful Hal: A book about Helpfulness, Chariot Books, Elgin, Illinois.

This is a book about helpfulness. By reading this book children will learn the importance of being helpful instead of lazy. I think this book could be shared with children of all ages. It can be read to preschoolers and enjoyed by older children as well.

Ware, Leland. (1999). Thurgood Marshall: Freedom's Defender. Time Life, Inc., Virginia. ISBN: 0-7835-5449-4. (Grades: 4th and up).

This book focuses on the life and times of Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Supreme Court justice who helped women and minorities gain equal rights in the United States. The book is very thorough and contains a lot of in-depth information and many quality pictures of Marshall and the time period.

Weidt, Maryann N. (2003). Rosa Parks. Lerner Publishing Company, Minneapolis, MN. ISBN 0-7607-3600-6.

This is a children's story about the life of Rosa Parks. It begins with her childhood and goes through the unfair rules of segregation and her heroic efforts to end the discrimination. It discusses her struggle, but ends with her impact on the Civil Rights movement.

Wells, Rosemary. (2001). The World Around Us. (Based on Timothy goes to School). Penguin Group, New York. ISBN: 0-14-056844-1(pbk) ISBN: 0-670-91034-1 (hardcover).

This book is an interactive book where children can do the activities that the characters are doing in the classroom in the book. The author does a good job of showing how everyone is different in a lot of ways from their favorite color to their family background. The book also states the importance of being a community helper in and out of home and school. This is a good book for kindergarten to second grade.

Wisler, G. Clifton. (1995). Mr. Lincoln's Drummer. : New York: Penguin Group. ISBN: 0-14-038542-8.

Mr. Lincoln's Drummer, a book for students between a third and fifth grade reading level, shows the bravery of a young boy during the Civil War. The book tells about the adventures of Willie a ten-year-old boy too young to join the army, yet too courageous to not be a part of the war. Willie must test his bravery as he shows his patriotism for the Union during the Civil War.

Wise, William. (1973). Leaders, Laws, and Citizens: The Story of Democracy & Government. United States of America, Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data. ISBN 0-8193-0627-4.

A sample history of government emphasizing the democracy of the United States. In this older version of how our government functions, students can understand the "rules of the game" in the American democratic society, while also realizing why we don't have chiefs and kings.

Author, (1990). The Seven Chinese. Brothers. Scholastic, Inc., New York. ISBN# 0-590-42057-7.

This book can be used with any grade to explain the importance of working together to accomplish a goal. It is about seven Chinese brothers who looked and acted exactly the same but who each possessed a unique power all his own. It is only when they combine their powers that they fool the emperor of China and save each others lives.

Author, (1991). The Great Trash Bash. Library of Congress Cataloging-in Publication Data, United States of America. ISBN# 0-8234-0869-8.

This children's book is about how the mayor and citizens of Beaston want to discover a better way to keep their home clean. The citizens all work together and begin to recycle, keep better control of their trash, and fix old things rather than buying new ones. The people of Beaston realize that working together and keeping their home clean makes it a more safe and beautiful place to live. Grade Level: 1st-3rd

Author, (1993). Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King. Scholastic, Inc., New York. ISBN# 0-439-09942-0.

This book can be used in all elementary grades to explain the importance of why we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. It tells of how he wanted people to be able to love

one another in peace and worked so hard for freedom. Together with wonderful illustrations, this book is a must for children to understand the significance of this day.

Author, (1998). Thank you, Mr. Falker. New York. (Publisher?) ISBN 0-439-09836-X. (Grade: 1st to 3rd grade).

The book is inspired by a real life hero, Mr. Falker. Trisha, a struggling reader, is taken under the direction of Mr. Falker after many negative remarks from the other children and not encouraging words from her previous teachers. In her eyes, Mr. Falker changed her life by helping her to read and to have confidence in herself.

Author, (1999). Amelia Bedelia for Mayor. Library of Congress Cataloging-in Publication Data, Singapore. ISBN# 0-688-16722-5.

This book is about a maid name Amelia Bedelia who is talked into running for mayor. People in this town want someone that will live up to the promises they make and that's what the people of the town think Amelia can do. She begins to run for mayor not understanding many of the terms used in everyday life and politics but is determined to live up to her words and promises. As soon as she meets her promise she decided to drop out of the race and learns that politics is not for her. Grade Level: 2nd-4th.

Author, (2002). September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right. New York. (Publisher?) ISBN 0-439-44246-X. (Grade: Kindergarten to 2nd grade).

It teaches children the importance of a country who was hit by tragedy to come together. It serves as a coping book to those who were despaired by September 11th, and it shows that no matter what the country has been through, school will remain the same (such as doing school work, saying The Pledge of Allegiance, etc.)

Author, (2002). We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Scholastic, Inc., New York. ISBN #0-439-45807-2.

This book illustrates and breaks down the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. With illustrations and foreword by David Catrow, students may begin to understand the great document that defines our nation. This book can be used in second grade and up to simplify these important words.