

## Literary Genre Bibliography: Nonfiction

### Grades K-2

Portis, Antoinette. **Hey, Water**. Neal Porter Books, 2019. ISBN: 9780823441556.

**Summary:** The main character, Zoe, describes in an accessible and conversational tone, all the different places and forms in which she can find water, even within her own body as tears. She describes water as trying to fool her by hiding in different forms such as steam and ice. At the end, she says, “I know it’s you!” and gives out a shout of thanks for water. Illustrated notes at the end describe different water forms, the water cycle, and information about conserving water.

**Curricular use:** This book would be a great addition to a unit on the water cycle, states of matter, or conservation. It would also be a great nonfiction read aloud choice.

**Audience:** K-2nd Grade

Thorn, Theresa. **It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book about Gender Identity**. Henry Holt and Company, 2019. ISBN: 9781250302953.

**Summary:** “There are so many different ways to be a boy or a girl-too many to fit in a book!” With direct and positive language, the author defines the terms cisgender, transgender, and non binary. Four characters with differing gender identities are introduced, normalizing and making the terms accessible to younger students. The artwork is beautiful, showing characters with an array of gender expressions, skin colors, and physical features living life in a colorful and busy neighborhood. The back pages give additional terms to know, a note about pronouns, and helpful resources.

**Curricular use:** This book gives our youngest students a positive book about gender identity and expression. It would be a great guide for parents/teachers wanting to know how to introduce the concept of gender.

**Audience:** K-2nd Grade

### Grades 3-4

Jenkins, Steve and Page, Robin. **The Frog Book**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019. ISBN: 9780544387607.

**Summary:** Beautifully illustrated in a myriad of frog collages, this book introduces many of the 5000 frog species that are in existence today. The book shares facts about frogs and their size, habitat, color, lifecycle, mating, as well as a sober note about frog extinction. The final pages give a table that shows the size, diet, and range of the frogs featured in this book, as well as books and websites for readers looking for more information.

**Curricular use:** This book would be great for life science and zoology study, as well as for students who simply have an interest in frogs.

**Audience:** 3rd-4th Grade

Wittenstein, Barry. **A Place to Land**. Neal Porter Books, 2019. ISBN: 9780823443314.

**Summary:** This book gives the backstory behind Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Working with nine organizers and pastors, the book describes the work and struggle of King trying to prepare his most famous speech the night before giving it. The book goes on to describe the day of the speech hour by hour, describing the interaction of the crowd with King and his subsequent decision to abandon his prepared notes and preach from the heart. Social justice heroes of past and present are seen in the collage artwork. Notes from the author and artist, brief biographies of the Willard Hotel speech advisors, and other influencers and people who spoke on the March on Washington are part of the back pages.

**Curricular use:** This picture book is an important addition to books featuring Dr. King. It adds another dimension and point of discussion for King's "I Have a Dream" speech. It also lends itself well to discussion of civil rights and the March on Washington.

**Audience:** 3rd-4th Grade and beyond.

## Grades 5-6

Lloyd, Christopher. **Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us**. What on Earth Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781912920013.

**Summary:** Throughout this book, Lloyd draws parallels, through research done over many years, in ways that humans and animals behave in a similar fashion. Under the main headings of communication, feelings, and intelligence, Lloyd shares readable and fascinating research that explores how a variety of different animals engage in behavior similar to humans. A glossary and segment on animal scientists concludes this thought provoking book.

**Curricular use:** This book will appeal to any animal lover. It would be an interesting title to add to community studies and animal studies.

**Audience:** 5-6th Grade, although I would recommend it for younger students as well.

Macaulay, David. **Crossing on Time**. Roaring Book Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781596434776.

**Summary:** David Macaulay combines his personal story of emigrating to the US on a steam powered ship in 1957 with the development of the ships themselves. He tells the story of how the steam powered ships were developed, before going into specific details of how William Francis Gibbs designed the SS United States, the fastest ship of its time and the specific ship that Macaulay traveled to the United States on. There are amazing illustrations, diagrams, and a huge foldout cutaway of the completed ship. The book ends with a timeline, archival photos, and a selected reading list.

**Curricular use:** This book lends itself to STEM and transportation studies. Many students will be drawn to the meticulous illustrations and diagrams.

**Audience:** 5-6th Grade