

Primary Civics (K-2)
Theme Addressed: Values and Principles

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Children's Chorus	Dutton (Publisher)	Values	Illustrates the principles on which the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child were based.
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle	Susan Jeffers	Values of Native Americans	With Native American themes currently in vogue, and environmental awareness a hot issue, this timely picture book scores perfect marks in both arenas.
Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share	Molly Bang	Value of Natural Resources	Bang's small picture book is both simple and ambitious as it presents first a parable and then a string of analogies to raise awareness and provoke thought about the consequences of overusing natural resources.
For Every Child	text adapted by Caroline Castle	The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	This book explains fourteen of the more prominent rights of the child under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each article is accompanied by a two page illustrated spread. There is a compassionate forward by the Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the full text of the Convention featured at the back of the book. The book is illustrated by fourteen acclaimed artists.
Garbage and Recycling	Rosie Harlow	How to Recycle and What can be Recycled	Explaining the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage, this book shows how glass, metal, and wool can be easily recycled.
Hanna's Cold Winter	Trish Marx	Selflessness in the face of personal adversity	Hanna is a hippo at the zoo in Hungary. During WWII, the town became occupied by Germans and the people and zoo creatures began to starve. However, the entire town began taking their straw mats and shoes to the starving hippos in order to keep them alive during the cold winter and German occupation.

Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King	Jean Marzollo	Values and principles MLK fought for	Offers accessible biography of Dr. King's life and accomplishments. Outlines the values he stood for and concludes with his assassination.
I Have A Dream	Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King	Values and principles enunciated in the "I Have a Dream" speech	15 award-winning artists illustrate MLK's speech. Artists also give their impressions about MLK's speech.
Juneteenth Jamboree	Carole Boston Weatherford	Holidays that celebrate values and history	Chronicles the Juneteenth celebration, which recognizes the day on which slaves in Texas learned they were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.
Marvin Redpost	Louis Sachar	Citizenship	It's an unusual day at Marvin's school: everyone, including his teacher and the principal, is wearing something with holes in it. All come to regret "hole day" when they find out they will be having a surprise visitor—the President of the United States. As the teacher frantically tries to cover up the tear in her shirt that reveals her belly button, television crews enter the classroom. When the president arrives, he talks to the children about good citizenship and then allows time for questions.
P is for Princess: A Royal Alphabet	Steven and Deborah Layne	A look into the World of Kings and Queens	Snow White had her Prince Charming and Victoria had her Albert. Who really knows how grand the Duke of York was? P is for Princess: A Royal Alphabet gives an enchanting A to Z tour of the world of kings, queens, and the stories behind the thrones.
People	Peter Spier	Diversity	Celebrates diversity as an American value and transmits message that life would be very dull if everyone were the same.
Recycling	Joan Kalbacken and Emilie U. Lepthien	Recycling	Shows how the ever-growing tide of refuse threatens the environment and wastes resources, and how recycling helps in conservation efforts.

Save Our Forests	Ron Hirschi	Forests	Illustrates the Importance of Conservation of our Forests
The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein	Happiness/ Self Sacrifice.	"Once there was a tree . . . and she loved a little boy." So begins a story of unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein.
Waste and Recycling	Janine Amos	Benefits and Needs of Recycling.	Examines the problem of waste disposal, the importance of recycling, and the necessity of conserving water.

Intermediate Civics (3-4)

Theme Addressed: Values and Principles

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Children's Chorus	Dutton (Publisher)	Values	Illustrates the principles on which the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child were based.
All for the Better: A Story of El Barrio	Nicholasa Mohr	Immigration; the Depression; One person can make a difference	An eleven-year-old Puerto Rican girl living in New York's Spanish Harlem in 1932 encounters prejudice and hardships. With determination and patience she finds success and makes a positive difference in her community.
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle	Susan Jeffers	Values of Native American	With Native American themes currently in vogue, and environmental awareness a hot issue, this timely picture book scores perfect marks in both arenas.
Calooh! Callay! And O Frabjous Day!	Myra Cohn Livingston	Holidays and democratic values	Two collections of poems that help students recognize importance of democratic values as well as cases where our nation/society has fallen short of living up to those values.

Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share	Molly Bang	Value of Natural Resources	Bang's small picture book is both simple and ambitious as it presents first a parable and then a string of analogies to raise awareness and provoke thought about the consequences of overusing natural resources.
Earth Day	Nancy I. Sanders	Value of Earth Day	Educates on the Importance of Earth Day
Garbage and Recycling	Rosie Harlow	How the Recycle and What can be Recycled	Explaining the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage, this book shows how glass, metal, and wool can be easily recycled.
Hanna's Cold Winter	Trish Marx	Selflessness in the face of personal adversity	Hanna is a hippo at the zoo in Hungary. During WWII, the town became occupied by Germans and the people and zoo creatures began to starve. However, the entire town began taking their straw mats and shoes to the starving hippos in order to keep them alive during the cold winter and German occupation.
Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King	Jean Marzollo	Values and principles MLK fought for	Offers accessible biography of Dr. King's life and accomplishments. Outlines the values he stood for and concludes with his assassination.
I Have A Dream	Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King	Values and principles enunciated in the "I Have a Dream" speech	15 award winning artists illustrate MLK's speech. Artists also give their impressions about MLK's speech.
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	Betto Bao Lord	American values (teamwork, equal opportunity, ability to change things for the better)	Based on author's own immigrant history, the main character develops love of baseball. Teacher uses that to give class a civics lesson.

Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters	Andrea Davis Pinkney	Black Freedom fighters and civil rights.	This book is a compilation of short biographies about black women who fought for their rights and the rights of other people. The women covered in this book are; Sojourner Truth, Biddy Mason, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Dorothy Irene Heights, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Shirley Chisholm. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.
Marvin Redpost, Class President	Louis Sachar	Citizenship	It's an unusual day at Marvin's school: everyone, including his teacher and the principal, is wearing something with holes in it. All come to regret "hole day" when they find out they will be having a surprise visitor-the President of the United States. As the teacher frantically tries to cover up the tear in her shirt that reveals her belly button, television crews enter the classroom. When the president arrives, he talks to the children about good citizenship and then allows time for questions.
Mayfield Crossing	Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	Values in everyday life (Tolerance and equality of opportunity)	Students from Mayfield must attend another school because their school closes. Students are not treated fairly by students in new school because of where they come from and because some of them are African American.
Neve Shalom/Wahat Al- Salam: Oasis of Peace	Laurie Dolphin	Acceptance of others and getting past the fear of those who are not like you	Story of two young boys, one Jewish and one Arab. Parents decide to send their sons to remarkable school where Arab and Jewish teachers together teach Arab and Jewish children. At school, they learn about each other's customs, history, and language. The two boys foster a friendship.

Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made it Happen	Casey King and Linda Barrett Osborne	Civil rights movement values and principles	Middle school students conducted interviews with 34 individuals who were active on both sides during the Civil Rights Movement (even including one former KKK member who is in jail for bombing a Jewish person's house). Photos of the interviewer and interviewee also accompany the interviews. The interviews are organized into three sections: life under segregation, the movement to end legalized segregation, and the struggle to end poverty and discrimination.
P is for Princess: A Royal Alphabet	Steven and Deborah Layne	A look into the world of Kings and Queens	Snow White had her Prince Charming and Victoria had her Albert. Who really knows how grand the Duke of York was? P is for Princess: A Royal Alphabet gives an enchanting A to Z tour of the world of kings, queens, and the stories behind the thrones.
People	James Spier	Diversity	Celebrates diversity as an American value and transmits the message that life would be very dull if everyone were the same.
Recycling	Joan Kalbacken and Emilie U. Lepthien	Recycling	Shows how the ever-growing tide of refuse threatens the environment and wastes resources, and how recycling helps in conservation efforts.
Save Our Forests	Ron Hirschi	Forests	Illustrates the importance of conservation of our forests.
The Copper Lady	Alice Ross and Kent Ross	Values/principles represented by the Statue of Liberty	Young Parisian boy becomes fascinated with the making of the Statue of Liberty in Paris in the 1880s. He stows away on the ship when the statue is transported to New York in order to learn more about America. Also gives a lot of details about the making of the Statue.

The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein	Happiness/ Self Sacrifice	"Once there was a tree . . . and she loved a little boy." So begins a story of unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein.
Waste and Recycling	Janine Amos	Benefits and Needs of Recycling.	Examines the problem of waste disposal, the importance of recycling, and the necessity of conserving water.
When I Left My Village	Maxine Rose Schur	Religious oppression and forced migration	Young boy, Menelik, is a Jew in Ethiopia. True story of the forced flight of thousands of Ethiopian Jews in the late 1980s to Israel. Tells the harsh story of what their escape and journey was like for Menelik .

Advanced Civics (5-6+)

Theme Addressed: Values and Principles

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Children's Chorus	Dutton (Publisher)	Values	Illustrates the principles on which the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child were based.
Abraham Lincoln: Letters from a Slave Girl	Andrea Davis Pinkley	Values	This series title presents fictionalized letters between a 12-year-old slave girl living on a South Carolina plantation and President Lincoln, from 1861 to 1863.
Aida	Leontyne Price	Values (i.e. nobility, strength and courage)	African-American opera star retells the story of the opera, Aida, and how it has been a source of inspiration for her both on and off the stage.

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle	Susan Jeffers	Values of Native Americans	With Native American themes currently in vogue, and environmental awareness a hot issue, this timely picture book scores perfect marks in both arenas.
Calooh! Callay! And O Frabjous Day!	Myra Cohn Livingston	Holidays and democratic values	Two collections of poems that help students recognize the importance of democratic values as well as cases where our nation/society has fallen short of living up to those values.
Children of the Fire	Harriette Gillem Robinet	Values (i.e. nobility, strength and courage), values of everyday life, acceptance of others and getting past the fear of those who are not like you, and injustice and racial tension.	This is a story about a young girl, Hallelujah, who lives with a foster family after her mother died escaping to Chicago from a plantation in the South. Through the events surrounding the three day fire, Hallelujah learns about people of all colors and classes. She learns to value herself, and that all people are equal.
Common Ground :The Water ,Earth, and Air We Share	Molly Bang	Value of Natural Resources	Bang's small picture book is both simple and ambitious as it presents first a parable and then a string of analogies to raise awareness and provoke thought about the consequences of overusing natural resources.

Crash	Jerry Spinelli	Democratic values in everyday lives	Main character, Crash, an unruly and bullying seventh-grader, experiences an “about-face” in attitude when he begins to understand and respect the causes his sister and neighbor champion.
Earth Day	Nancy I. Sanders	Value of Earth Day	Lowery addresses the concerns that eventually brought about Earth Day and the laws and programs that have come about due to its establishment in 1970.
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	Betto Bao Lord	American values (teamwork, equal opportunity, ability to change things for the better)	Based on author’s own immigrant history, the main character develops love of baseball. Teacher uses that to give class a civics lesson.
Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters	Andrea Davis Pinkney	Black Freedom fighters and civil rights.	This book is a compilation of short biographies about black women who fought for their rights and the rights of other people. The women covered in this book are; Sojourner Truth, Biddy Mason, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Dorothy Irene Heights, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Shirley Chisholm. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn.

Mayfield Crossing	Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	Values in everyday life (Tolerance and equality of opportunity)	Students from Mayfield must attend another school because their school closes. Students are not treated fairly by students in new school because of where they come from and because some of them are African American.
Music from a Place Called Half Moon	Jerrie Oughton	Diversity/Ethnic Conflict	Main female character, Edie Jo, lives in small town in NC. Father is very religious and other whites in town therefore shun family. Native Americans taunt Edie Jo and her brother. Grandmother's house is burned down. Edie Jo decides she hates all other people who are different from her until she develops close friendship with a Native American boy.
Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam: Oasis of Peace	Laurie Dolphin	Acceptance of others and getting past the fear of those who are not like you	Story of two young boys, one Jewish and one Arab. Parents decide to send their sons to remarkable school where Arab and Jewish teachers together teach Arab and Jewish children. At this school, they learn about each other's customs, history, and language. The two boys foster a friendship.
Recycling	Joan Kalbacken and Emilie U. Lepthien	Recycling	Shows how the ever-growing tide of refuse threatens the environment and wastes resources, and how recycling helps in conservation efforts.

Save Our Forests	Ron Hirschi	Forests	Illustrates the importance of conservation of our forests.
The Book of Virtues for Young People	William Bennett	Values	A collection of stories, fables, and poems around democratic values.
The Copper Lady	Alice Ross and Kent Ross	Values/principles represented by the Statue of Liberty	Young Parisian boy becomes fascinated with the making of the Statue of Liberty in Paris in the 1880s. He stows away on the ship when the statue is transported to New York in order to learn more about America. Also gives a lot of details about the making of the Statue.
The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhay: Life in Medieval Africa	Patricia and Frederick McKissack	Values and principles in medieval Africa	This book accurately describes what life was like in Medieval Africa, including multiple historical points of view. In addition to recounting the past, the books explains the process of archaeological and historical research. (For more advanced readers.)
The Talking Earth	Jean Craighead George	Seminole Tribe Customs	A young woman of the Seminole tribe begins to question the validity of old customs over the more pressing problems of nuclear war and pollution, in a tale by the Newbery Medalist

The Well	Mildred D. Taylor	Injustice and racial tension	Short novel that recounts lives of two African-American boys in the South during the early 1900s. When the drought strikes, the African-American family shares well water with the entire town except for bigoted white family. Tensions rise between the boys of both families with the sheriff's office siding with the white family.
Toussaint L'Ouverture: The Fight for Haiti's Freedom	Walter Dean Myers	Fight for freedom against imperial powers	Story of L'Ouverture's revolt against the French and Spanish oppressors in Haiti in 18 th century. L'Ouverture was a great military strategist who led a slave revolt.
Waste and Recycling	Janine Amos	Benefits and Needs of Recycling.	Examines the problem of waste disposal, the importance of recycling, and the necessity of conserving water.
When I Left My Village	Maxine Rose Schur	Religious oppression and forced migration	Young boy, Menelik, is a Jew in Ethiopia. True story of the forced flight of thousands of Ethiopian Jews in the late 1980s to Israel. Relates the harsh story of what their escape and journey was like for Menelik and his family.