

Whose History Is It Anyway?

Diversity in Historical Fiction for Children and Young Adults

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Why does this matter?

Improving your collection's diversity

Our Top 10

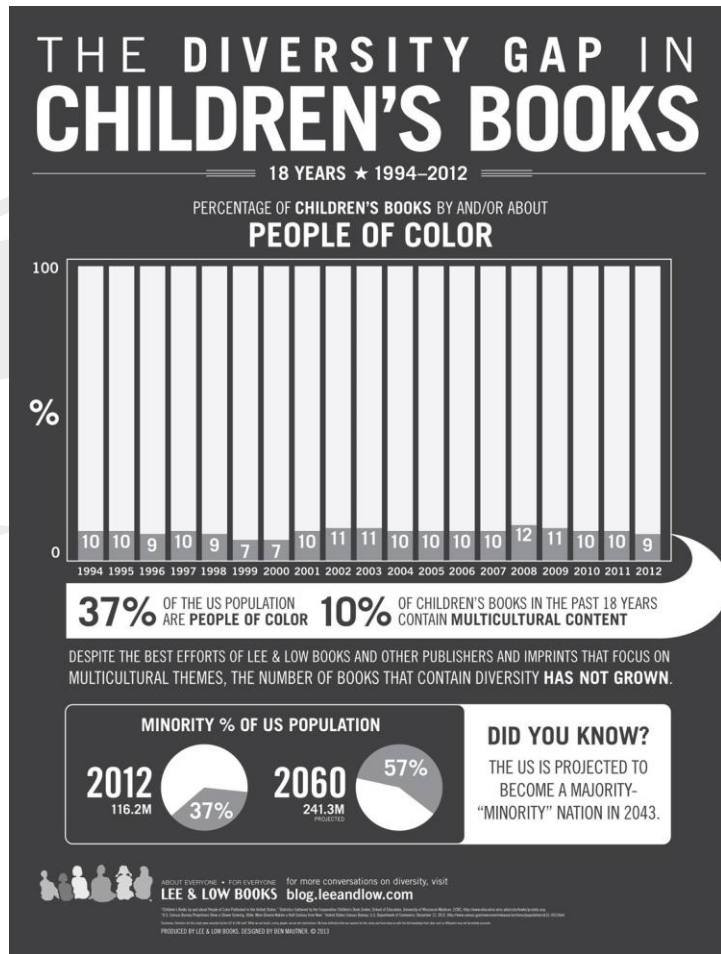
Tools and Resources

Wisdom of the Room

Strategies for Advocacy and Collaboration

Why study this?

- Lack of diversity in popular media
- Diversity & the Common Core



From Lee and Low Books

Our Research

- Recommended Lists (2000-2015)
 - Newbery, Geisel, & Reading.Org's Children's Choices
 - Printz, YALSA's Best Fiction for YA's, Reading.org's YA Choices
- Examining how many HF titles, gender & ethnicity of protagonists, setting

Importance of HF

Mirrors and Windows**

Definitions

Historical Fiction

Diversity

Historical Fiction

...written about a time period in which the author has not lived or no more recently than one generation or 20 years before its composition.

A grounding in story-- with emphasis on individual, human response to historical events--could be the beginning of historical understanding and precedes the ability to critically analyze history.

Diversity

Ethnicity

Gender

Economic Status

Physical Ability

Sexual Orientation

Religion

Geography

Suggested Titles



Outstanding Elementary Titles

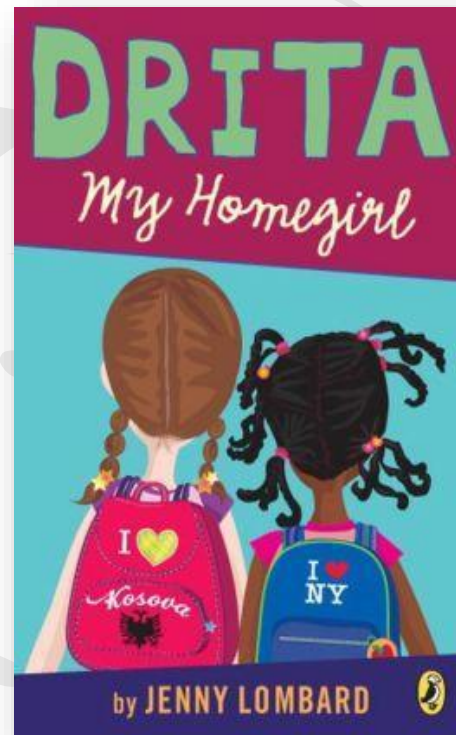
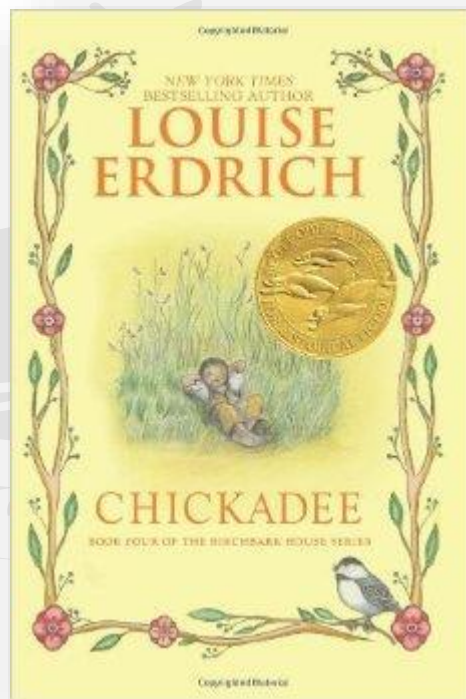
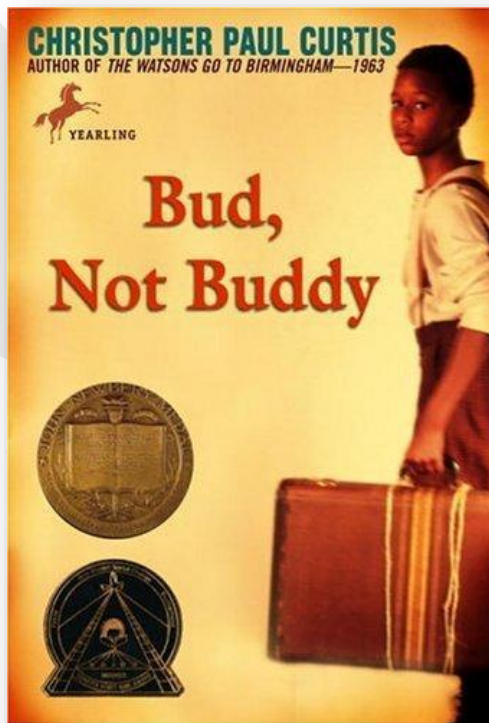
Bud, Not Buddy -Christopher Paul Curtis (1999) Depression-era US, African-American characters

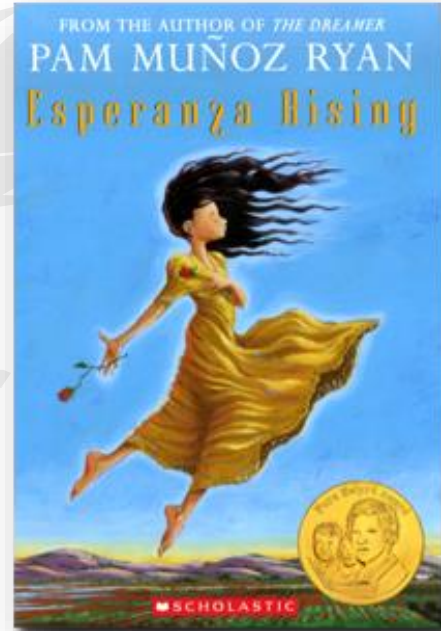
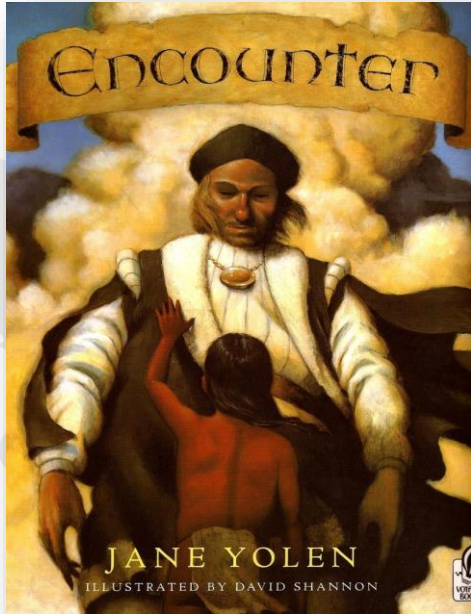
Chickadee - Louise Erdrich (2012) -Ojibwe family in northern Minnesota in the mid 1800s.

Drita, My Homegirl -Jenny Lombard (2008). Balkan War; Culture clash, immigration.

Encounter -Jane Yolen (1996). Alternative viewpoint of Columbus' "discovery" of the New World.

Esperanza Rising -Pam Munoz Ryan (2002) - migrant farm workers in California; Depression Era.





Outstanding Elementary Titles

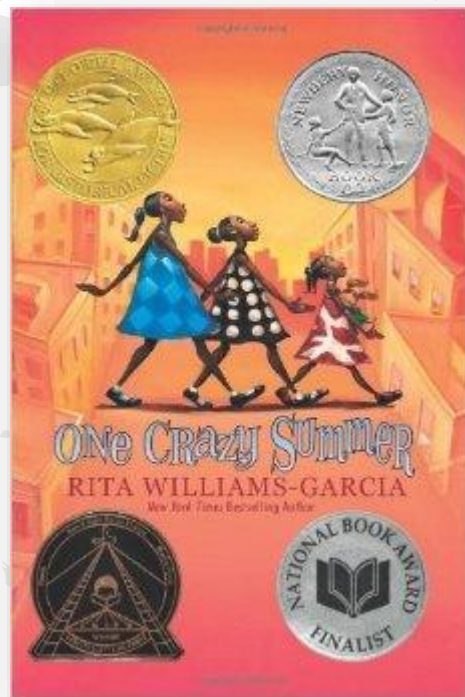
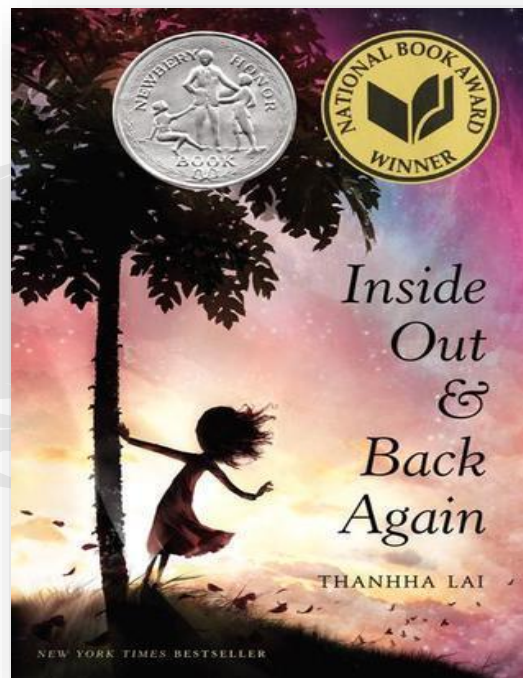
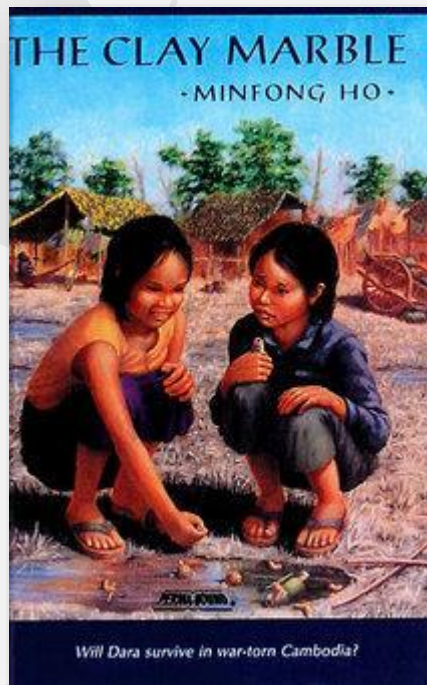
The Clay Marble -Mifong Ho (1991) - Cambodian war of 1980's.

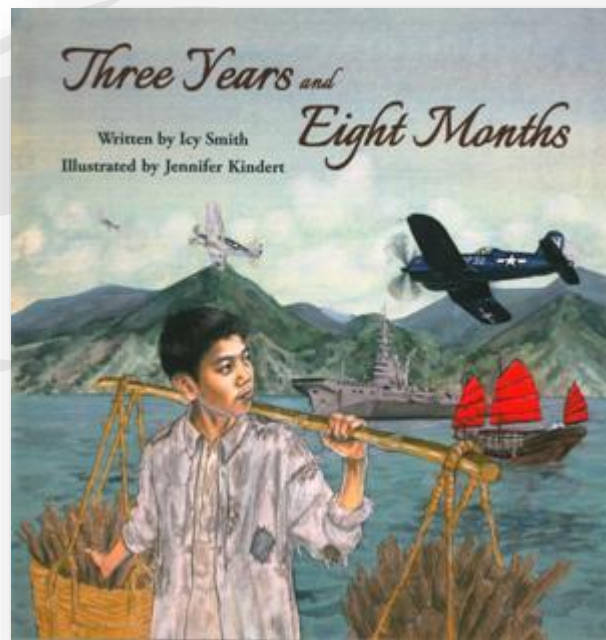
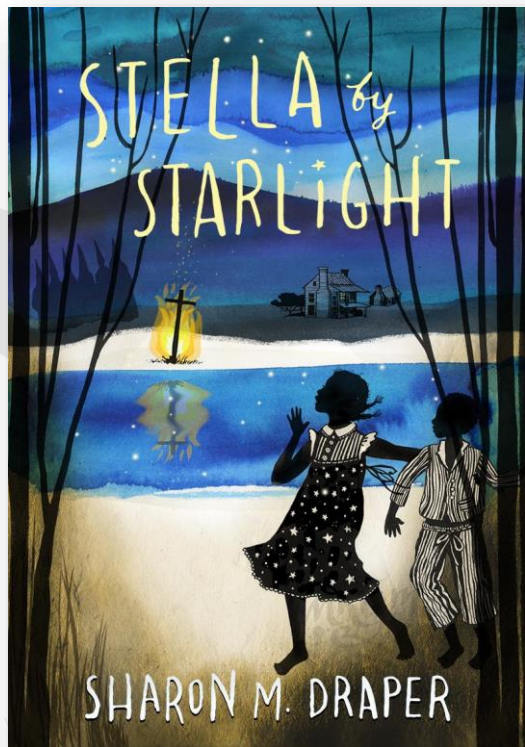
Inside Out and Back Again -Thanha Lai (2013)- Fall of Saigon; immigration to Alabama

One Crazy Summer -Rita Williams-Garcis (2011) Civil Rights era; Black Panthers movement.

Stella by Starlight - Sharon Draper (2015)) Segregated South in the 1930's.

Three Years and Eight Months -Icy Smith (2013). Japanese Occupation of China, 1940's





Outstanding Middle Titles

Before We Were Free - Julia Alvarez (2002) - 1960 Dominican Republic

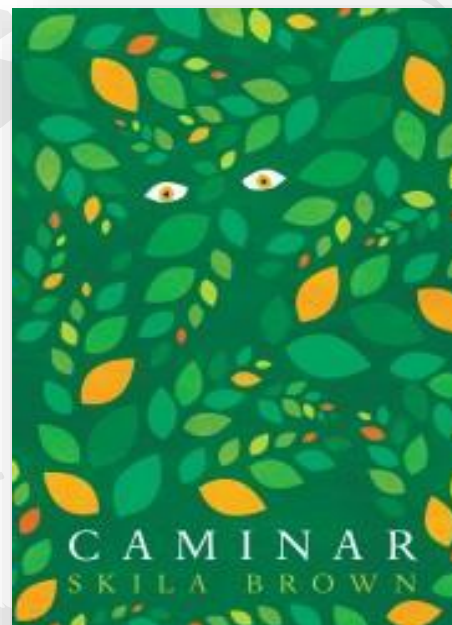
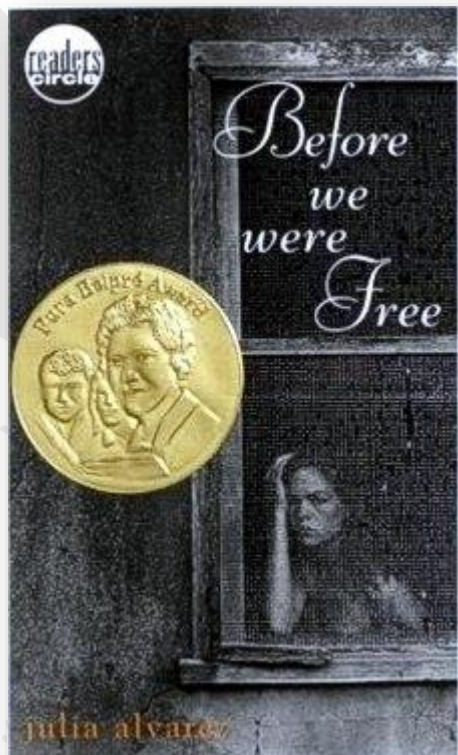
Blue Birds - Caroline Starr Rose (2015) -Roanoke Colony, 1587

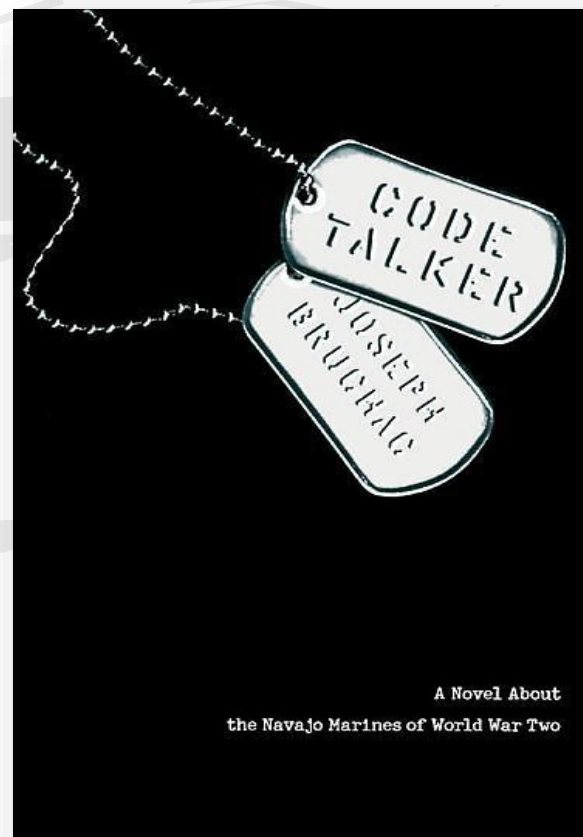
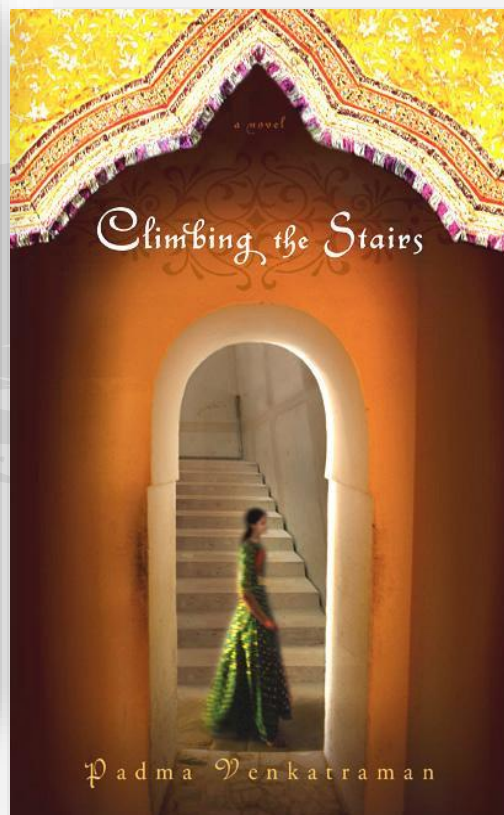
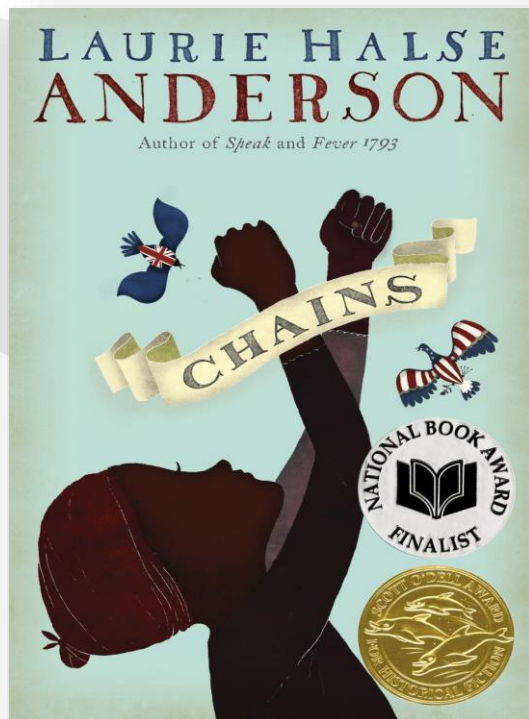
Caminar -Skila Brown (2014). Civil war, Guatemala, 1981; Told in verse.

Chains - Laurie Halse Anderson (2008) - American Revolution - African-American

Climbing the Stairs - Padma Venkatraman (2008) - Indian Independence

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two -
Joseph Bruchac (2006)





Outstanding Middle Titles

Day of Tears - Julius Lester (2007) - 1859 slave auction, Georgia

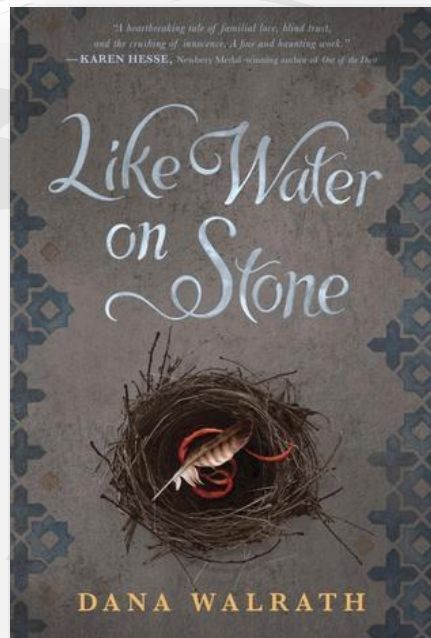
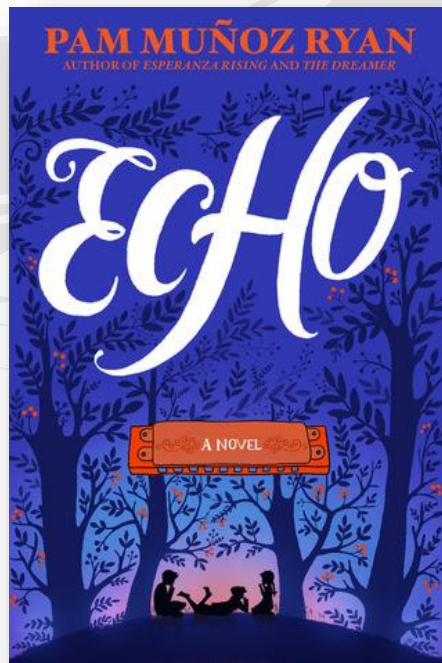
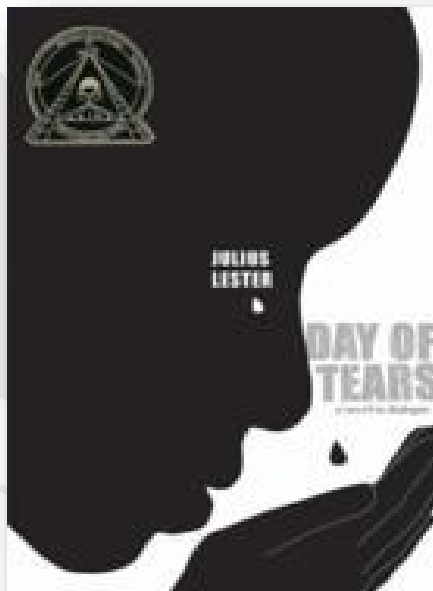
Echo - Pam Munoz Ryan (2015). Various eras; African-American and Japanese American.

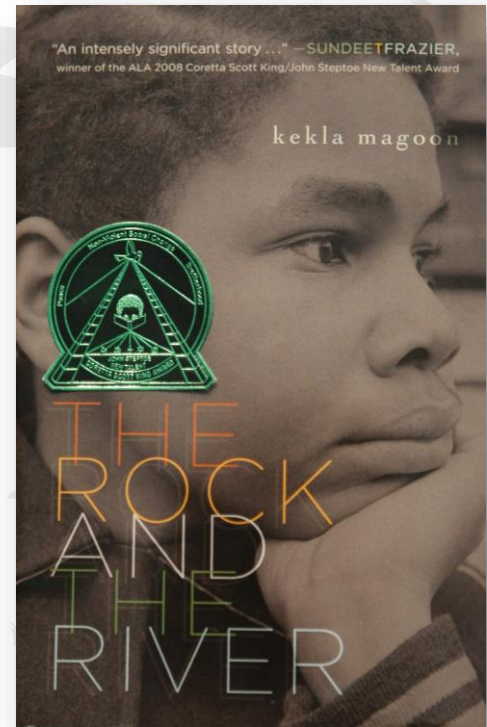
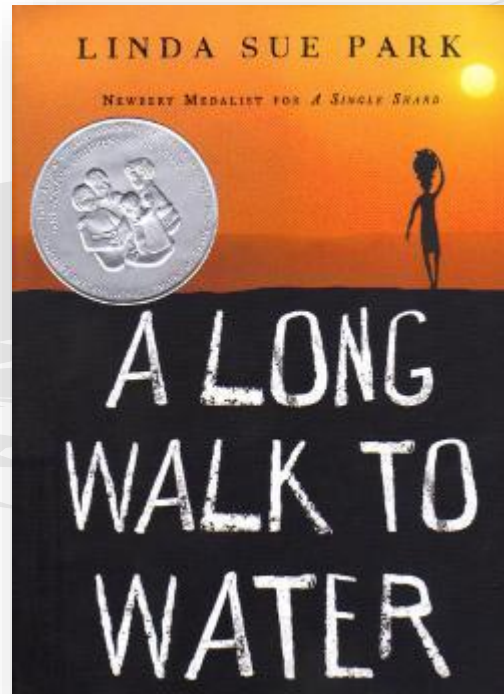
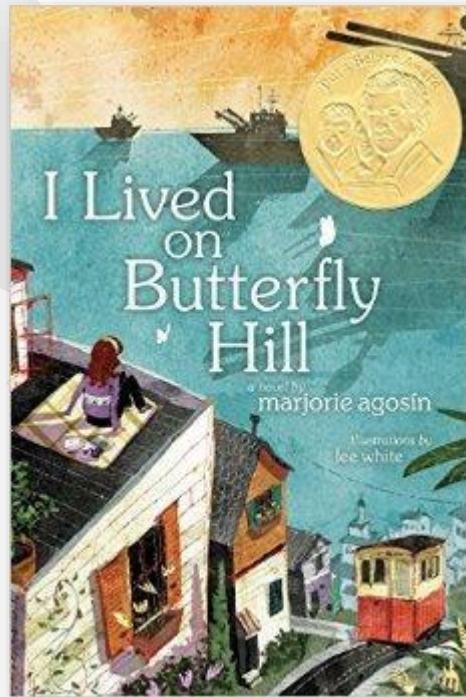
Like Water on Stone - Dana Walrath (2015). Armenia, 1915. Religious differences.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill - Marjorie Agosin (2014) - Chile in 1970s (Pinochet)

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story - Linda Sue Park (2010) - 1985 – Sudan

The Rock and the River - Kekla Magoon (2009) - Chicago 1960s Civil Rights





Outstanding HS titles

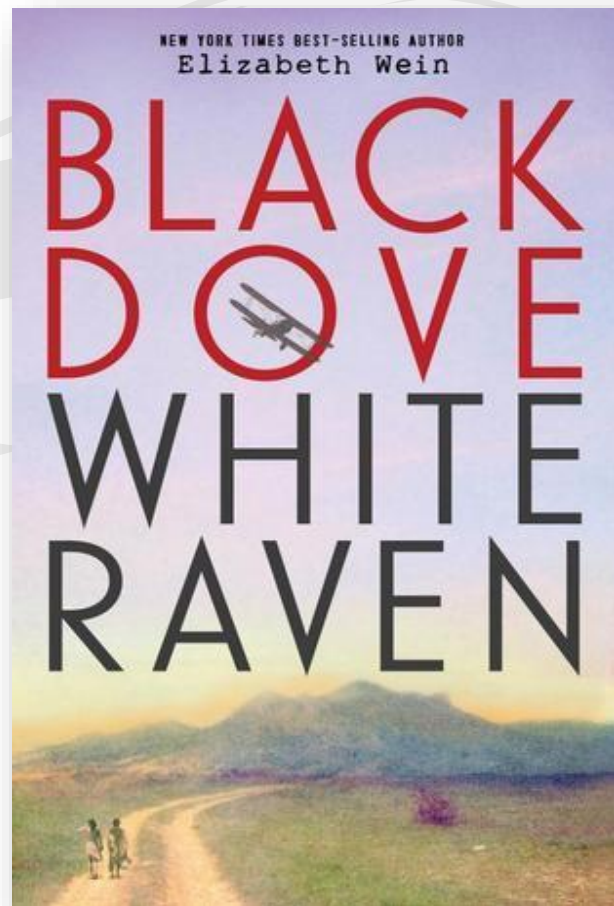
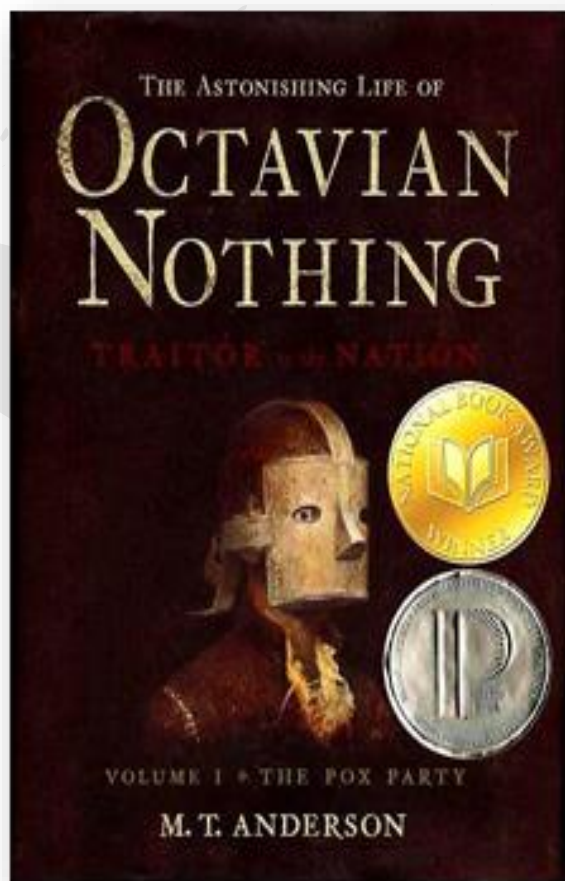
The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing Traitor to the Nation: Vol I The Pox Party - M.T. Anderson (2006) - American Revolution - African American

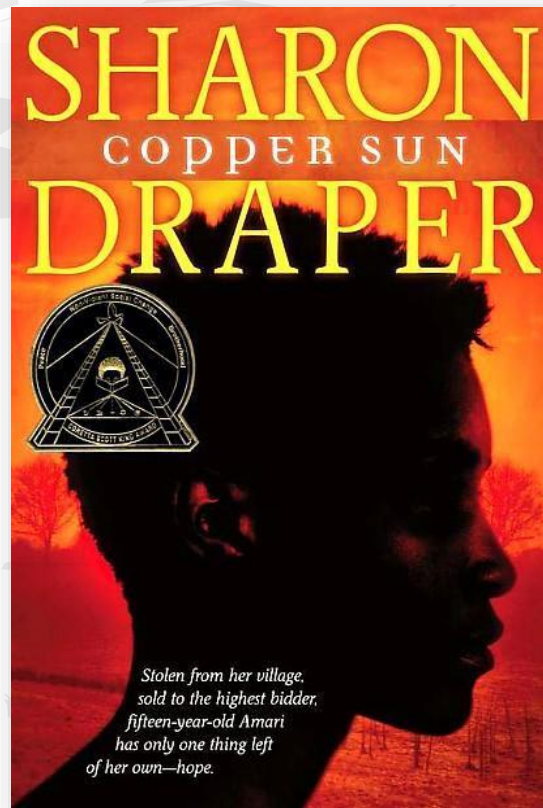
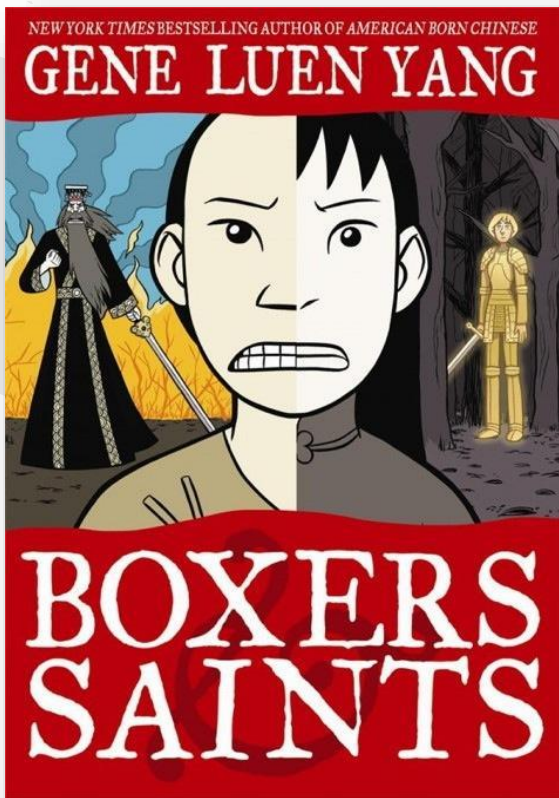
Black Dove, White Raven - Elizabeth Wein (2015) - 1930s Ethiopia

Boxers & Saints (2 vol set) - Gene Luen Yang (2013) - Graphic novels - Boxer Rebellion in China

Come August, Come Freedom: the Bellows, the Gallows and the Black General Gabriel - Gigi Amateau (2012) - Post revolutionary Virginia - slave rebellion

Copper Sun - Sharon Draper (2006) - Colonial America - African-American





Forbidden - Kimberley Griffiths Little (2014) - Ancient Mesopotamia

Heart of a Samurai - Margi Preus (2010) - Graphic novel about first Japanese person to come to US

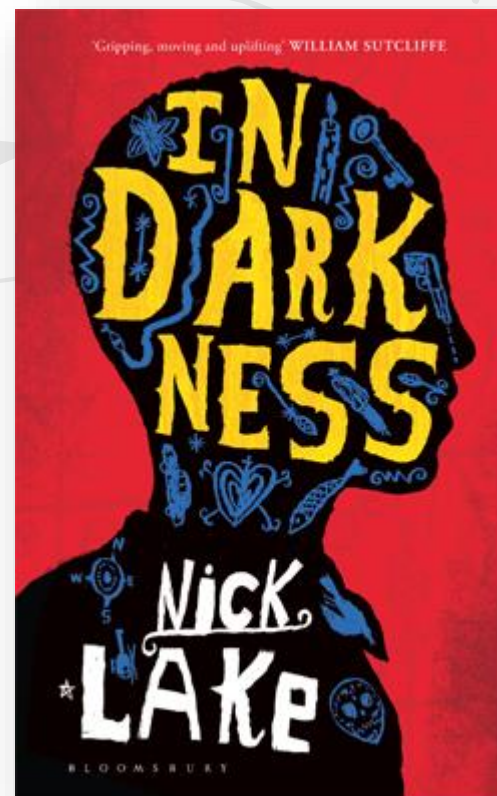
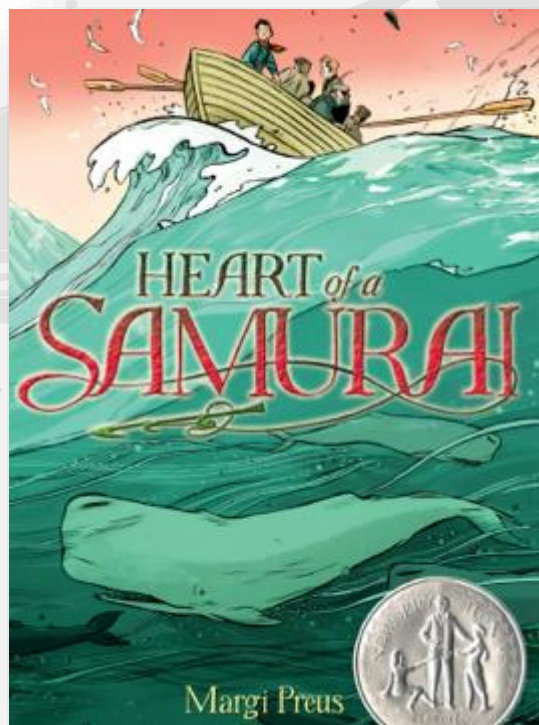
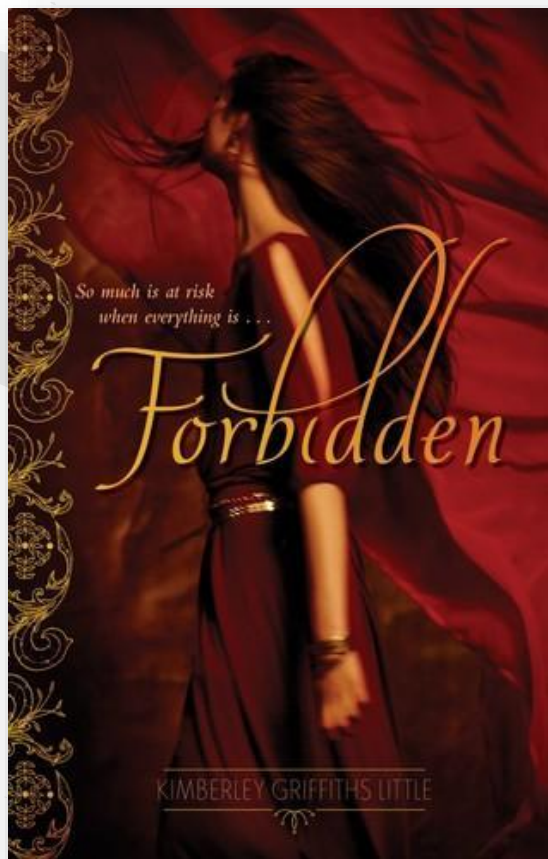
In Darkness - Nick Lake (2012) - Haitian earthquake & Haitian Independence

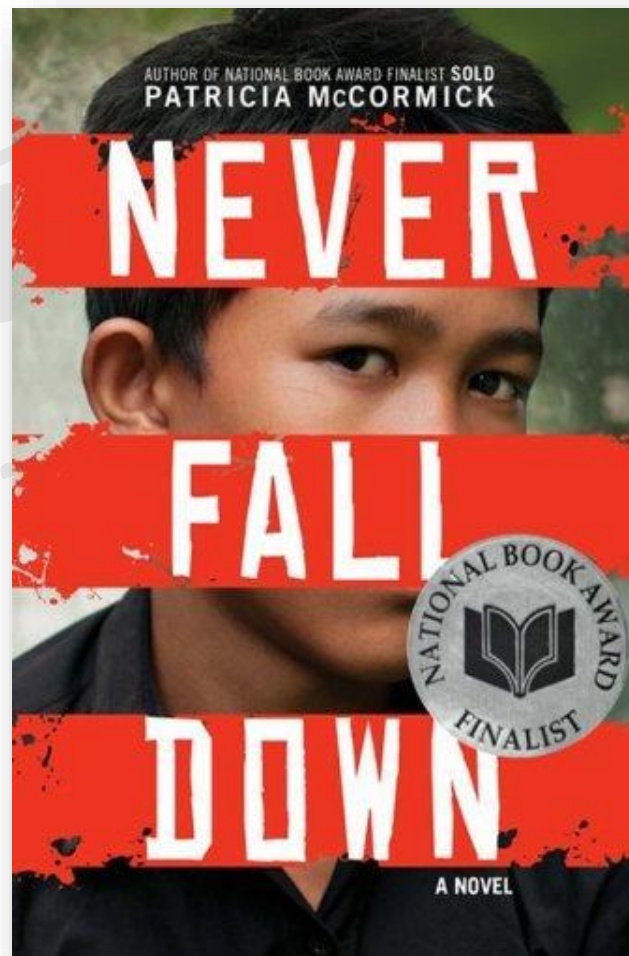
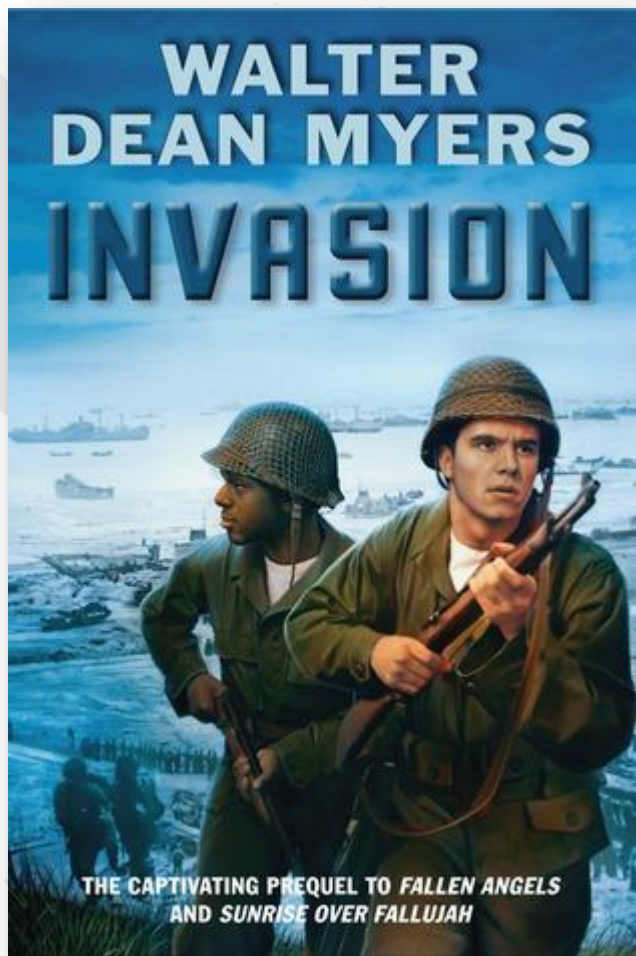
Invasion - Walter Dean Myers (2013) - World War II - African-American

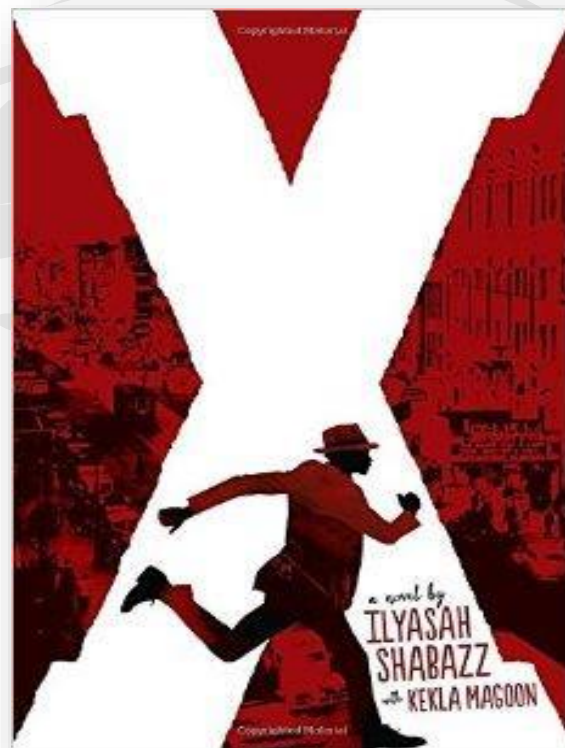
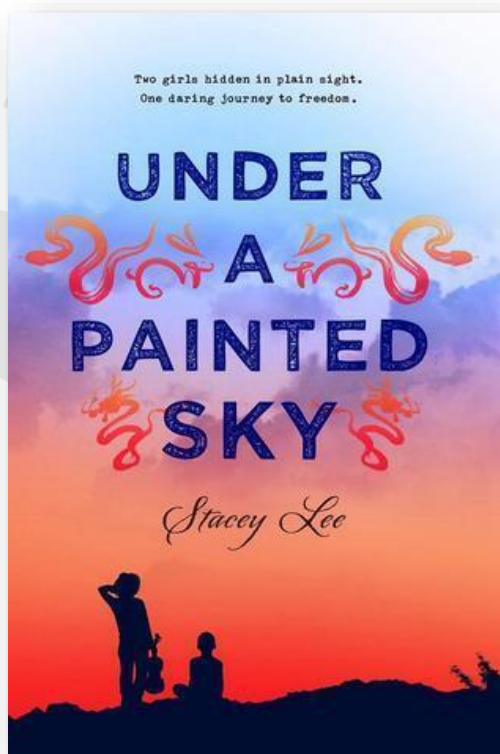
Never Fall Down - Patricia McCormick (2012) - 1970s Cambodian genocide

Under a Painted Sky - Stacey Lee (2015) - Oregon Trail - Chinese-American & African-American

X: a novel - Ilyasah Shabazz (2015) - Fictional account of Malcolm X's childhood







Wisdom of the Room

What diverse titles do you know?

Africa

Asia

Central/South America

Australia/Pacific

Other

US - Non-white

Outstanding Tools - Print

- Historical Fiction for Children: Capturing the Past - Fiona Collins and Judith Graham, editors (2013).
- Cultural Journeys: Multicultural Literature for Elementary and Middle School Students - Pamela S. Gates and Diane L. Hall Mark (2010).
- A Broken Flute: the native experience in books for children - Doris Seale and Beverly Slapin, editors (2006).
- The Distant Mirror: Reflections on Young Adult Historical Fiction by Brown & St. Clair (2005)
- Historical Fiction for Teens: A Genre Guide by Rabey (2010)

Great Resources - Web

- We Need Diverse Books
- Oyata
- Worlds of Words
- Selecting Anti-Biased Children's Books
- Notable Trade Books for the Social Studies
- Booklist's Annual Top Ten HF for Youth
- Collaborative for Equity in Literacy Learning
- Multicultural Literature from the Cooperative Children's Book Center

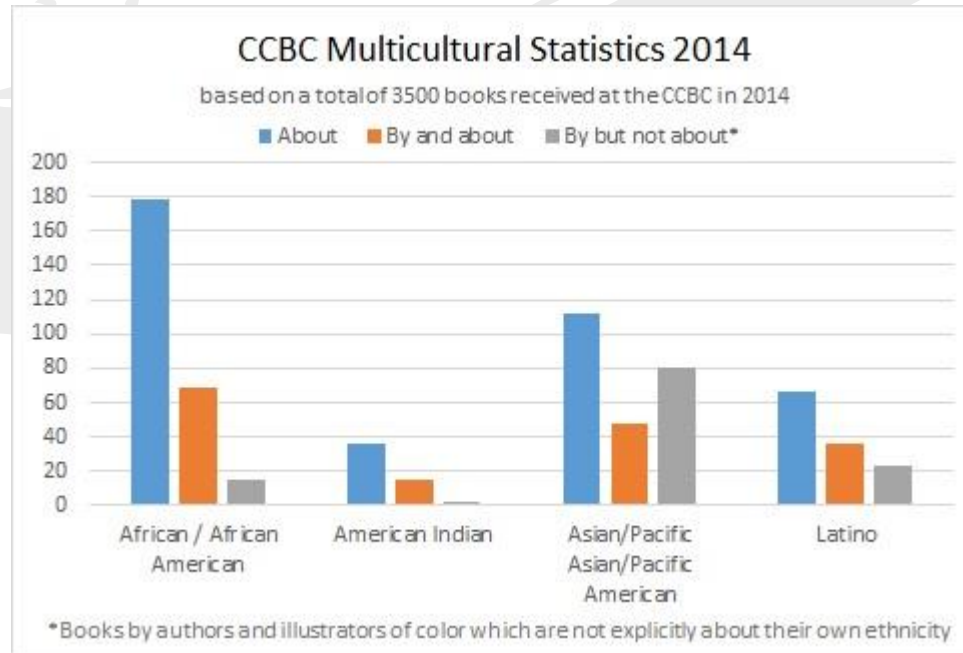
Collaborating for Classroom Use

- Pair HF with Non-fiction text (primary & secondary)
- Research projects – events & people from HF – How accurate is author's depiction?
- Opportunity for activism – Historical & Current issues – water, literacy, human rights
- Use HF picture books to introduce topics to older students
- Debates & discussion
- Other ideas?

Strategies for Advocacy

- Allows non-mainstream view of an event/person from history
- Boys are more likely to read historical fiction than other genres
- Common Core – Non-fiction text --- but can pair historical fiction with NF
- Other ideas?

There is hope...



Source: - **Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/2014statistics.asp>

Questions

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