

Collection Development (Special Topics) Bibliography: History and Wars - Dewey 900's

Highly Recommended Books

General Curricular Use - Summary

*The selections found in this bibliography will support 5th/6th grade social studies as well as provide reading materials for students interested in King Louis and his shoes, the design and delivery of the Statue of Liberty, key figures and movements in African American history, medieval warriors and their weapons, spy rings, World Wars I and II, and the involvement of women in the war efforts in Russia and the U.S. **Please note: at the time of my research, there were not many current, and highly reviewed, titles available for our younger students.***

Grades K-2

Steinbert, D.J. ***King Louie's Shoes***. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2017.

Summary: This informational picture book introduces readers to King Louie XIX of France and his obsession with appearing taller to the people in his kingdom. Although he was big in many ways in his role as king, he was small in stature, standing only at 5'4. He tried a couple of tactics to make himself appear taller - a higher throne, a fancy wig. These attempts did not work, so he summoned the Royal Shoemaker. The story evolves, and platform shoes are created for King Louie. He learns a valuable lesson after an embarrassing moment at the royal Baroque Ball. At the back of the book, the author provides fourteen fun facts for readers (appropriate for King Louie the Fourteenth!).

Audience: Kindergarten – 2; teachers; parents

Series: Ready-to-Read: Secrets of American History

Publisher: New York: Simon Spotlight

On the Web: <https://www.readytoread.com/secrets-of-american-history.html>

Summary: (From *School Library Journal Xpress* via Titlewave)

“The covert and quirky history of the United States is revealed in this engaging nonfiction series for emerging readers. From George Washington's spy ring to shark repellent, these texts outline several of the more unusual inventions and tactics deployed in wartime. The texts are fast-paced and chock-full of action. Throughout the books are bright cartoon illustrations that add a sense of levity and also communicate additional information.”

Audience: Grades 1 - 3; reluctant readers; students interested in history and war secrets; upper elementary students studying American history (struggling readers); teachers; parents

Calkhoven, Laurie. ***Secret Agents! Sharks! Ghost Armies!: World War II***. 2017.

Dennis, Elizabeth. ***Fearless Flyers, Dazzle Painters, and Code Talkers!: World War I***. 2018.

Lakin, Patricia. ***Heroes Who Risked Everything for Freedom: Civil War***. 2017.

Lakin, Patricia. ***The Founding Fathers Were Spies!: Revolutionary War***. 2017.

Grades 3-4

Asim, Jabari. ***A Child's Introduction to African American History: the Experiences, People, and Events that Shaped Our Country.*** New York: Black Dog & Leventhal, 2018.

Summary: This book will serve as a comprehensive guide of the people, significant events, arts & culture, and traditions of Black Americans throughout history. Its scope begins during slavery and ends with the election of President Obama and the Black Lives Matter movement. For each era, artists, sports achievements and athletes, and political pioneers and movements are highlighted. There is an illustrated, pull-out timeline of significant events/people at the back of the book - covers the years 1619 - 2017.

Audience: Grades 3 - 6+; teachers; parents

Byrd, Robert. ***Liberty Arrives!: How America's Grandest Statue Found Her Home.*** New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019.

Summary: This informational picture book summarizes the history of Lady Liberty's inception, design, architecture, and journey to America. Significant people and events are highlighted, and illustrations help tell the story of how the Statue of Liberty almost did not materialize. The author provides a section at the end detailing "More on the Story" as well as "Other Historical Figures" from the book. An author's note tells the reader how historical photographs helped this book come to life.

Audience: Grades 3 - 4; K-2 students will enjoy this book with an adult; teachers; parents

Grades 5-6

Robinson, Sharon. ***Child of the Dream: a Memoir of 1963.*** New York: Scholastic Press, 2019.

Summary: A lot was happening in the South in 1963, and Sharon Robinson was experiencing it all through the eyes of a thirteen year old black girl, the daughter of famous baseball player, Jackie Robinson. Her memoir highlights her upbringing, strong family values, and the desire to support and defend the Civil Rights Movement happening in the U.S. at the time. Sharon's writing will draw you in, and her first-hand knowledge of the times will encourage students to ask questions and dig deeper into this part of our history. The family photographs in the middle provide stunning historical, primary source material.

Audience: Grades 5 - 6; teachers; parents

Stokes, Jonathan W. ***The Thrifty Guide to the American Revolution: a Handbook for Time Travelers.*** New York: Puffin Books, 2018.

Summary: (From *Booklist* via Titlewave)

"To know what the American Revolution was really like, one needs to go back in time—just don't forget to grab this guidebook for time travelers first. "Published holographically" in 2164 and discovered outside a Manhattan pizzeria in 2018, it's chock-full of humor. After a brief introduction to time-travel methods, the book deposits readers in the colony of Massachusetts in 1773. From here, it identifies causes of the American Revolution, the formation of the Sons of Liberty spy ring, and the roles of the Continental Congress and the Declaration of Independence. Likening the war to a

David and Goliath story, the bulk of the text focuses on the battles between the British and the Americans. The amusing guide is embellished with two-toned line drawings and maps, as well as “People to Have Lunch With” (e.g., Phillis Wheatley and Alexander Hamilton) and “Helpful Hints” (e.g., what to expect during cannon fire). Students not enamored with history just haven’t read this guide yet—”

Audience: Grades 5 - 6; teachers; parents

“Also Ran” - Series Titles

Grades 3-4

Series: Graphic Library - Graphic History: Warriors
Publisher/Copyright: North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2019.

Summary: (From [Capstone](#)) Travel back in time to learn about history's most courageous warriors! Readers can experience the life and times of fearsome Vikings, honor-bound samurai, stealthy ninjas, and chivalrous knights. With riveting, full-color graphic novel stories of famous historical warriors, readers will get an in-depth look at each warrior class's time and culture, as well as learning key details about the warriors' armor, weapons, skills, and missions.

Audience: Grades 3-4 (up to 6); possibly teachers - medieval history, weapons, warriors

Chandler, Matt. *Ninjas: Japan's Stealthy Secret Agents*.
Hoena, Blake. *Medieval Knights: Europe's Fearsome Armored Soldiers*.
Hoena, Blake. *Samurai: Japan's Noble Servant-Warriors*.
Yomtov, Nel. *Vikings: Scandinavia's Ferocious Sea Raiders*.

Grades 5-6

Series: Snap Books - Women and War
Publisher/Copyright: North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2018.

Summary: (From [Capstone](#)) This series explores the pivotal role women have played in war. Through active fighting, training soldiers, or taking over on the home front, women have often been the unsung heroes of many wars. Read about the Soviet Night Witches, the U.S. WASPs, the women inspired by Rosie the Riveter, and the current women soldiers in a series that celebrates the often overlooked achievements of women in war.

Audience: Grades 5-6; teachers; parents

Bolt Simons, Lisa M. *The U.S. Wasp: Trailblazing Women Pilots of World War II*.
Bolt Simons, Lisa M. *Women in Combat: Bringing the Fight to the Front Lines*.
Dell, Pamela. *The Soviet Night Witches: Brave Women Bomber Pilots of World War II*.
Dell, Pamela. *The Women Behind Rosie the Riveter: Working for the U.S. War Effort*.