

Made for Each Other

Paired Texts for the Common Core Standards in Middle and High School Classrooms

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The **Common Core Standards** emphasize the importance of high quality non-fiction across the curriculum, including in **English Language Arts**. “Through reading a diverse array of classic and contemporary literature as well as challenging informational texts in a range of subjects, students are expected to build knowledge, gain insights, explore possibilities, and broaden their perspective.” ([Key Points in English Language Arts Standards: Reading.](#))

This bibliography has been developed to model how ELA teachers can pair informational books with works of fiction. Pairings or groupings of different type of texts on related topics or themes can inform and extend readers' understanding of a specific work or the topic or theme.

This list is designed as a starting point for ways to think about pairing or grouping works of fiction with informational texts and other works. It is by no means meant to be exhaustive—contemporary literature for youth offers a wealth of additional possibilities. The primary emphasis is on suggesting informational books that connect in one or more ways with novels, but in some cases poetry, short stories and even picture books are also included.

In most cases, a group of books on a specific topic or theme is listed alphabetically by author. In a few instances, a particular pairing of books is set apart from others listed on a particular theme or topic if that pairing is especially illuminating.

A Match Made in History: Books about the Past

Revolutionary War

- Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington, Spymaster: How America Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War*. Illustrated by Cheryl Harness. National Geographic, 2004. 184 pages. Ages 8-13 (non-fiction)
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Forge*. Atheneum, 2010. 294 pages. Age 11 and older (novel)
- Murphy, Jim. *A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy*. Clarion, 1996. 101 pages. Ages 9-14 (non-fiction)

Slavery and the Civil War

- Lester, Julius. *John Henry*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1994. 40 pages. Age 4 and older (picture book)
- Nelson, Scott Reynolds with Marc Aronson. *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*. National Geographic, 2008. 64 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Bolden, Tonya. *Cause: Reconstruction America, 1863-1877*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. 144 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Giblin, James Cross. *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*. Clarion, 2005. 256 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears*. Hyperion, 2005. 177 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Now Is Your Time: The African-American Struggle for Freedom*. HarperCollins, 1991. 292 pages. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)
- Peck, Richard. *The River Between Us*. Dial, 2003. 164 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

World War I

- Freedman, Russell. *The War to End All Wars: World War I*. Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. 176 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Murphy, Jim. *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting*. Scholastic Press, 2009. 116 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful*. U.S. edition: Scholastic Press, 2004. 202 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. Illustrated by Keith Thompson. Simon Pulse, 2009. 440 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)

Made for Each Other, page 2

World War II

Giblin, James Cross. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler*. Clarion, 2002. 246 pages. Age 14 and older (non-fiction)
Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. U.S. edition: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 552 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Also see the CCBC bibliography "[Tell Them We Remember: Selected Literature about the Holocaust and World War II](#)":

Civil Rights Movement

Crowe, Chris. *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case*. Phyllis Fogelman Books / Penguin, 2003. 128 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)
Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 40 pages. Age 14 and older (poetry)
Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*. Melanie Kroupa Books / Farrar Straus Giroux, 2009. 133 pages. Age 13 and older (non-fiction)
Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*. Aladdin, 2009. 290 pages. Age 11 and older (novel)
McWhorter, Diane. *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954-1968*. Scholastic, 2004. 160 pages. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)
Partridge, Elizabeth. *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary*. Viking, 2009. 72 pages. Age 11 and older (non-fiction)
Taylor, Mildred D. *The Road to Memphis*. Dial, 1990. 240 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)

Shared Interests: Books with Common Themes

American Indian Experience and Identity

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown, 2007. 240 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Bruchac, Joseph. *Our Stories Remember: American Indian History, Culture, and Values through Storytelling*. Fulcrum, 2003. 192 pages. Age 14 and older (non-fiction)
Hirschfelder, Arlene R., and Beverly R. Singer, compilers. *Rising Voices: Writings of Young Native Americans*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992. 115 pages. Age 11 and older (nonfiction – collection of letters, poems, and essays)

Antarctica

Bledsoe, Lucy Jane. *How to Survive in Antarctica*. Holiday House, 2006. 101 pages. Ages 9-14 (non-fiction)
Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. *Ice Story: Shackleton's Lost Expedition*. Clarion, 1999. 120 pages. Ages 9-14 (non-fiction)
Farr, Richard. *Emperors of the Ice: A True Story of Disaster and Survival in the Antarctic, 1910-13*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 217 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)
McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The White Darkness*. HarperTempest / HarperCollins, 2007. 373 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)

Body Image

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. Viking, 2009. 288 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*. Scholastic Press, 2011. 396 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Stone, Tanya Lee. *The Good, the Bad and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact On Us*. Viking, 2010. 130 pages. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)
Vecchione, Patrice. *The Body Eclectic: An Anthology of Poems*. Henry Holt, 2002. 192 pages. Age 14 and older (poetry)
White, Tracy. *How I Made It to Eighteen: A Mostly True Story*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010. 151 pages. Age 14 and older (novel—graphic novel)

Civil Liberties

Freedman, Russell. *In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights*. Holiday House, 2003. 196 pages. Age 11 and older (non-fiction)
Giblin, James Cross. *The Rise and Fall of Senator Joe McCarthy*. Clarion, 2009. 304 pages. Age 13 and older (non-fiction)
Castellucci, Cecil, and Jim Rugg with Jared K. Fletcher. *The Plain Janes*. Minx / DC Comics, 2007. 172 pages. Ages 13-16 (novel—graphic novel)

Civil Liberties, continued

- Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*. A Tom Dougherty Associates Book / Tor, 2008. 382 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Levine, Ellen. *Catch a Tiger by the Toe*. Viking, 2004. 200 pages. Ages 9-12 (novel)
Meloy, Maile. *The Apothecary*. Putnam, 2011. 368 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)

Communism: China

- Compstine, Ying Chang. *Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party*. Henry Holt, 2007. 248 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)
Jiang, Ji-Li. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*. HarperCollins, 1997. 285 pages. Age 12 and older (memoir)
Li, Moying. *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age During the Cultural Revolution in China*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 192 pages. Ages 11-14 (memoir)

Communism: Eastern Europe

- Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *A Time of Miracles*. Translated from the French by Y. Maudet. U.S. edition: Delacorte Press, 2010. 180 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Molnar, Haya Leah. *Under a Red Sky: A Memoir of a Childhood in Communist Russia*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2010. 302 pages. Age 14 and older (memoir)
Schmemmann, Serge. *When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Soviet Communism*. Kingfisher, 2006. 127 pages. Ages 11 and older (non-fiction)
Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*. Philomel, 2011. 344 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)
Sís, Peter. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. 48 pages. Age 9 and older (memoir)

Faith

- Hautman, Pete. *Godless*. Simon & Schuster, 2004. 198 pages. Ages 14 and older (novel)
Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*. Henry Holt, 2009. 268 pages. Age 14 and older (non-fiction)
Singer, Marilyn. *I Believe in Water: Twelve Brushes with Religion*. HarperCollins, 2000. 280 pages. Ages 11-15 (short stories)
Vecchione, Patrice. *Faith and Doubt: An Anthology of Poems*. Henry Holt, 2007. 138 pages. Age 12 and older (poetry)
Zarr, Sara. *Once Was Lost*. Little, Brown, 2009. 217 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Gay and Lesbian Experience and Identity

- Alsenas, Linas. *Gay America*. Amulet Books, 2008. 160 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
Danforth, Emily M. *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*. Balzer + Bray, 2012. 480 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Garden, Nancy. *Hear Us Out! Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope, 1950 to the Present*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. 227 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction/short stories)
Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. Simon and Schuster, 2012. 368 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
St. James, James. *Freak Show*. Dutton, 2007. 198 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Immigrant Experience and Identity

- Bausum, Ann. *Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*. National Geographic, 2009. 111 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
Hopkinson, Deborah. *Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924*. Orchard, 2003. 134 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
Budhos, Marina. *Remix: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers*. Henry Holt, 1999. 144 pages. Age 14 and older (non-fiction)
Jaramillo, Ann. *La Línea*. Deborah Brodie Book / Roaring Brook Press, 2006. 131 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
McNeal, Laura. *Dark Water*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. 287 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)
Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*. Front Street, 2001. 156 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Napoli, Donna Jo. *The King of Mulberry Street*. Wendy Lamb Books / Random House, 2005. 245 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)
Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic, 2007. 128 pages. Age 11 and older (wordless--graphic novel)
Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. First Second, 2006. 233 pages. Age 13 and older (novel—graphic novel)

Made for Each Other, page 4

Justice System

- Kuklin, Susan. *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row*. Henry Holt, 2008. 212 pages. Age 14 and older (non-fiction)
- Myers, Walter Dean, and Christopher Myers. *Monster*. HarperCollins, 1999. 281 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Lockdown*. HarperTeen / Amistad, 2010. 256 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Labor Issues and Worker's Rights

- Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*. Atheneum, 2004. 244 pages. Age 10 and older (novel)
- Marrin, Albert. *Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. 182 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. Lodestar Books, 1991. 182 pages. Age 11 and older (novel)

Loss/Extinction

- Burns, Loree Griffin. *Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey-Bee Catastrophe*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. 66 pages. Ages 10-15 (non-fiction)
- Hartnett, Sonya. *Stripes of the Sidestep Wolf*. U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 2005. 208 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)
- Montgomery, Sy. *Kakapo Rescue: The Race to Save the World's Strangest Parrot*. Photographs by Nic Bishop. (Scientists in the Field) Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)
- Hoose, Phillip. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2004. 196 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Whaley, John Corey. *Where Things Come Back*. Atheneum, 2011. 228 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)

Middle East

- Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Where the Streets Had a Name*. U.S. edition: Scholastic, 2010. 304 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)
- Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. Melanie Kroupa Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. 176 pages. Age 13 and older (memoir)
- Carter, Anne Laurel. *The Shepherd's Granddaughter*. Greenwood Books / House of Anansi Press, 2008. 224 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
- Frank, Mitch. *Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Viking, 2005. 152 pages. Ages 12-17 (non-fiction)
- Stein, Tammar. *Light Years*. Alfred A. Knopf / Random House, 2005. 263 pages. Age 15 and older (novel)
- Zenatti, Valérie. *When I Was a Soldier: A Memoir*. Bloomsbury, 2005. 235 pages. Ages 15-18 (memoir)

Parasites and Plague

- Broskol, Vera. *Anyu's Ghost*. First Second, 2011. 221 pages. Age 12 and older (graphic novel—fiction)
- Giblin, James Cross. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*. Clarion, 2003. 165 pages. Ages 10-14
- Giblin, James Cross. *When Plague Strikes: Black Death, Smallpox, AIDS*. Illustrated by David Frampton. HarperCollins, 1995. 212 pages. Ages 12-17 (non-fiction)
- Marrin, Albert. *Little Monsters: The Creatures That Live On Us and In Us*. Dutton, 2011. 152 pages. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)
- Westerfeld, Scott. *Peeps*. Razorbill, 2005. 312 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Perception

- Larbalestier, Justine. *Liar*. Bloomsbury, 2009. 376 pages. Age 14 and older (novel)
- Vecchione, Patrice. *Truth and Lies: An Anthology of Poems*. Henry Holt, 2000. 142 pages. Age 15 and older (poetry)
- Wild, Margaret, and Anne Spudvilas. *Woolves in the Sitee*. Front Street, 2007. 40 pages. Age 11 and older (novel)

Political Resistance

- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*. Scholastic, 2005. 176 pages. Age 13 and older (non-fiction)
- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared*. Scholastic, 2008. 202 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)
- DeVita, James. *The Silenced*. Eos / Laura Geringer Books / HarperCollins, 2007. 504 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)

Race and Identity

- Anderson, M.T. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Part 1: The Pox Party*. Candlewick Press, 2006. 351 pages. Age 15 and older (novel)
- Frazier, Sundee T. *The Other Half of My Heart*. Delacorte Press, 2010. 296 pages. Ages 10-14 (novel)
- Gaskins, Pearl Fumo. *What Are You: Voices of Mixed-Race Young People*. Henry Holt, 1999. 273 pages. Age 13 and older (non-fiction)
- Lanier, Shannon and Jane Feldman. *Jefferson's Children: The Story of One American Family*. Random House, 2000. 32 pages. Age 10 and older (non-fiction)

Women's Rights

- Bausum, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*. National Geographic, 2004. 111 pages. Age 11 and older (non-fiction)
- Frost, Helen. *Crossing Stones*. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. 184 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
- Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*. Harcourt, 2003. 400 pages. Ages 13-18 (novel)
- Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*. Candlewick Press, 2009. 133 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
- Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl*. Putnam, 2008. 275 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)

You can read the CCBC annotation for most of the titles on this list using the Quick Search feature on the CCBC web site at www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/. You can also find a wide range of thematic bibliographies on the CCBC web site: click on "CCBC Publications" then "Bibliographies and Booklists."

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