

## Thematic Text Set

Selected by Judi Moreillon, Ph.D.

**Theme: When cultures meet, people have choices about how they respond.**

### Biography

Bridges, Ruby. (1999). *Through My Eyes*. Illustrated with photographs, newspaper articles, and other quotes from the late 1950s and early 1960s. Scholastic. (ISBN#: 0590189239) Ruby Bridges recalls her experience as the six-year-old African American child who integrated her New Orleans elementary school, escorted to class by federal marshals, taunted by angry mobs, taught one-on-one by a brave, young white teacher, and supported by the faith of her parents.

Freedman, Russell. (2004). *Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights*. Clarion. (ISBN#: 0618159762) Illustrated with photographs from the 1930s, Freedman tells how Marian Anderson sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939 to a crowd of 75,000 people after being denied the right to perform at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt quit the DAR and helped Ms. Anderson secure this venue.

Lasky, Kathryn. (2003). *A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet*. Illustrated by Paul Lee. Candlewick. (ISBN#: 0763602523) The slave trade and treatment of Africans in the northern colonies provide a historical context for the miraculous life of Phillis Wheatley.

### Historical Fiction – Novels

Buss, Fran Leeper. (1991). *Journey of the Sparrows*. Dutton. (155 pp.) (ISBN#: 0142302090) 15-year-old Salvadoran Maria, her pregnant older sister, and baby brother are smuggled across the Mexican border into the U. S. and struggle to make a new life in Chicago.

Cushman, Karen. (1996). *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*. Clarion. (195 pp.) (ISBN#: 0064406849) When her mother uproots her family from civilized Massachusetts for a tiny California mining town, Lucy suffers from homesickness and culture shock until she learns how to make her own “home.”

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. (2000). *Esperanza Rising*. Scholastic. (260 pp.) (ISBN#: 043912042x) After her father is murdered and with the help of their ranch hands, Esperanza, a privileged girl, and her aristocratic mother flee Mexico and find work in a California labor camp during the Depression.

Speare, Elizabeth George. (1958). *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Houghton Mifflin. (249 pp.) (ISBN#: 0440995779) An immigrant and free-spirit from Barbados, Kit Tyler suffers the accusation of being a witch in a Connecticut colony when she associates with Hannah who has been shunned by this Puritan community.

Taylor, Mildred. (1987). *The Gold Cadillac*. Dial. (53 pp.) (ISBN#: 0803703422) When their father buys a brand-new, shiny gold Cadillac and takes the family south to visit relatives, sisters ‘lois and Wilma learn about discrimination and prejudice. Also: *Song of the Trees*, *The Friendship*, and *Mississippi Bridge*.

### Historical Fiction – Picture Books

Bunting, Eve. (1996). *The Blue and the Gray*. Illustrated by Ned Bittinger. Scholastic. (ISBN#: 0590601970) When an African American boy and a white boy become neighbors (their homes on the site of a Civil War battle), their friendship exemplifies the healing of wounds and the potential for change.

Garland, Sherry. (2004). *Voices of the Alamo*. Illustrated by Ron Himler. Pelican. (ISBN#: 1588902225) Spanning five hundred years of history, this book includes different perspectives on the Alamo using the voices of Indian, Mexican, Spanish, Texian, and American men and women.

Golenbock, Peter. (1990). *Teammates*. Illustrated by Paul Bacon. Harcourt. (ISBN#: 0152006036) Jackie Robinson, the first African American baseball player in the major leagues, experienced prejudice, discriminatory laws, and the acceptance of his white Brooklyn Dodgers teammate, Pee Wee Reese.

Johnston, Tony. (1994). *Amber on the Mountain*. Illustrated by Robert Duncan. Dial. (ISBN#: 0803712197) When Anna comes up the mountain, she teaches Amber how to read. When Anna returns to the city, Amber teaches herself to write in order to communicate with her friend Anna.

McKissack, Patricia. (2001). *Goin' Someplace Special*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Atheneum. (ISBN#: 0689618858) 'Tricia Ann encounters prejudice and discrimination in the 1950s as she ventures downtown alone on her way to some place special, the public library.

Morrison, Toni. (2004). *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*. Illustrated with photographs from the 1950s and 1960s. Houghton Mifflin. (ISBN#: 061839740X) Between brief paragraphs that provide the historical context, Morrison assumes the voice of the African American children in the photographs and asks pointed questions about the justification for segregation and discrimination.

Yolen, Jane. (1992). *Encounter*. Illustrated by David Shannon. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. (ISBN#: 015201389x) When Columbus and his crew landed on the island of San Salvadore, a young Taino Indian boy described the meeting of his culture and these strangers.

### **Realistic Fiction – Picture Books**

Bunting, Eve. (1994). *Smoky Nights*. Illustrated by David Diaz. Harcourt Brace. (ISBN#: 0152699546) A white boy, his mother, and their cat meet and befriend their multiethnic neighbors when the Los Angeles riots threaten to destroy their community.

Encinas, Carlos. (2001). *The New Engine/La maquina nueva*. Kiva. (ISBN#: 1885772246) When the steam engine comes to the railroad yard, a father, who is threatened with job loss, must learn to adapt his skills to the new technology in order to provide for his family.

Lacapa, Kathleen and Michael. (1994). *Less Than Half, More Than Whole*. Illustrated by Michael Lacapa. Northland. (ISBN#: 0873585925) A young mixed race boy learns the beauty of his heritage when his Tewa grandfather describes the Creator's gift of multicolored corn.

Nez, Redwing T. (1995). *Forbidden Talent*. Northland. (ISBN#: 0873586050) A budding Diné artist named Ashkii clashes with his grandfather and the "Navajo Way" when his painting style does not conform to the traditional way of his people.

Recorvits, Helen. (2003). *My Name is Yoon*. Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. (ISBN#: 0374351147) Even though her father insists that she learn English, a young Korean immigrant child clings to her heritage language and identity. A patient teacher waits for Yoon to find her place in her new country.

Woodson, Jacqueline. (2001). *The Other Side*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Putnam. (ISBN#: 0399231161) Two young girls, one African American and one white, slowly break down their small town's taboo against black and white friendships.

### **Informational Books**

Rossi, Ann. (2004). *Cultures Collide*. National Geographic. (ISBN#: 0-7922-7189-0) This book describes the early encounters of American Indians and European settlers.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. (2004). *George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides*. National Geographic. (ISBN#: 0-7922-7349-4) This book tells about how the personalities and life experiences of George Washington and King George III of England influenced the American Revolution.

Yolen, Jane and Stemple, Heidi Elisabet Yolen (2004). *The Salem Witch Trials: An Unsolved Mystery from History*. Illustrated by Roger Roth. Simon & Schuster. (ISBN#: 0-689-84620-7) Why were these women discriminated against and persecuted in Colonial America?

### **Poetry**

Medina, Jane. (1999). *My Name is Jorgé on Both Sides of the River: Poems in English and Spanish*. Illustrated by Fabricio Vanden Broeck. Boyds Mills Press. (ISBN#: 1563978113) Jorgé, a Mexican child, negotiates school and community life in the United States, his new country.