

Teaching Civics through Literature

This list is a work in progress and is compiled from many sources including Melissa Yoder, Allentown School District, Allentown Pennsylvania, PennCORD, Philadelphia Reads, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the State of Delaware and others. We welcome your additions to the list of books or specific lesson plans you have developed and used with any of the books. Please share your ideas with others to help advance civics education. Send to susan.etter@pabar.org.

Title	Author	ISBN	Grade Levels	Content or Standards
A Bad Case of Stripes	David Shannon			A Scholastic book about being yourself and respecting others' differences.
A Kids' Guide to America's Bill of Rights	Kathleen Krull			
We the Kids	David Catrow			This book beautifully illustrates the phrase of the Preamble. Using the illustrations, students can discuss what these phrases mean and how to interpret them.
Nothing but the Truth	Avi			
This is the Dream	Diane Shore and Jessica Alexander			
Teen Rights and Responsibilities: A Legal Guide for Teens and the Adults in their Lives	Traci Truly		Teens	
If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution	Elizabeth Levy		Ages 4-8 Grades 1-3	Presented in a question and answer format, the basic facts of the Constitution are given. Background is provided on the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, and Shay's Rebellion. By skimming the boldly printed questions, students will be able to easily locate information on the Constitution. Also included are small bits of interesting social trivia to add appeal to the text.
If you were there when they signed the Constitution	Ellen Levine		Ages 7+	
O, Say Can you See?	Sheila Keenan			

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Shh! We're Writing the Constitution	Jean Fritz pictures by Tomie de Paola (Putnam)		Grades 1-3	This text is informative, interesting, and an immensely readable account of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Woven into the discussion of what the framers were doing and how they did it are some wonderfully gossipy tidbits that are sure to catch young readers' imagination and make it all come alive for them. The text of the Constitution is included, as well as several pages of notes that expand upon some of the points that the main text touches upon. This text is a great read-aloud that will help our students learn more about our nation's history.
How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?	Jane Yolen and Mark Teague		K-3	Teamwork - Students will acquire the skills necessary for participation in a group, including defining an objective, dividing responsibility, and working cooperatively.
How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?	Jane Yolen and Mark Teague		K-3	Teamwork - Students will acquire the skills necessary for participation in a group, including defining an objective, dividing responsibility, and working cooperatively.
The Berenstain Bears and the Truth	Stan and Jan Berenstain		K-3	Responsibilities, Rights, Privileges Students will understand that American citizens have distinct responsibilities (such as voting), rights (such as free speech and freedom of religion), and privileges (such as driving).
The Berenstain Bears and Trouble at School	Stan and Jan Berenstain		K-3	Responsibilities, Rights, Privileges Students will understand that American citizens have distinct responsibilities (such as voting), rights (such as free speech and freedom of religion), and privileges (such as driving).
I Am Responsible	Sarah L. Scheutte. Pebble Books (Capstone Press). www.capstone-press.com		K-3	Responsibilities, Rights, Privileges Students will understand that American citizens have distinct responsibilities (such as voting), rights (such as free speech and freedom of religion), and privileges (such as driving).

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I Am Responsible	Mary Elizabeth Salzmann. ABDO publishing. www.abdopub.com		K-3	Responsibilities, Rights, Privileges Students will understand that American citizens have distinct responsibilities (such as voting), rights (such as free speech and freedom of religion), and privileges (such as driving).
Arnie and the Stolen Markers	Nancy Carlson		K-3	Students will understand that respect for others, their opinions, and their property is a foundation of civil society in the United States.
I Am Respectful	Mary Elizabeth Salzmann ABDO publishing. www.abdopub.com		K-3	Students will understand that respect for others, their opinions, and their property is a foundation of civil society in the United States.
Respect Counts	Marie Bender ABDO Publishing. www.abdopub.com		K-3	Students will understand that respect for others, their opinions, and their property is a foundation of civil society in the United States.
The Zookeeper Learns About Responsibility	available from the Center for Civic Education www.civiced.org		K-3	Students will understand that positions of authority, whether elected, appointed, or familial, carry responsibilities and should be respected. Students will understand that leaders are sometimes chosen by election, and that elected officials are expected to represent the interests of the people who elected them.
Orb and Effy Learn About Authority	available from the Center for Civic Education www.civiced.org		K-3	Students will understand that positions of authority, whether elected, appointed, or familial, carry responsibilities and should be respected. Students will understand that leaders are sometimes chosen by election, and that elected officials are expected to represent the interests of the people who elected them.
Will You Sign Here, John Hancock	Jean Fritz			U.S. History, Declaration of Independence Biography of this important signer of the Declaration of Independence. We see how John was liked by all in the new country but was

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				not liked by one person, King George. As a rebellion to the king the members of the Second Continental Congress voted him their president, when it was time to sign the Declaration of Independence he wrote his name large enough so that the king could read it with out his glasses. We see how John Hancock became Governor of Massachusetts and lived out his days with the respect of his countrymen.
A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution	Carol Berkin (Harcourt)			
A History of US, from Colonies to Country, 1735-1791 [volume 3]	by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press)			
Creating the Constitution, The People and Events that Formed the Nations	Daniel Weidner (Enslow)			
In Defense of Liberty, the Story of America's Bill of Rights	by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)			
Our Constitution	Linda Carlson Johnson (Millbrook Press)			
Principles of Democracy: The Constitution and the Bill of Rights	edited by Ellen Hansen (Discovery Enterprises, Ltd.)			
Religious Liberty and the Public Schools	Charles C. Haynes [Fastback Series] (Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation)			
Teaching with Documents, Using Primary Sources from the National Archives	(National Archives and Records Administration & National Council for the Social Studies)			
The Articles of Confederation, The First Constitution of the United	Barbara Silberdick Feinberg (Twenty-First Century)			

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States	Books)			
The Articles of Confederation	Renée Rebman (Compass point)			
The Bill of Rights and You: A Teacher's Guide (Bill of Rights Institute)				
The Bill of Rights	Michael Teitelbaum (The Child's World)			
The Bill of Rights	by Sheila Rivera (Abdo Publishing)			
The Bill of Rights	Milestone Document in the National Archives			
With Liberty and Justice for All: The Story of the Bill of Rights	Center For Civic Education			
The Bill of Rights	Gary Zacharias and Jared Zacharias (Greenhaven Press)			
The Bill of Rights and Beyond, 1792-1991	Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution			
The Bill of Rights, The First Ten Amendments of the Constitution	by David L. Hudson, Jr. (Enslow)			
The Bill of Rights	Opposing Viewpoints Series, edited by William Dudley (Greenhaven)			
The First Amendment in Schools	by Charles C. Haynes et al. (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development)			First Amendment
Freedom from Unfair Search and Seizure	Robert Winters (Greenhaven Press)			4 th Amednment
The Fourteenth Amendment, Equal	by David L. Hudson, Jr.			14 th Amendment, Equal Protection

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Protection Under the Law	(Enslow)			
The Nineteenth Amendment	by Michael Burgan (Compass Point)			19 th Amendment
The Crayon Box that Talked	Shane DeRolf		K-3	The colors in the crayons box cannot get along. None of the colors like each other. A young girl takes the crayons home and shows them that when they work together they can make a beautiful picture as they blend and work together. This story shows that while we are all unique we can come together to make something lovely.
The U.S. Constitution	Norman Pearl		K-4	Describes what a Constitution is, gives a brief description of the beginnings of our country and how our founding father wrote the Constitution. This book also gives a brief overview of the sections or articles of the Constitution including the Preamble, the three branches and the amendments.
The Constitution	Warren Colman (Children's Press)			U.S. Constitution
The Constitution	Paul Finkelman (National Geographic)			U.S. Constitution
The Constitution	Suzanne Levert (Benchmark Books)			U.S. Constitution
The Constitution of the United States	National Braille Press			U.S. Constitution
The Story of the Constitution	Marilyn Prolman (Children's Press)			U.S. Constitution
The U.S. Constitution	by Dennis Fradin			U.S. Constitution
We The Kids, The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States	illustrations and foreword by David Catrow (Dial)		K-3	U.S. Constitution This book beautifully illustrates the phrase of the Preamble. Using the illustrations, students can discuss what these phrases mean and how to interpret them.
The U.S. Constitution and You	Syl Sool		4-5	US. History and Government This text contains a straightforward overview of what the Constitution is and what it does. Short

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				<p>chapters on the various components of the Constitution are direct and easy to understand as branches, checks and balances, and rights are defined and explored. It's a useful addition to the study of U.S. history and government. This book tells boys and girls about the great American document itself—explaining exactly what the Constitution does, as well as how it affects and protects people today. Kids discover how the Constitution provides for the federal government's three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. Then they see how it gives all citizens many rights, including the right to vote, to enjoy freedom of speech and the press, to worship—or not worship—according to one's religious beliefs, to disagree openly with government policy, and to defend oneself in courts of law when accused of crimes or civil wrongs. Kids also see how, according to the Constitution, many rights are kept beyond control of the federal government, and are reserved for the separate states, communities, and individuals. This book's language is clear and simple. It cites many examples that relate directly to each student's own experiences.</p>
To Establish Justice, Citizenship and the Constitution	Patricia McKissack and Arlene Zarembka (Knopf)			U.S. Constitution
The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution	Linda Monk (Hyperion)			U.S. Constitution
The U.S. Constitution	Christine Peterson (Capstone Press)			U.S. Constitution
The U.S. Constitution	Michael Teitelbaum (The Child's World)			U.S. Constitution
The U.S. Constitution	Lydia Bjornlund (Lucent Books)			U.S. Constitution
The Founders: The 39 Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution	Dennis Fradin (Walker & Co.)		Grades 4-5	U.S. Constitution This book contains short biographies of the 39

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				<p>men who created and signed the Constitution in September 1787. The introduction describes how divided the new states were as they argued about the framework of a balanced and strong federal government. Subsequent chapters describe the role of each state, with information on each delegate. The writing is clear and inviting, drawing readers in to the fascinating lives of the men who came together to draft the document. Readers will find great nuggets of fact: two delegates, Rufus King and Governor Morris, had wooden legs; several delegates later died in poverty; sometimes it isn't known when others were born or who their parents were. Often, they finished college or took on adult roles by the time they were 16. What they all did, however, was craft an enduring document. The Constitution is also included in its entirety.</p>
Constitution Translated For Kids	Cathy Travis		Grades 4-5	<p>U.S. Constitution A sentence-by-sentence, article-by-article interpretation of the Constitution. The first half of the book is arranged to show the original wording of the document in one column, with a translation in simple language on the right. The second half of the book describes how the Constitution has evolved, defines the branches of government, gives details about each amendment, and includes a glossary. This edition updates information about proposed amendments. Boxed fast facts and pen-and-ink drawings and spot art break up the text.</p>
A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution	Betsy Maestro		Grades 4-6	<p>U.S. Constitution A simple, attractive, and informative book about a milestone in American history. This text covers the birth of the Constitution from the initial decision to hold the convention, through the summer meetings in Philadelphia, the ratification struggle, the first election, and the</p>

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				<p>adoption of the Bill of Rights. The facts are put forward clearly, the focus is on the most basic issues, such as the decisions to organize our government which resulted in the Great Compromise. The book gets to the core of the achievement of the Constitution, the establishment of a governmental structure which has been adaptable to change for 200 years.</p> <p>A final section includes lists of the signers as well as of all those who attended; chronologies of events and the dates of ratification; and simple summaries of the Articles of the Constitution and amendments to it.</p>
The Kids Guide to America's Bill of Rights	Kathleen Krull		Grades 4-6	<p>Which 462 words are so important that they've changed American history more than once? The Bill of Rights: the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the crucial document that spells out how the United States is to be governed. Find out what the Bill of Rights is and how it affects your daily life in this fascinating look at the history, significance, and mysteries of these laws that protect the individual freedoms of everyone -- even young people.</p> <p>Some questions discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Why is freedom of speech so thrilling and so controversial? <input type="checkbox"/> What is religious intolerance, and when can it be fatal? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it really mean to take the Fifth? <input type="checkbox"/> And how does the Bill of Rights affect the rights of kids? <p>Packed with anecdotes and sidebars, case studies, and humorous illustrations, innovative author Kathleen Krull's introduction to the Bill of Rights brings a little understood topic vividly to</p>

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				life.
The Creation of the Constitution	Opposing Viewpoints Series edited by William Dudley (Greenhaven Press)			U.S. Constitution
The Constitution, The Preamble and The Articles	by Daniel Weidner (Enslow)			U.S. Constitution
The U.S. Supreme Court	Dan Elish (Children's Press)			U.S. Supreme Court
The Supreme Court of the United States, Its Beginnings and Its Justices 1970-1991	(Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution)			U.S. Supreme Court
Frederick	Leo Lionni		Grades K-2	Using a family of field mice preparing for winter, this story focuses on individual differences and their importance in enriching our lives.
The Free and the Unfree, A New History of the United States	Peter N. Carroll and David W. Noble (Penguin)			
James Madison: Fourth President 1809 – 1817	Mike Venezia		Grades 4-5	Executive Branch, Presidents, James Madison One of a series on the Presidents, this biography gives facts from James Madison's childhood through the Constitutional Convention to his days as our fourth president.
The Story of the Powers of Congress	R. Conrad Stein, illustrated by Keith Neely (Children's Press)			Congress, Legislative Branch
The Pursuit of Justice, A Study of our Constitutional Rights	American Civil Liberties Foundation of Delaware			
We The People...	Center for Civic Education			

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We The People... Project Citizen [both student and teacher's guide]	Center for Civic Education & the National Conference of State Legislatures			
Mr. Peabody's Apples	Madonna		Grades 4-6	Based on a kabala tale this story illustrates the dangers of gossip. Set in a tiny American town, the story features the big-hearted and much beloved Mr. Peabody, an elementary school teacher and Little League coach who dedicates his summer Saturdays to the local losing team. One weekend after the game, Tommy Tittlebottom watches Mr. Peabody take his apple from the market without paying for it. The following weekend Tommy calls in reinforcements to witness Mr. Peabody's transgression. By the next Saturday, Mr. Peabody's apparent theft has become grist for the Happville rumor mill and no one comes to Little League practice. A simple explanation puts the rumors to rest, but as Mr. Peabody points out in a poignant demonstration, small talk can often lead to big trouble for everyone.
Click Clack Moo ... Cows That Type	Doreen Cronin	0-78820-764-4		This book highlights the concept of rights and responsibilities.
Miss Rumphius	Barbara Cooney	0-67047-958-6		This is an excellent book from which to generate a list of "Things I Can Do To Make My _____(Classroom, School, Playground, Home, Neighborhood, etc.) a Better Place."
Noisy Nora	Rosemary Wells	0-14-056728-3		A good citizen is, according to the PennCORD student interns, patient. Noisy Nora learns that patience is a virtue.
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse	Kevin Henke	0688128971		Lilly learns that it is important to follow the rules in school and to use her problem solving skills.
I Was So Mad	Mercer Mayer	0-307-11039-4		This delightful piece of literature promotes the practice of "stop and think."

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Ernest and Elston	Laura T. Barnes	0-9674681-6-7		This is an animal story with an easily absorbed lesson about being true to yourself.
You Forgot Your Skirt Amelia Bloomer	Shana Corey	0-439-07819-9	Primary	Developing Skills in Civic Responsibility Amelia Bloomer thought that many of the rules and laws that controlled women were silly. She disliked that women could not vote or work, so she fought to change those things. Even more, Amelia could not understand why women were expected to dress in such uncomfortable clothing. Women wore such big dresses! When Amelia saw a friend's cousin wearing something very different, she was hooked. She immediately made herself several pieces of "bloomers" to wear. It did not take long for this new trend in women's clothing to catch on. See Lesson Plan
Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!	Kelly DiPucchio	078680932-9	Primary	Developing Skills in Civic Responsibility Mrs. McBloom had the messiest classroom in all of Up Yonders. When it was finally time for her to retire and clean her room for the next teacher, she did not know where to begin. She asked her class to come up with ideas for cleaning up in a "jiffy." One student came up with an idea to have each citizen of Up Yonders come to school and pick one item from Mrs. McBloom's classroom. See Lesson Plan
The Three Questions Based on a story by Leo Tolstoy	Jon J. Muth	0-439-19996-4	Primary	Nicolai is a young boy who thinks about how he can be a good person. He asks the help of his best friends – a crow, a monkey and his dog. He asks them three big questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? Searching for the answers to his questions, Nicolai goes to the wise old turtle. Through first-hand experiences, Nicolai discovers the answers to his questions. See Lesson Plan
Qwerty Stevens Stuck in Time with Benjamin Franklin	Dan Gutman	9780689878848	Grades 3-5	

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The Secret Identity of Devon Delaney	Lauren Barnholdt	9781416935032	Grade 5 Ages 12 & up	
The Kid Who Ran for President	Dan Gutman	9780590939881		
Arthur Meets the President	Marc Brown	9780316112918		
Ruby Holler	Sharon Creech	9780060560157	Ages 9-12	
Olive's Ocean	Kevin Henkes	9780060535452	Ages 9-12	Newberry Award Winner
Tiger Rising	Kate DiCamillo	9780763618988	Young Adult- Story about a 12-yr-old	
Quiltmaker's Gift	Jeff Brumbeau Illustrated by Gail De Marcken	9780439309103	Grade 3	
Anne of Greene Gables (Classic Starts Series)	L.M. Montgomery Kathleen Olmstead	9781402711305	Grade 3	
Gooney Bird Greene	Lois Lowry	9780440419600	Grade 3 Ages 7-10	
Ivy and Bean (Ivy and Bean Series #1)	Annie Barrows	9780811849098	Ages 6-9	
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	9780553494105	Grades 3-5 Ages 9-12	1 st Dell Laurel Leaf Edition
Sign of the Beaver	Elizabeth George Speare	9780440479000	Young Adult about a 12-yr-old	Newberry Award Winner
The Hundred Dresses	Eleanor Estes	9780152052607	Ages 6-10	
Island of the Blue Dolphin	Scott O'Dell	9780440439882	Ages 9-12	
Wrinkle in Time	Madeline L'Engle	9780312367541	Ages 9-12 and up	Newberry Award
Holes	Louis Sachar	9780440414803	Ages 12 and up	Award
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli	9780316809061	Ages 9-12	Newberry Award Winner
Listen!	Stephanie S. Tolan	9780060579371	Ages 12 and up	Award
Rules	Cynthia Lord	9780439443838	Ages 9-12	Awards
Free Baseball	Sue Corbett	9780142410806	Ages 8-12	
Roxie and the Hooligans	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	9781416902447	Ages 7-10	
Clementine	Sara Pennypacker	9780786838837	Grades 2-3 Ages 6-8	
Phineas L. Maguire...Erupts	Francie O'Roark Dowell	9781416947349	Ages 8-12	

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			About a 4 th grade boy	
Lawn Boy	Gary Paulsen	9780385746861		
The Homework Machine	Dan Gutman	9780689876790	Ages 8-12	
Three Good Deeds	Vivian Vande Velde	9780152054557	Ages 8-12	
Gossamer	Lois Lowry	9780385734165		
How to Steal a Dog	Barbara O'Connor	9780312561123	Ages 8-12	
The 5000 Year Leap: A Miracle that Changed he World	W. Cleo Skousen	9780880801485	High School - Adult	

NON-BOOK MATERIALS

Video- A DVD HISTORY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (Ambrose Video Publishing)

Video – ARE WE TO BE A NATION? [Liberty! The American Revolution Series] PBS

CD-Rom - THE CONSTITUTION AND SUPREME COURT [American Journey Series] (Primary Source Media)

Video - FREEDOM, A HISTORY OF US (PBS)

Periodical - COBBLESTONE, September 1987 “Celebrating Our Constitution”

CD-Rom – SHH! WE'RE WRITING THE CONSTITUTION (L3i Learning/Scholastic)

Video – SHH! WE'RE WRITING THE CONSTITUTION (Weston Woods/Scholastic)