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**


**Slavery and the Civil War**


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)


Lester, Julies. *Day of Tears.* Hyperion, 2005. 177 pages. Age 12 and older (novel)


**World War I**


World War II


Also see the CCBC bibliography “Tell Them We Remember: Selected Literature about the Holocaust and World War II”:

Civil Rights Movement


American Indian Experience and Identity


Antarctica

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. *Ice Story: Shackleton’s Lost Expedition.* Clarion, 1999. 120 pages. Ages 9-14 (non-fiction)


Body Image


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)


Civil Liberties


Civil Liberties, continued


Communism: China

192 pages. Ages 11-14 (memoir)

Communism: Eastern Europe

180 pages. Age 13 and older (novel)
Age 14 and older (memoir)
Ages 11 and older (non-fiction)

Faith


Gay and Lesbian Experience and Identity


Immigrant Experience and Identity

111 pages. Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
Age 12 and older (non-fiction)
Justice System

Labor Issues and Worker’s Rights

Loss/Extinction

Middle East

Parasites and Plague

Perception

Political Resistance
Race and Identity

Women’s Rights

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/](http://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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