



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

LITERACY INITIATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Middle/High School Level

- Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Chains*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 316pp. ISBN: 978-1-41690585-1. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. Reading Level 5.2
Colonial Life, American Revolution, Slavery
- Anderson, M. T.** *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2006. 351pp. ISBN: 0-7636-2402-0. Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. Reading Level 8.0
Slavery, Individual Rights, Colonial Life
- Avi.** *Encounter at Easton*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1994. 138pp. ISBN: 0-688-05295-9. The doomed flight of two young indentured servants from their unkind master brings together an unlikely assortment of people in a mid-eighteenth-century Pennsylvania town. Reading Level 6.9
Due Process, Civic Virtue; also, Foundations of Democracy
- Avi.** *Night Journeys*. New York: Avon, 2000 (1979). 143pp. ISBN: 0-380-73242-4. In the spring of 1768, two young indentured servants escape into Pennsylvania and receive help from an unexpected source. Reading Level 6.5
Basic Ideas About Government, Individual Rights
- Avi.** *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. New York: Orchard Books, 1990. 224pp. ISBN: 0-531-05893-X. In 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte has little chance of receiving a fair trial under the evil captain who commands the Seahawk, bound for Rhode Island from England. Reading Level 5.3
Due Process, Bill of Rights. Foundations of Democracy: Authority, Responsibility, Justice
- Benge, Janet and Geoff.** [*William Penn: Liberty and Justice for All*](#). Emerald Books, 2002. 192pp. ISBN: 1883002826. In a world where freedoms were subject to the whims of rulers, William Penn worked passionately for religious tolerance. When this Quaker reformer secured a land grant in America, he laid for Pennsylvania a foundation of liberty, justice, fairness, and tolerance that would later guide the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. See other titles in the *Heroes of History* series.
Freedom of Religion, First Amendment; also, Foundations of Democracy
- Bridges, Ruby.** *Through My Eyes*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1999. 63pp. ISBN: 978-0-590-18923-1. Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960. Reading Level 6.2
Bill of Rights, Equality, Civil Rights; also, Foundations of Democracy: Authority, Responsibility, Justice

- Byars, Betsy. *The Cartoonist*. New York: Puffin Books, 1987.** 119pp. ISBN: 0-14-032309-0. Threatened with the loss of his private place in the attic of his crowded home, a young boy determines to keep it at all costs. Reading Level 5.3
Foundations of Democracy: Privacy
- Cushman, Karen. *Catherine Called Birdie*. New York: Harper Trophy, 1995.** 212pp. ISBN: 0-06-440584-2. The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. Reading Level 7.4
Individual Rights; also, *Foundations of Democracy*
- DuPrau, Jeanne. *City of Ember*. New York: Random House, 2004 (2003).** 270pp. ISBN: 0-375-82274-7. In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. Reading Level 5.6
Types of Government, Map Skills; also, *Foundations of Democracy*
- Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.** 182pp. ISBN: 0-14-028333-1. After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy. Reading Level: Young Adult
State of Nature, Republican Government, Constitutional Government, Due Process, Abuse of Power
- Gutman, Dan. *The Kid Who Ran for President*. New York: Scholastic, 1996.** 156pp. ISBN: 0-590-93987-4. With his friend as campaign manager and his former babysitter as running mate, twelve-year-old Judson Moon sets out to become President of the United States. Reading Level 6.2
Three Branches of Government, Separation of Powers
- Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. New York: Viking Press, 1967.** 188pp. ISBN: 0-670-53257-6. The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society. Reading Level 5.1 (Young Adult Interest Level)
Equality, Due Process; also, *Foundations of Democracy*
- Jiang, Ji-li. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.** 285pp. ISBN: 0-06-027585-5. The author tells about the happy life she led in China up until she was age twelve, when her family became a target of the Cultural Revolution, and discusses the choice she had to make between denouncing her father and breaking with her family, or refusing to speak against him and losing her future in the Communist Party. Reading Level 6.6
First Amendment, Individual Freedoms
- Keehn, Sally M. *I Am Regina*. New York: Philomel Books, 1991.** 240pp. ISBN: 0-399-21797-5. In 1755, as the French and Indian War begins, ten-year-old Regina is kidnapped by Indians in western Pennsylvania, and she must struggle to hold onto memories of her earlier life as she grows up under the name of Tskinnak and starts to become Indian herself. Reading Level 6.0
Individual Rights; also, *Foundations of Democracy*

Keehn, Sally M. *Moon of Two Dark Horses*. New York: Philomel Books, 1995. 218pp. ISBN: 0-399-22783-0. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, hoping to keep bloodshed away from their valley, a twelve-year-old Delaware Indian boy and his white friend search sacred land the bones of a legendary beast. Reading Level 6.7

Natural Rights, Fourteenth Amendment; also, *Foundations of Democracy*

Lewis, Barbara. *The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose—and Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action*. Minneapolis: Free Spirit, 1998. 211pp. ISBN: 1-57542-038-4. Resource guide for children for learning political action skills that can help them make a difference in solving social problems at the community, state, and national levels. Reading Level 7.5

Project Citizen, Common Good, Civic Responsibility

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Freedom Like Sunlight: Praisesongs for Black Americans*. Mankato, MN: Creative Editions, 2000. 40pp. ISBN: 1-56846-163-1. Presents poems and brief biographical notes about such well-known African Americans as: Arthur Ashe, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Louis Armstrong, Martin Luther King Jr., “Satchel” Paige, Rosa Parks, Langston Hughes, Jesse Owens, Marian Anderson, Malcolm X, Wilma Rudolph, and Billie Holiday. Reading Level 5.0

Civil Rights, Slavery, Individual Rights

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Boston: Dell, 1994 (1993). 180pp. ISBN: 0-395-64566-2. Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Reading Level 6.6

Federal System, Civic Virtue

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. 137pp. ISBN: 0-395-51060-0. In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. Reading Level 4.9

Due Process; also, *Foundations of Democracy: Authority, Justice, Privacy*

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. New York: HarperCollins, 1999. 281pp. ISBN: 0-06-028077-8. While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. Reading Level 7.0

Due Process, Bill of Rights

Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 42pp. ISBN: 0-618-39752-3. This illustrated poetry collection eulogizes Emmett Till, an African American man who was killed in a brutal, racially motivated lynching in 1955. Reading Level 6.6 (Grades 9–12 Interest Level)

Civil Rights

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990. 124pp. ISBN: 0-15-107255-8. A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm, but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship. Reading Level 7.2.

Freedom of Expression, Constitution

- Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. New York: Crowell, 1977. 128pp. ISBN: 0-690-01359-0.**
The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. Reading Level 6.0
Self-interest vs. Common Good, Governance
- Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved*. New York: Avon, 1981 (1980). 175pp. ISBN: 0-380-56499-8.** Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity. Reading Level 5.8
Common Good, Self Expression
- Perez, N.A. *Breaker*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988. 206pp. ISBN: 0-395-45537-5.** After his father's death, fourteen-year-old Pat is forced to go to work in the coal mines that dominate his Pennsylvania town and becomes involved in the big mine workers' strike of 1902.
Reading Level 7.2
Individual Rights, Civil Rights; also, *Foundations of Democracy*
- Prose, Francine. *After*. New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 2003. 330pp. ISBN: 0-06-008082-5.** In the aftermath of a nearby school shooting, a grief and crisis counselor takes over Central High School and enacts increasingly harsh measures to control students. Those who do not comply disappear. Reading Level 5.4
Bill of Rights, Individual Rights, Common Good; also, *Foundations of Democracy: Authority*
- Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. 233pp. ISBN: 0-374-33265-7.**
As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. Reading Level 6.5
Bill of Rights, Due Process, Individual Rights
- Sophocles. *Antigone*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. 101pp. ISBN: 0-329-15637-3.**
King Creon of Thebes refuses to allow the burial of his nephew, whom he has declared a traitor and whose sister, Antigone, is betrothed to Creon's son. Reading Level: Young Adult
State of Nature, Republican Government, First Amendment, Citizenship
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 162pp. ISBN: 0-679-87957-9.** Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. Reading Level 4.8
First Amendment Rights, Freedom of Religion
- Tunnell, Michael O. and Chilcoat, George W. *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese American Internment Camp Based On a Classroom Diary*. New York: Holiday House, 1996. 74pp. ISBN: 0-8234-1239-3.** The diary of a third-grade class of Japanese-American children being held with their families in an internment camp during World War II.
Reading Level: Young Adult
Due Process, Civil Rights; also, *Foundations of Democracy: Justice*

Yolen, Jane and Stemple, Heidi E.Y. *The Salem Witch Trials: an Unsolved Mystery from History.* New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. 32pp. ISBN: 0-689-84620-7.
Presents a history lesson to the hysteria surrounding the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts in 1692 and provides clues to understanding why and how they occurred. Reading Level 6.4
Due Process; also, *Foundations of Democracy: Authority, Justice*