

3rd-5th Gr.

“Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.”

—Psalm 70.5

**Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln.** Doreen Rappaport. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

*An introduction to the life and career of America's 16th president.*

**Ain't Nothing but a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry.** Scott Reynolds Nelson. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2008.

*Historian Scott Reynolds Nelson recounts how he came to discover the real John Henry, an African-American railroad worker who became a legend in the famous song.*

**Annie Shapiro and the Clothing Workers' Strike.** Marlene Targ Brill. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2010.

*Recounts Annie Shapiro's experiences during the 1910-1911 Garment Workers' Strike in Chicago.*

**Clara Barton.** Stephen Krensky. New York, NY: DK, 2011.

*The life and accomplishments of Clara Barton, a teacher who organized efforts to bring nursing care to wounded soldiers during the Civil War and who went on to become the founder of the American Red Cross.*

**Coretta Scott.** Ntozake Shange. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2009.

*This extraordinary union of poetry and monumental artwork captures the movement for civil rights in the United States and honors its most elegant inspiration, Coretta Scott.*

**Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom.** Tim Tingle. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2006.

*In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river. When she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.*

**Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights.** James Haskins. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2005.

*Presents the life of W.W. Law, an NAACP activist, whose efforts to register Black voters and lead a successful business boycott resulted in Savannah, Georgia, being the first city in the South to end racial discrimination.*

**Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty.** Linda Glaser. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.

*The story of Emma Lazarus, who, despite her life of privilege, became a tireless advocate for the immigrants who arrived in New York City in the 1880s and wrote a famous poem for the Statue of Liberty.*

**The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom.** Emily Arnold McCully. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007.

*Young Oney Judge risks everything to escape a life of slavery in the household of George and Martha Washington to make her own way as a free Black woman.*

**Freedom Summer.** Deborah Wiles. New York: Aladdin, 2005.

*In 1964, Joe is pleased that a new law will allow his best friend John Henry, who is Black, to share the town pool and other public places with him, but he is dismayed to find that prejudice still exists.*

**A Friendship for Today.** Pat McKissack. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007.

*In 1954, when desegregation comes to Kirkland, Missouri, ten-year-old Rosemary faces many changes and challenges at school and at home as her parents separate.*

**Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans.** Kadir Nelson. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2011.

*Heart and Soul is a simple introduction to African-American history, from slavery in the Revolutionary-War era to the election of President Obama.*

**The Lemonade Crime.** Jacqueline Davies. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011.

*When money disappears from fourth-grader Evan's pocket and everyone thinks that his annoying classmate, Scott, stole it, Evan's younger sister stages a trial involving the entire class, trying to prove what happened.*

**Maggie & Oliver, or, A Bone of One's Own.** Valerie Hobbs. New York: Henry Holt, 2011.

*A dog whose beloved owner has died and an orphaned ten-year-old girl find each other while enduring poverty and homelessness in early-twentieth-century Boston.*

**Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Doreen Rappaport. New York: Hyperion Book, 2007.

*This is the life story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in simple words and luminous pictures. It also introduces children to Dr. King's teachings about nonviolence. Throughout the book, key words from Dr. King's teachings appear as part of the art.*

**A Place Where Sunflowers Grow - Sabaku Ni Saita Himaware.** Amy Lee-Tai. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2006.

*While she and her family are interned at Topaz Relocation Center during World War II, Mari gradually adjusts as she enrolls in an art class, makes a friend, plants sunflowers, and waits for them to grow.*

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**Rickshaw Girl.** Mitali Perkins. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2007.

*In her village in Bangladesh, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy—or disguise herself as one.*

**Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad.** James Rumford. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008.

*Ali's hero is Yakut, a famous calligrapher who lived in Baghdad eight hundred years ago. Then, as now, there was a war in Baghdad. And like Yakut, Ali writes to "fill my mind with peace."*

**Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down.** Andrea David Pinkney. New York: Little, Brown, 2010.

*The case is the Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing Civil Rights Movement.*

**Sparks Fly High: The Legend of Dancing Point.** Mary Quattlebaum. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

*When Colonel Lightfoot and the Devil hold a lengthy dance contest to see who will control a plot of land along the James River in Virginia, the result is a surprise for both participants.*

**The Taxing Case of the Cows: A True Story about Suffrage.** Iris Van Rynbach. Boston: Clarion Books, 2010.

*In the 1800s, Abby and Julia Smith refused to pay an unfair property tax that they had no voice in establishing.*

**The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian and the Struggle for Equal Rights.** Russell Freedman. New York: Clarion Books, 2004.

*In the mid-1930s, Marian Anderson was a famed vocalist who had been applauded by European royalty and welcomed at the White House. But, because of her race, she was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.*

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

—Deuteronomy 15:11