

Primary Civics (K-2)

Theme Addressed: Participation in Civic Life

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
A Christmas Tree in the White House	Gary Hines	Environmental Issues	A delightful story that's part fact and part fiction, set during the Teddy Roosevelt administration. Christmas is just around the corner but the president refuses to cut down an evergreen to decorate the White House.
Believing Sophie	Hazel Hutchins	Obedying Laws	Little girl is falsely accused of shoplifting; her hurt and fear is illustrated until she is proven innocent.
Capitol Cooking with Woodrow and Friends	Peter W. Barnes	History and Government	A fun cookbook for kids teaching them about history and government through fun recipes, including First Lady Fingers, Presidential Pork Chops and Senate Smoothies.
George Washington	James Cross Giblin	Life of George Washington	Giblin's (Chimney Sweeps: Yesterday and Today; The Truth About Santa Claus) simplified yet well-rounded portrait of Washington offers considerable insight into the private man. During his early years on a Virginia farm, Washington was devoted to his half-brother, Lawrence, who went on to own Mount Vernon.
Gus and Grandpa and the Christmas Cookies	Claudia Mills	Homelessness and giving	Young boy and his grandfather spend the day making Christmas cookies and realize that they can take their surplus cookies to the children in the homeless shelter.

Jamaica Louise James	Amy Hest	Community Involvement	Story of young girl who creates a series of paintings to brighten up the subway station where her grandmother works. As a result of her paintings, everyone becomes friendlier and happier and the mayor recognizes the young girl's efforts.
James Madison: Fourth President of the United States	Susan Clinton	Life of James Madison	Recounts the story of America's fourth president, known as the Father of the Constitution, describing his early life in Virginia and his many years of service in public office.
John, Paul, George, and Ben	Lane Smith	Our Founding Fathers	Describing each man in turn as either bold, noisy, honest, clever, or independent, and taking many liberties with the truth, Smith relates how the Founding Fathers of the title—and Jefferson, too—played a part in securing Americas freedom.
Peacebound Trains	Haemi Balgassi	Military duty/civic duty	Child misses her mother who is in the South Korean Army fighting the North Korean communists. Discusses sacrifices made by citizens serving in the military.
Peter's Place	Sally Grindley	Environmental disaster/community response	An oil tanker spills oil on a part of the beach where Peter loves to play and feed the animals. Peter and others work nonstop for days to save the wildlife.
Thomas Jefferson: Father of our Democracy	David Adler	Biography of Thomas Jefferson	Illustrates Political Life of Thomas Jefferson.

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Travel with Max: How A Bill Becomes A Law (How a Bill Becomes a Law)	Am Wing, Van Wie	Children Involvement in all Levels of Government.	This is a fun and educational book for kids and a resource book for teachers. Written for elementary and middle school students, children will learn about the founding of America, the three branches of government, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, ways they can take an active role in their local, state and federal government, and how a bill becomes a law from the local to the federal level.
Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen	DyAnne DiSalvo- Ryan	Compassion and homelessness	Tells the story of a young boy who is frightened by homeless people in his neighborhood until he helps his Uncle Willie out one day at the soup kitchen. The boy gains a new perspective on homelessness
Where Once there was a Wood	Denise Fleming	Loss of environment/community projects	Tells the story of the loss of wildlife habitat to human homes and what people can do to create new wildlife habitats.

Intermediate Civics (3-4)

Theme Addressed: Participation in Civic Life

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
Bollo Caper: A Fable for Children of All Ages	Art Buchwald	Becoming an Endangered Species	Bollo, a leopard brought to New York to be made into a fur coat, manages to escape to Washington to try to get Congress to declare him an endangered species.

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Capitol Cooking with Woodrow and Friends	Peter W. Barnes	History and Government	A fun cookbook for kids teaching them about history and government through fun recipes, including First Lady Fingers, Presidential Pork Chops and Senate smoothies.
Class President	Johanna Hurwitz	School Elections	The characters first met in Hurwitz's Class Clown and Teacher's Pet return here, with the spotlight on Julio Sanchez and the upcoming fifth-grade election.
Come Back, Salmon: How a Group of Dedicated Kids Adopted Pigeon Creek and Brought it Back to Life	Molly Cone	Community activism and the environment	Detailed account of how students saved their town creek and what lessons they learned while doing it.
George Washington	Cheryl Harness	Life of George Washington	This short but informative biography provides both the big picture and small details. It describes Washington's life primarily through his role in the American Revolution and his presidency, but it also gives a clear description of his active youth
George Washington A Picture Book Biography	James Cross Giblin	Life of George Washington	Giblin's simplified yet well-rounded portrait of Washington offers considerable insight into the private man. During his early years on a Virginia farm, Washington was devoted to his half-brother, Lawrence, who went on to own Mount Vernon.

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George Washington's Socks	Elvira Woodruff	Kids Time Travel to 1776.	In PW 's words, "An overnight camp-out turns into a harrowing trip to colonial America in this action-packed novel. . . . Young history buffs and adventure seekers alike will enjoy this journey to the past."
George Washington: The Man Who Would Not Be King	Stephen Krensky	Life of George Washington	Analysis of George Washington's Political Career.
John, Paul, George, and Ben	Lane Smith	Our Founding Fathers	Describing each man in turn as either bold, noisy, honest, clever, or independent, and taking many liberties with the truth, Smith relates how the Founding Fathers of the title—and Jefferson, too—played a part in securing Americas freedom.
Kids Making Quilts for Kids	ABC Quilts	Children helping other children	Basic information about how children can make quilts for children who are HIV-positive. Gives facts about AIDS and suggestions for adult-led discussions about the disease and how we can help those affected by it.
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, Bidley 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.
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Man and Mustang	George Ancona	Ecological issues and community involvement by prison population	Describes the way that the Bureau of Land Management rounds up mustang horses and then turns them over to prisons to be “broken.” After they are, families adopt the horses.
Peacebound Trains	Haemi Balgassi	Military Duty/Civic Duty	Child misses her mother who is in the South Korean Army fighting the North Korean communists. Discusses sacrifices made by citizens serving in the military.
Save the Earth: An Action Handbook for Kids	Betty Miles	Environmental issues and community participation	Handbook outlining young people’s efforts to become involved in environmental issues. Each chapter gives detailed projects, factual background information, and accounts of relevant youth efforts taking place across the nation.
The Kid’s Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose- And Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action	Barbara Lewis	Involvement on social issues through social action models	Handbook for young people who want to change things. Written by a Salt Lake City elementary school teacher whose students have effected changes at all levels of government. A true story and illustrations also accompany each social action model.
The View from Saturday	E.L. Konigsburg	Compassion, civility, kindness and learning	Tells the story of a 6 th grade team’s Academic Bowl triumph and how they create a small community around their paraplegic teacher.
Thomas Jefferson: Father of our Democracy	David Adler	Biography of Thomas Jefferson	Illustrates the Political life of Thomas Jefferson

Travels with Max: How a Bill Becomes a Law (From Your Community to Washington D.C.)	Am Wing, Van Wie	Children Involvement in all levels of Government.	This is a fun and educational book for kids and a resource book for teachers. Written for elementary and middle school students, children will learn about the founding of America, the three branches of government, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, ways they can take an active role in their local, state and federal government, and how a bill becomes a law from the local to the federal level.
Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen	DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan	Compassion and homelessness	Tells the story of a young boy who is frightened by homeless people in his neighborhood until he helps his Uncle Willie out one day at the soup kitchen. The boy gains a new perspective on homelessness.
We Want Jobs! A Story of the Great Depression	Robert J. Norrell	The Great Depression; Community activism	The steel factories of Pittsburgh close and thousands of people lose their jobs. Other businesses close from lack of customers, and more lose their jobs. This true story is about one man who becomes a community activist and makes a difference in the lives of the people of his community.

Advanced Civics (5-6+)

Theme Addressed: Participation in Civic Life

Title	Author	Subject	Brief Description
America Votes: How our President is Elected	Linda Garfield	How our President is Elected	In 29 two-page chapters of clear, straightforward prose, the author explains the presidential election

			process, including its history, the two-party system, third parties, PACs, election fraud, also-rans, and more. This thorough overview is enlivened with examples drawn from history and children's own lives.
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Bollo Caper: A Fable for Children of All Ages	Art Buchwald	Becoming an Endangered Species	Bollo, a leopard brought to New York to be made into a fur coat, manages to escape to Washington to try to get Congress to declare him an endangered species.
Children of the Fire	Harriette Gillem Robinet	Children helping other children, community involvement, and compassion, civility, kindness and learning	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, help others, and that all people are equal.
Class President	Johanna Hurwitz	School Elections	The characters first met in Hurwitz's Class Clown and Teacher's Pet return here, with the spotlight on Julio Sanchez and the upcoming fifth-grade election.
George Washington	Cheryl Harness	Life of George Washington	This short but informative biography provides both the big picture and small details. It describes Washington's life primarily through his role in the American Revolution and his presidency, but it also gives a clear description of his active youth
George Washington's Socks	Elvira Woodruff	Kids Time Travel to 1776.	In PW 's words, "An overnight camp-out turns into a harrowing trip to colonial America in this action-packed novel. . . . Young history buffs and adventure seekers alike will enjoy this journey to the past."
George Washington:	Stephen	Life of George	Analysis of George Washington's

The Man Who Would Not Be King	Krensky	Washington	Political Career.
It's Our World Too: Young People Who Are Making a Difference	Phillip Hoose	Citizen Action and extraordinary people	Nonfiction account of 13 individual's and 3 groups' efforts to work for causes larger than themselves.

James Madison: Fourth President of the United States	Susan Clinton	Life of James Madison	Recounts the story of America's fourth president, known as the Father of the Constitution, describing his early life in Virginia and his many years of service in public office.
John, Paul, George, and Ben	Lane Smith	Our Founding Fathers	Describing each man in turn as either bold, noisy, honest, clever, or independent, and taking many liberties with the truth, Smith relates how the Founding Fathers of the title—and Jefferson, too—played a part in securing Americas freedom.
Kids Making Quilts for Kids	ABC Quilts	Children helping other children	Basic information about how children can make quilts for children who are HIV-positive. Gives facts about AIDS and suggestions for adult-led discussions about the disease and how we can help those affected by it.
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.
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Man and Mustang	George Ancona	Ecological issues and community involvement by prison population	Describes the way that the Bureau of Land Management rounds up mustang horses and then turned over to prisons to be “broken.” After they are, families adopt the horses.
On the Wings of Peace	New York: Clarion (1995)	Citizen Action	Numbers of writers and artists have donated their work to teach young readers about peace and have raised money through book sales for organizations working for peace.
Save the Earth: An Action Handbook for Kids	Betty Miles	Environmental issues and community participation	Handbook outlining young people’s efforts to become involved in environmental issues. Each chapter gives detailed projects, factual background information, and accounts of relevant youth efforts taking place across the nation.
Seedfolks	Paul Fleischman	Community involvement and sense of community	Young Vietnamese girl plants bean seedlings in garbage-strewn lot. Story takes place in poor urban neighborhood. Elderly woman in the neighborhood begins to help the girl with her fledgling garden and soon the entire neighborhood joins in. Now the neighbors who were once fearful of each other begin to talk to one other and transform their neighborhood.
The View from Saturday	E.L. Konigsburg	Compassion, civility, kindness and learning	Tells the story of a 6 th grade teams Academic Bowl triumph and how then create a small community around their paraplegic teacher.
Thomas Jefferson: Father of our Democracy	David Adler	Biography of Thomas Jefferson	Illustrates the Political life of Thomas Jefferson.

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Until Whatever	Martha Humphries	Tolerance, compassion and community activism	Karen, a high school student, decides not to follow the crowd and renews a friendship with a fellow classmate who has AIDS. Karen's friends shun her because she is friendly with the student suffering from AIDS. Karen turns to the press to make a plea for tolerance.
We Want Jobs! A Story of the Great Depression	Robert J. Norrell	The Great Depression; Community activism	The Steel factories of Pittsburgh close and thousands of people lose their jobs. Other businesses close from lack of customers, and more lose their jobs. This true story is about one man who becomes a community activist and makes a difference in the lives of the people of his community.
Who Cares? Millions Do...A Book About Altruism	Milton Meltzer	Citizen Action	Primarily examines large organizational efforts such as Habitat for Humanity and stresses how ordinary people can become involved or start their own organizations.
Women of Peace: Nobel Peace Prize Winners	Anne Schraff	Extraordinary Women	Extraordinary women who have promoted common welfare and won the Nobel Peace Prize
Woodrow for President: A Tail of Voting, Campaigns	Peter W. Barnes	Political Introduction for Children	Gives Children a fun approach and introduction into our Political System.

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