HOW TO USE PICTURE BOOK TEXT SETS

Read a picture book to introduce a unit.

Document Based Investigation—assign groups different books, then pair and share.

Encourage historical reasoning by comparing authorial intent in two books on the same topic. What is the author’s point of view? What details support the author’s argument?

Challenge students to compare back matter information. What sources did the authors use? Were they the same or different in books on the same topics? Are sources given for quotations? How does the back matter affect the credibility of the book?

Assign a book to a student looking for more depth or as extra credit.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG
No Truth without Ruth: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*
Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality*
I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*
Ruth Objects: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2020)

SONIA SOTOMAYOR
The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*
Turning Pages: My Life Story*
Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx

NOAH WEBSTER
Noah Webster: Man of Many Words*
W is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary*
Noah Webster and His Words
An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin and Noah Webster’s Spelling Revolution

JANE ADDAMS
The House that Jane Built: A Story about Jane Addams*
Dangerous Jane*

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History*

Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass*
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Abe Lincoln: His Wit and Wisdom from A to Z*
Abraham Lincoln’s Dueling Words*

DOROTHEA LANGE
Dorothea’s Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth*
Dorothea Lange: The Photographer Who Found the Faces of the Depression

MAYA LIN
Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*
Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World (chapter on Lin)

ADA BYRON LOVELACE
Ada’s Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World’s First Computer Programmer*
Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine
Ada Byron Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer
Ada Twist, Scientist (fiction inspired by Ada Byron Lovelace)

ALBERT EINSTEIN
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein*
Albie’s First Word: A Tale Inspired by Albert Einstein’s Childhood (fictionalized)

*Notable Social Studies Trade Book
CHARLES DARWIN
Charles Darwin’s Around-the-World Adventure*
One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin
Pollen: Darwin’s 130 Year Prediction

KATHERINE JOHNSON
Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*
Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*
A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon

TEMPLE GRANDIN
How to Build a Hug: Temple Grandin and Her Amazing Squeeze Machine*
The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin

BOBBI GIBB
Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb and the Boston Marathon*
The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon

GREAT BLONDIN
Crossing Niagara: The Death-Defying Tightrope Adventures of the Great Blondin*
King of the Tightrope: When the Great Blondin Ruled Niagara

WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE
Miss Paul and the President: The Creative Campaign for Women’s Right to Vote*
Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, A Kitten, and 10,000 Miles*

WOMEN IN WWI
Dazzle Ships: WWI and the Art of Confusion*
Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story* fiction
Doing Her Bit: A Story about the Woman’s Land Army of America* fiction

JAPANESE AMERICAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS
Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left*
Barbed Wire Baseball*
Fish for Jimmy: Inspired by One Family’s Experience in Japanese American Internment Camp*

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTESTS
My Country ‘Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights*
Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song*
What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? The Extraordinary Story of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan*

CIVIL RIGHTS THROUGH THE COURTS
The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial*
Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and her Family’s Fight for Desegregation*
United States v. Jackie Robinson*
The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist*

YOUTH ACTIVISM
Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story*
Can We Help? Kids Volunteering to Help their Communities*
The Little Book of Little Activists*

NATIONAL MONUMENTS
Her Right Foot*
The Camping Trip that Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our National Parks*
Mountain Chef: How One Man Helped Cook up the National Park Service*

*Notable Social Studies Trade Book

See also: Melissa Reiker, “The Use of Picture Books in the High School Classroom.” Rollins Scholarship Online May 2011