

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade K
1	Government and Citizenship	Rules at Home and School Why do we have rules?
2	Character	Every Story Has Characters How are characters different?
3	Life Science	Plants and Animals Have Needs Why do living things have different needs?
4	Point of View	Writers Tell Many Stories Why do people tell stories?
5	Technology and Society	Technology at Home and School Why do we use technology?
6	Theme	Stories Have a Message How do we know what is right?
7	History and Culture	Holidays and Celebrations Why do we celebrate people and events?
8	Earth Science	Weather and Seasons How do our lives change with the seasons?
9	Economics	Meeting Our Needs and Wants Why do we make choices?
10	Physical Science	Forces and Motion What makes things move?

Unit 1: Rules at Home and School

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
No, David!	David Shannon	Realistic Fiction	In this boisterous exploration of naughtiness, Shannon lobs one visual zinger after another as David, a little dickens, careens from one unruly deed to the next coloring on the walls, tracking mud all over the carpet, jumping on the bed, in red cowboy boots.	Starred Reviews Caldecott Medal Honorees
No T. Rex in the Library	Toni Buzzeo	Fiction	Free an excitable beastie in a library and shelves will fall, pages will rip, and books will be chewed. After a fun, but slightly wild ride through the different sections of the building, Tess sees the need to get T. Rex back into his book. But can she do it without saying good-bye forever? Luckily, she has the rules fresh in her mind, and the skills to keep a dinosaur in check.	
Billy Twitters and His Whale Problem	Mac Barnett	Humorous Fiction/Animal Fantasy	Billy has a huge problem one day when his mother orders him a giant pet blue whale as punishment for not cleaning his room.	Starred Reviews Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Ten Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break if You Want to Survive the School Bus	John Grandits	Fiction	Kyle is dreading his first trip aboard the school bus. Luckily, his big brother, James, is a school bus expert. James gives Kyle ten rules for riding the bus that he absolutely, positively must obey if he wants to avoid getting laughed at or yelled at, pushed around, or even pounded. During his fateful ride, Kyle grapples with each unbreakable rule. Along the way, he discovers that the school bus isn't so bad, and he may even have a thing or two to teach his brother.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Library Media Connection Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
A New Year's Reunion	Yu Li-Qiong	Realistic Fiction	A Chinese family celebrates the Chinese New Year when Father returns home.	ALSC Notable Children's Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Each Kindness	Jacqueline Woodson	Realistic Fiction	A new student arrives into a diverse rural classroom. Will she be accepted? Will those cruel to her ever get a chance to make it right?	Coretta Scott King Award Honorees Starred reviews
One World, One Day	Barbara Kearley	Informational Nonfiction	Compares the daily lives of children around the world via photographs and simple text. Thorough explanation at the end of the book.	Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
Rules for School	Alec Greven	Informational Nonfiction	Fifteen rules presented in a conversational style help youngsters to "get ready, take charge, and rule the school."	
Monsters Mind Your Manners	Elizabeth Spur	Fiction	Illustrations and rhyming text reveal the terrible ways monsters may behave in one's home, on crowded sidewalks, on a bus, or at school as they do what they wish without thinking of others.	
Table Manners	Chris Raschka	Fiction	Why is speaking with your mouth full a bad idea? Who is permitted to wave his napkin like a flag? What happens if you don't chew your food? Two renowned artists, Vladimir Radunsky and Chris Raschka (and their alter egos, Dudunya and Chester), provide hilarious answers to these and other burning questions in <i>Table Manners</i> , the quintessential--and inimitable--guide to impeccable behavior at mealtime.	Starred Reviews

Unit 2: Every Story Has Characters

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
A Sick Day for Amos McGhee	Philip C. Stead	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	The kind zoo-keeper stays home sick and the animals come to visit him.	Starred Reviews, Caldecott
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild	Peter Brown	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	Mr. Tiger walks upright and wears a top hat and a handsome coat with a bow tie, fitting in with the rest of society. But his orange fur provides the only spot of color in the very drab, very proper community, and Mr. Tiger is bored: "He wanted to loosen up. He wanted to be... wild." And so, Mr. Tiger drops to all fours and for the first time looks happy. As he gets progressively wilder, roaring and shedding his confining clothes, the town animal-folk are appalled and banish him to the wilderness—which, he decides, is "a magnificent idea."	Starred Reviews
Big Mean Mike	Michelle Knudson	Realistic Fiction	Mike the bulldog has a rough and tough yet soft side that he tries to hide from the "guys." Only the cute bunnies that keep turning up in his Big Rig glove box will turn him around.	Children's Choices for 2013 SLJ's Best of 2012
Cecil the Pet Glacier	Matthea Harvey	Realistic Fiction/Fantasy	Desperate for normalcy but destined for weird, Ruby's longing for a simple pet dog is replaced by a pet glacier who sacrifices its own melting state to be the best (and strangest) pet the girl could ever hope for.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
The Hello, Goodbye Window	Norton Juster	Realistic Fiction	Recounted in a little girl's voice, the kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it, or beyond it.	Starred Reviews Caldecott
Chicken Big	Keith Graves	Humorous Animal Fiction	A giant chicken hatches from an enormous egg, but the other chickens cannot accept that he is one of them.	Starred Reviews
A Good Day	Kevin Henkes	Animal Fiction	A bird, a fox, a dog, and a squirrel overcome minor setbacks to have a very good day.	
Interrupting Chicken	David Ezra Stein	Humorous Fiction/Animal Fantasy	Little chicken can't stop interrupting and finishing all of her dad's bedtime fairy tales.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Starred Reviews
Who Pushed Humpty Dumpty?: And Other Notorious Nursery Rhyme Mysteries	David Levinthal	Fairy Tales/Mysteries	Humorous questions about who was behind five of the biggest nursery tale mysteries.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Library Media Connection Starred Reviews
I Stink!	Kate McMullen	Fiction	A rowdy, ravenous New York City garbage truck is the unlikely and thoroughly engaging narrator of this tale. "Know what I do at night/ while you're asleep?" asks the brazen vehicle, "Eat your TRASH, that's what." The perspective then shifts so that readers look outside from within the truck's tail end, as garbage bags hurl through the air and land inside its "hopper."	Children's Choices Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Starred Reviews

Unit 3: Plants and Animals Have Needs

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Animal Book	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	Thematic chapters touching on family, senses, predators, defenses, extremes, and evolution.	Starred Reviews
Flight of the Honey Bee	Raymond Huber	Informational Nonfiction	Embark on an epic quest as you join a honey bee, searching for the perfect flowers to pollinate as it avoids bees before racing back to the hive to meet its sisters.	Starred Reviews
Desert Baths	Darci Pattison	Informational Nonfiction	Pattison uses this as a jumping-off point to explore the hygiene of animals and birds living in the desert. The text is cadenced without rhyming, giving it a soothing feeling.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
My First Day	Steve Jenkins	Informational	What several different baby animals (twenty-two different species) do on day one.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews
At This Very Moment	Jim Arnosky	Informational Nonfiction	A rhythmic investigation of the daily lives of various animals in the wild.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Ladybugs	Gail Gibbons	Informational Nonfiction	Ladybugs are a type of beetle. They live on six of the seven continents. There are believed to be about 5,000 different kinds of ladybugs around the world. Here are descriptions of their characteristics, their four stages of development from egg to adult, and how they live. Ladybugs eat insects that damage plants and are an important part of our environment.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Planting the Wild Garden	Kathryn O. Galbraith	Informational Nonfiction	How seeds spread themselves in nature to germinate.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Babies in the Bayou	Jim Arnosky	Informational Nonfiction	The simple story continues by introducing other animal families nearby—raccoons, turtles, and ducks—and how they interact. Full-color illustrations add details about the bayou, its lush vegetation, and the animals who share the ecosystem.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Books of Special Not
Tell Me Why Elephants Have Trunks	Kingfisher	Informative Nonfiction	Through lighthearted text and eye-catching artwork, this book gets to the bottom of these interesting scientific inquiries every young mind wants to know.	
How to Clean a Hippopotamus: A Look at Unusual Animal Partnerships	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	The symbiotic relationships between animals.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice

Unit 4: Every Story Has Characters

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Little Treasure: Endearments from Around the World	Jacqueline K. Ogburn	Informational Nonfiction	Terms of endearment from around the world.	Children's Notable Books Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
What's Your Favorite Animal?	Eric Carle	Anthology	Carle and a number of noteworthy picture-book artists write about their favorite animals. The text takes the form of poems, stories, and narrative descriptions, and each entry is illustrated in a variety of styles, materials, and techniques.	School Library Journal Starred Review
The Stinky Cheese Man: And Other Fairly Stupid Tales	Jon Scieszka	Fractured Fairy Tales	Madcap revisions of familiar fairy tales.	Caldecott Medal Honorees
Fox Tails: Four Fables from Aesop	Amy Lowry	Animal Fables	A fox has a very unusual day when four of Aesop's classic fables are woven together into a single story.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
Zen Shorts	Jon J. Muth	Storytelling, Fiction	When Stillwater the bear moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Indies Choice Book Awards Kirkus Books of Special Note Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees
Little Bear	Elise Holmelund Minarik	Storytelling, Fiction	Meet Little Bear, a friend to millions of children. And meet Mother Bear, who is there whenever Little Bear needs her. When it is cold and snowy outside, she finds just the right outfit for Little Bear to play in. When he goes to the moon, she has a hot lunch waiting for him on his return. And, of course, she never forgets his birthday.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed.
Very Short Tall Tales to Read Together	Retold by Fiona Waters	Storytelling, Fiction	Sixty of the most famous of <i>Aesop's Fables</i> have been updated and rewritten by the talented anthologist Fiona Waters, and brought to life by Fulvio Testa's detailed illustrations. The collection includes classics such as "The Fox and the Crow," "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse," "The Grasshopper and the Ant," "The Hare and the Tortoise," and "The Fox and the Stork."	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Elephant's Friend and Other Ancient Tales from India	retold by Marcia Williams	Storytelling, Fiction	This is a treasure trove of Indian animal stories. Eight individual stories form a magical collection of India's best-loved animal folk tales. It is taken from the three books of Indian folk tales— <i>Hitopadesha Tales</i> , <i>Jataka Tales</i> , and <i>Panchantra Tales</i> —the stories are packed with humour and warmth.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales	James Bruchac and Joseph Bruchac Ph.D.	Folktale	Engaging, inspirational, and above all entertaining, these legends come from Native American peoples across the U.S. Richly illustrated with original art, they capture a wide range of belief systems and wisdom from the Cherokee, Cheyenne, Hopi, Lenape, Maidu, Seminole, Seneca, and other tribes. The beautifully retold tales, all with informative introductions, range from creation myths to animal fables to stirring accounts of bravery and sacrifice. Find out how stories first came to be, and how the People came to the upper world. Meet Rabbit, the clever and irresistible Creek trickster. See how the buffalo saved the Lakota people, and why the Pawnee continue to do the Bear Dance to this very day.	
Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred	Samantha R. Vamos	Spanish Rhyming Fable	This take on "The House that Jack Built" colorfully depicts a Spanish maiden making rice pudding with help of the farm animals.	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Pura Belpre Awards

Unit 5: Technology at Home and School

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
In the Bag!: Margaret Knight Wraps It Up!	Monica Kulling	Informational Biography	From a very young age, Margaret Knight loved to make things out of wood and was known for building the best sleds in her town. Since her family needed more money, Margaret worked at the cotton mill with her brothers when she was just twelve. It is there that she came up with her first invention. She spent the rest of her life inventing things with her most famous being the paper bag.	Journal Reviews Core Collection K–6
Blackout	John Rocco	Realistic Fiction	The power in the city goes out and people's creativity brings them together.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honoree School Library Journal Best Books
Pop: The Invention of Bubble Gum	Meghan McCarthy	Informational Nonfiction	Chewing gum has been around for centuries. In 1920, a factory in Philadelphia set out to invent gum that would let people blow bubbles. The workers experimented for months, but all they ended up with was a sticky mess, until they made a discovery in the most unexpected way.	Starred Reviews
The Little House	Virginia Lee Burton	Historical Fiction	Winner of the prestigious Caldecott Medal, <i>The Little House</i> has delighted generations of children. When the little house was first built, she was on a hill in the country surrounded by apple trees. But as the nearby city grew, the little house found her peaceful hill increasingly overcrowded with buildings and people and vehicles. Finally, she fell into disrepair—until one day someone saw in her the little house she once was.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honoree
Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Classrooms Around the World	Susan Hughes	Informational Nonfiction	When North American kids picture a school, odds are they see rows of desks, stacks of textbooks, and linoleum hallways. They probably don't picture caves, boats, or train platforms—but there are schools in caves, and on boats and on train platforms. There are green schools, mobile schools, and even tree-house schools.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Return of the Library Dragon	Carmen Agra Deedy	Fiction	Retiring librarian Lotta Scales envisions the Sunrise Elementary Library of the future, and it is not the Sunrise Elementary Cybrary, a center for "MePods," printers, and 10,000 books on a screen. Mike Krochup, the IT guy, boldly employs the Book-Be-Gone 5000 to whisk away all books while the students gather together to explain why printed volumes hold a special place in their hearts. The idea that tablets are replacing books now sent to storage raises Miss Lotty's ire, and she reverts to her former fire-breathing (now laptop eating) alter ego, threatening to eat "every last byte" to protect the books. The Library Dragon may only be tamed by one who deeply loves learning.	
Could a Robot Make My Dinner?	Kay Barnham	Informational Nonfiction	These titles prove that learning about history and technology needn't be boring. Each volume asks and answers a succession of unorthodox and intriguing questions. For example, "Who was the first queen to use a toilet?" "How do the stripes get into toothpaste?" "Did you know?" text boxes supply additional information. For example, "The first Westerner to see the city of Timbuktu arrived in the 1820s." The strength of these books lies in their ability to convey information in an exciting way that will appeal to students who might be turned off by wordy textbooks.	
A Balloon for Isabel	Deborah Underwood	Fiction	Balloons are bright and floaty and shiny and perfect. More than anything else in the whole wide world, Isabel wants a balloon. Everyone will get one on Graduation Day—everyone except the porcupines, because Porcupines + Balloons = Trouble. But Isabel isn't going to settle for another boring bookmark. She has a plan.	Starred Reviews
Baby Brains and Robo Mom	James Simon	Fiction	Kids will giggle and parents will smile (a bit sheepishly) as the world's smartest tyke invents a robot that does the chores, and then some. Everyone knows that Baby Brains is the smartest baby in the universe. He's certainly clever enough to see how tired Mom and Dad seem to get keeping house and looking after him. Then Baby Brains has a big idea. He puts his genius to work building RoboMom, who can cook, clean, and do the laundry. The new invention is a smashing success . . . until RoboMom takes on a few too many duties, and the family gets more help than they bargained for!	Starred Reviews
Incredible Inventions	Lee Bennett Hopkins	Informational Nonfiction	Inventions can be big, like roller coasters, or small, like crayons. And inventors can be scientists or athletes or even boys and girls! It's hard to imagine life without Popsicles, basketball, or Band-Aids, but each started with just one person and a little imagination. With sixteen original poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins and Julia Sarcone-Roach's imaginative artwork, <i>Incredible Inventions</i> celebrates creativity that comes in all shapes and sizes. What will you invent today?	
Oh No! Not Again!: (or How I Built a Time Machine to Save History) (or at Least my History Grade)	Mac Barnett	Fiction	A genius girl has missed the first question on her history test, costing her a perfect score. She just can't accept getting something wrong so she builds a time machine to go back in time to make her answer correct. Will the changes she makes in the past cause big problems in the future?	Starred Reviews

Unit 6: Stories Have a Message

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Me . . . Jane	Patrick McDonnell	Biography	The biography of Jane Goodall as a young girl and how she loves her stuffed monkey toy and how she became a young observer of nature. The last page will open potential for a wonderful discussion.	Caldecott Honor Books Past Children's Books of the Year 2012—Ages 5–9
Blackout	John Rocco	Realistic Fiction	The power in the city goes out and people's creativity brings them together.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees School Library Journal Best Books
My Brother Charlie	Holly Peete Robinson	Realistic Fiction	Claire's twin brother, Charlie, has autism. He is very good at many things, but needs patience and kindness with others.	Comstock Read-Aloud Award Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Teachers' Choices
The Kissing Hand	Audrey Penn	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	A young raccoon suffers separation anxiety on his first day of school. His mother comforts him with a special gift to carry with him to school.	
Should I Share My Ice Cream?	Mo Willems	Humorous Fiction/ Animal Fantasy	An elephant & piggie book. Gerald has to decide if he should share his ice cream before it melts.	ALSC 2012 Picks Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
Chopsticks	Amy Krouse Rosenthal	Fantasy	The story of how chopsticks adapt when they are separated by an accidental "breakup."	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Teachers' Choices
Bun Bun Button	Patricia Polacco	Realistic Fiction	Paige Darling loves her stuffed bear Bun Bun Button and to snuggle with Gramma and all her pets in the cozy chair. But one day after playfully tying a balloon to Bun Bun's arm, he floats away. Will Paige recover?	Children's Choices Starred reviews
How Chipmunk Got His Stripes: A Tale of Bragging and Teasing	James Bruchac and Joseph Bruchac	Native American Folk Tale	When Bear and Brown Squirrel have a disagreement about whether Bear can stop the sun from rising, Brown Squirrel ends up with claw marks on his back and becomes Chipmunk, the striped one.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Rabbit's Snow Dance : A Traditional Iroquois Story	Joseph Bruchac	Native American Folk Tale	Rabbit's Snow Dance Master storytellers Joseph and James Bruchac present a hip and funny take on an Iroquois folktale about the importance of patience, the seasons, and listening to your friends.	Best Children's Books of the Year
Here Comes the Garbage Barge	Johan Winter	Realistic Fiction	When a little town on Long Island runs out of room to dispose of its garbage, 3,168 tons of it are piled on a garbage barge that travels down the coast. But where will all this trash be dumped? With art built from junk, toys, and found objects, this humorous book drives home the message that we can't produce unlimited waste without consequences.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Hooray for Hat	Brian Won	Fiction	A simple yet wonderful story about sharing and friendship. Great discussion opener about how it feels good to do something nice for others.	

Unit 7: Holidays and Celebrations

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
A New Year's Reunion	Yu Li-Qiong	Realistic Fiction	A Chinese family celebrates the Chinese New Year when Father returns home.	ALSC Notable Children's Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Yes Day!	Amy Krouse Rosenthal	Fiction	An unnamed boy describes his favorite day of the year: Yes Day. On this day, every request the boy has is granted! He gets to eat pizza for breakfast; he gets hair gel and an ice-cream cone; he even has a food fight! Read what else Yes Day will bring.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
George Washington's Birthday: A Mostly True Tale		Historical Fiction	A humorous look at what George Washington's 7th birthday may have looked like, with many historical facts.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message	Jake Swamp	Inspirational Poetry	A Mohawk Indian daily traditional salute to Mother Earth and all her beauty, the "good morning message" reminding us to be grateful for all Mother Nature bears.	Star Reviews Wilson's Children Five Owls
No Year of the Cat	Mary Dodson Wade	Chinese Folklore	When no one in the kingdom can remember when important events have occurred, the emperor decides it's time to create a 12-year calendar. The first 12 animals to win a race across the kingdom's rushing river become the Chinese zodiac we know today.	
Throw Your Tooth on a Roof	Selby B. Beeler	Informational Nonfiction	Different tooth loss traditions of the world.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Sarah Gives Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday	Mike Allegra	Historical Nonfiction	Sarah Josepha Hale made it her personal mission to ensure that Thanksgiving became a national holiday. Follow this determined woman as she doesn't take no for an answer and finally has her dream come true.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Books of Special Note Library Media Connection Starred Reviews
Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade	Melissa Sweet	Informational Nonfiction	Learn about the man behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade's giant balloons: Tony Sarg. With her brilliant illustrations, Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet captures Sarg's genius, dedication, zest for play, and his gift to an American Thanksgiving Day tradition.	Best Children's Books of the Year Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Texas Bluebonnet Award Master Lists
Incredible Inventions	Lee Bennett Hopkins	Informational Nonfiction	It's hard to imagine a life without the inventions we've come to know so well, Band-Aids, Popsicles, and basketballs, to name a few. But each started with just one person and a little imagination. Incredible Inventions celebrates creativity with sixteen original poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins and the imaginative artwork by Julia Sarcone-Roach.	
Oh No! Not Again!: (or How I Built a Time Machine to Save History) (or at Least My History Grade)	Mac Barnett	Fiction	A genius girl has missed the first question on her history test, costing her a perfect score. She just can't accept getting something wrong so she builds a time machine to go back in time to make her answer correct. Will the changes she makes in the past cause big problems in the future?	Starred Reviews

Unit 8: Weather and Season

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Awesome Autumn	Bruce Goldston	Informational Nonfiction	Autumn is awesome! Why? The leaves change color; animals are abuzz as they prepare for the winter months; people harvest crops; and Halloween gives kids a chance to dress up as their favorite scary creatures. But that's not all. Jump into this book like you would a pile of autumn leaves to discover the other awesome things about autumn.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Books of Special Note
And Then It's Spring	Julie Fogliano	Realistic Fiction	A child's anticipation of Spring and the sprouting of a single seed.	Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Honorees, Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Planting the Wild Garden	Kathryn O. Galbraith	Informational Nonfiction	How seeds spread themselves in nature to germinate.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
The Story of Snow	Mark Cassino	Informational Nonfiction	Story of how snowflakes begin their "life" and the many different types of snowflakes. Ends with an activity on how to catch your own snow crystal.	Starred Reviews, Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 Science Books and Films Editor's Choice
Over and Under the Snow	Kate Messner	Nonfiction, Animals, Winter	The world of the winter underground... how squirrels and snowshoe hares, bears and bullfrogs, and many other animals live through the winter, safe and warm under the snow.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts
Forever Friends	Carin Berger	Fiction	A blue bird and a brown rabbit frolic together through spring, summer, and fall. By late autumn, the bird announces that it must fly south but promises to be back once the weather warms up again. The rabbit spends the cold winter months missing its friend, while the bird longs for the bunny. Before long, spring returns and the two are reunited. The succinct prose touchingly expresses the value of friendship between these two very different creatures. Although they must spend a portion of the year apart, there is still the promise of more good times to come, which shows young readers the value of patience.	Starred Reviews
Sunshine Makes the Seasons	Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by Michael Rex	Informational Nonfiction	The sun shines down on Earth; it provides us with warmth and light. However, the sun also gives Earth's its seasons. From winter to spring, to summer to fall, the light of the sun affects life on Earth for all. Prepare to take a look at the only star in our solar system in a different way.	
On Earth	Brian G. Karas	Informational Nonfiction	This poetic text describes Earth's daily and yearly cycles. The paintings in the book are as simple, showing night and day, and the passage of seasons as children go to school, celebrate birthdays, and stand by trees as they follow their life cycle.	
Four Seasons Make a Year	Anne F. Rockwell	Informational Nonfiction	What happens in the Spring? What happens in the Summer? How about the Fall and Winter? Find out in this book about the four seasons of the year.	
It's Snowing	Gail Gibbons	Informational Nonfiction	Learn all there is to know about snow. What exactly is it and how is it made? Where does it snow the most? If a big snowstorm is coming, what can you do to prepare for it? The answers to these questions and many more are included in this volume full of fun facts.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Best Children's Books of the Year Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
When Rain Falls	Melissa Sweet	Informational Nonfiction	Where do the animals go when it rains? It all depends on the animal! Bees hide in hives, squirrels use their tails like umbrellas, and caterpillars crawl under leaves. Young readers will have a first glimpse at how different animals in different habitats behave during a thunderstorm.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Children's Catalog, 19th ed. and Supplements Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Science Books & Films Editor's Choice

Unit 9: Meeting Our Needs and Wants

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale	Duncan Tonatiuh	Modern Fable	An animal cast creates a valuable portrait of the often-perilous journeys of migrant Mexicans who seek work in the United States.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Jimmy the Greatest	Jairo Buitrago	Realistic Fiction	Jimmy is inspired to grow up to be like boxer Muhammad Ali but finds there are more important things closer to home.	Horn Book Star Review School Library Journal Best Books
Chirchir Is Singing	Kelly Cunnane	Realistic Fiction	Chirchir just wants to make herself useful like all her other family members. But she drops Mama's water bucket, spills Kogo's tea, and sends Baba's potatoes tumbling down the hill. Isn't there something that Chirchir does best? Set in the rolling hills of rural Kenya, this is a wise and lyrical story about belonging.	Children's Books of the Year 2012—Ages 5–9
How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?	Christine Butterworth	Informational Nonfiction	Every kid knows food comes from the grocery store, but this appetizing book encourages elementary-age readers to think about where it comes from "before it was in the store." Taking stock of the contents of a typical school lunch box, Butterworth and illustrator, Gaggiotti, serve up a tantalizing and easy-to-digest overview of seven familiar ingredients' journeys, from the bread holding a sandwich together to the chocolate chips in a cookie. Each well-designed double-page spread whisks readers from the farm (or grove or orchard) through the production process (at the mill, the bakery, the dairy, etc.) to the delivery of the final product.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
50 Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington	Jabari Isim	Biography	Growing up, Booker T. Washington endured struggles as he lived through slavery and pursued his dream with nothing but fifty cents in his pocket when he headed for the Hampton Institute and a college degree. Learn how he became a leader for the African American community and made his dream a reality.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 200–Present Kirkus Best Books SLJ Best Books
The Vegetables We Eat	Gail Gibbons	Informational Nonfiction	A clear, informative introduction to eight groups of vegetables, categorized by the part of the plant that is eaten.	Starred Reviews
Do I Need It? Or Do I Want It?: Making Budget Choices	Jennifer S. Larson	Informational Nonfiction	Few books about money issues aim for a very young audience, and this title in the new Exploring Economics series does it well in a friendly, interactive, question-and-answer format about getting money, spending it, and saving it. How do kids choose what to do with their earnings, from an allowance, a gift, or being paid to do chores? Should they spend it all right away on impulse buys, like candy; save up for a camera, a toy, or a video game; or donate to a worthy cause? Larson discusses the options and includes a quick view of how grown-ups make money, spend, and save; essentials and choices in families; and, on a larger scale, budgets in cities, schools, and businesses.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
Need It or Want It?	Colleen Hord	Informational Nonfiction	Young readers will distinguish between wants and needs and the choices people make.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
A Life Like Mine	UNICEF	Informational Nonfiction	Looks at what life is like for children of different countries focusing on every child's right to clean water, good health, education.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Mimi's Village: and How Basic Health Care Transformed It	Katie Smith Milway	Informational Nonfiction	Mimi Mahalo and her family help bring basic health care to their community. By making small changes like sleeping under mosquito nets and big ones like building a clinic with outside help, the Mahalos and their neighbors transform their Kenyan village from one afraid of illness to a thriving community.	Best Children's Books of the Year

Unit 10: Forces and Motion

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride	Marjorie Priceman	Informational	Inventive illustrations depict the true story of the duck, sheep, and rooster that were “ballooning’s first brave passengers” when the Montgolfiers tested their hot-air balloon in 1783.	Starred Reviews Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees
Going Up! Elisha Otis’s Trip to the Top	Monica Kulling	Informational Nonfiction	As a boy in the early 1800s, Otis enjoyed watching the pulleys and ropes hoist—and occasionally drop—hay on his family’s farm. After his grist mill, which he built himself, went bust, he found success creating a rail-turner machine for a bed-frame factory and inventing a hoisting platform for heavy machinery. Unlike the pulleys and ropes of his boyhood, this platform had a safety break to avoid crashes. But when Otis expanded his operation to make elevators that would hoist people, spectators were skeptical. A daring demonstration in the Crystal Palace of the 1854 World’s Fair in New York convinced the audience of the viability of elevators and paved the way for skyscrapers.	Journal reviewed
Castle: How It Works	David Macaulay	Informational Nonfiction	This early reader provides an intimate tour of a complex structure that budding engineers and/or young history buffs will love. The structure is first described from afar with “tall towers...and a wide moat,” then in greater detail once “you get past the guards.” A variety of castle dwellers are briefly introduced, from the blacksmith to the lord and lady, as are the configurations of the rooms and fortifications.	Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Best Books
Galileo’s Leaning Tower Experiment: A Science Adventure	Wendy Macdonald	Informational Nonfiction	In Italy, 1589, Massimo drops lunch to his uncle from a bridge, so the food falls into his uncle’s boat. One day, Galileo notices that the bread and wheel of cheese land in the boat at the same time. But Aristotle had said that heavy things fall at a faster rate than light ones. Will Galileo and Massimo be able to prove Aristotle’s theory wrong?	Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
Motion	Kay Monolis	Informational Nonfiction	Simple text and full color photographs introduce beginning readers to motion.	Children’s Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
Forces and Motion	Clint Twist	Informational Nonfiction	From pushing and pulling, to direction, slope, and friction, this innovative book explores the basic concepts of force and motion. With accessible scientific language, full-color photography, and clear illustrations, children will also learn that force and motion can actually change the shape of an object.	
Motion: Push and Pull, Fast and Slow	Darlene R. Stille	Informational Nonfiction	Offers an introduction to the principles of motion, describing inertia, gravity, and friction.	
Forces Make Things Move	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Informational Nonfiction	Simple language and humorous illustrations show how forces make things move, prevent them from starting to move, and stop them from moving.	
Making Things Move	Sian Smith	Informational Nonfiction	Making Things Move introduces young learners to the forces that make things move and the different ways in which things can move. Readers will learn that things can move in many directions and that pushing and pulling can make something change direction.	
And Everyone Shouted, “Pull!”: A First Look at Forces and Motion	Claire Llewellyn	Informational Nonfiction	Learn about forces and motion as you join the farm animals on their trip to the market. The wheels on their cart help when they push, pull, and stop on their journey.	
Groovy Gravity	Rena B. Korb	Informational Nonfiction	Introduces gravity, discussing how it works on Earth and in space and how humans are suited to Earth’s gravity.	

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 1
1	Government and Citizenship	Being a Good Community Member Why do people get involved in their communities?
2	Character	Many Kinds of Characters How do we learn about characters?
3	Life Science	Plants and Animals Grow and Change Why do living things change?
4	Point of View	Stories Have a Narrator How do people create stories?
5	Technology and Society	Technology at Work How can technology make a difference in our lives?
6	Theme	Stories Teach Many Lessons What can we learn from a mistake?
7	History and Culture	Past, Present, and Future Why is the past important?
8	Earth Science	Observing the Sky Why do the sun and moon capture our imagination?
9	Economics	We Use Goods and Services Why do people trade with each other?
10	Physical Science	Exploring Sound and Light How would our lives be different without sound and light?

Unit 1: Being a Good Community Member

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell	Tanya Lee Stone	Biography	This biography depicts how a brave and curious girl named Elizabeth Blackwell succeeded against great opposition to become the first female doctor in the United States.	Starred Reviews Parents Magazine Best Nonfiction Picture Book of 2013 NPR Best Books of 2013
Stand Straight. Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant	Kate Klise	Biography	Born in 1872, Ella Kate Ewing grew up on a Missouri farm. She soon towered over her friends, and had a hard time fitting in. She overcame her disability to become a highly educated philanthropic traveler.	Best Books of the Year List 2011 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
If America Were a Village: a Book about the People of the United States	David J. Smith	Informational Nonfiction	In the book, readers imagine that 100 people represent the world population. Readers learn about nationalities, religions, food, resources, money, languages, and more. Through the use of clear and simple statistics, readers get an eye-opening understanding of a modern world.	
Martin's Big Words	Doreen Rappaport	Biography	A pictorial biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which paints the life of the bravest civil rights leader of the twentieth century, using the words of his own eloquent speech.	Wilson's Children 10/01/10 Caldecott Honor Coretta Scott King Honor Book New York Times Notable Book of the Year
Cold Snap	Eileen Spinelli	Realistic Fiction	Community life in a cold, cold, town. People are freezing to death. This cold snap just won't end. Just as the townspeople begin to accept their frigid fate, the mayor's wife has a hot idea that's sure to thaw a few hearts.	Booklist Beest of Children's Books 2012 Starred Reviews Kirkus Best Books
Benny and Penny in The Big No-No!	Geoffrey Hayes	Fiction	Benny and his sister Penny suspect that Benny's pail may have been stolen by their new neighbor. Even though it's a "no-no," they sneak into their neighbors' yard. Eventually, all the characters learn about trust and develop new friendships.	2010 Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal Winner

Unit 2: Many Kinds of Characters

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Little Red Writing	Joan Holub	Fiction	Written with wit, humor, and puns galore, this fractured fairy tale features Little Red, a pencil in search of a story. Given a writing assignment by her teacher Ms. 2, Little Red travels down the story path with a basket of red nouns looking for the kind of tale that will allow her to display bravery and fight evil, "because red is the color of courage. But what would a brave pencil do?"	School Library Journal Best Books of the Year Starred Reviews Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Books of 2013
Helen Keller's Best Friend Belle	Holly M. Barry	Biography	Meet the dog who never left Helen Keller's side as you learn all about Helen Keller's young life, discover her struggle to communicate, and meet the furry friend who followed her everywhere.	Journal Reviewed
The Man With the Violin	Kathy Stinson	Realistic Fiction	Story of a renowned master violinist who played a free concert in the subway. Unfortunately, no one paid attention except young Dylan, who was someone who noticed things.	Starred Reviews Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2013
Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas	Cynthia Rylant	Humorous Fiction	Henry and his dog, Mudge, don't know quite what to expect when they go to visit Great-Grandpa Bill, who lives in a house with other grandpas. But what starts out as a quiet afternoon on the porch turns into a fun-filled event.	Booklist Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winner (2006)
Sadie and Ratz	Sonya Hartnet	Realistic Fiction	Sadie and Ratz are the names of the hands that always cause trouble, until "BabyBoy" comes along causing trouble of his own.	School Library Journal Best of 2012
The Relatives Came	Cynthia Rylant	Realistic Fiction	Relatives from Virginia come to visit. The summer is full of food, music, and hugs!	1986 Caldecott Honor Book Starred Reviews
Cecil the Pet Glacier	Matthea Harvey	Fiction	The author/illustrator wants to make a book about a cute little mouse. But the author/illustrator has competition—her fat cat Chester tries to rewrite the book using a thick red marker.	Starred Reviews
Chester	Melanie Watt	Animal Fantasy	As the author/illustrator attempts to create a picture book about a mouse in a house, her rotund feline, Chester, sends the mouse packing and attempts to rewrite the story with his handy red marker.	Children's Choices Kirkus Books of Special Note Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts (NCTE)
There Is a Bird on Your Head	Mo Willems	Animal Fantasy	In this Elephant and Piggy Book, Gerald learns that there are worse things than a bird on your head, namely, two lovebirds, a nest, and three hatchlings.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winners (2008)
Strega Nona	Tomie dePaola	Fables	Both written and artfully illustrated by the author, the story of an old witch and her magical pasta pot unfolds to the delight of the tale's youthful audience.	Caldecott Honor
Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride	Pam Munoz Ryan	Realistic Fiction	Back in 1993, Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt took a spontaneous flight. They left a dinner party at the White House and took a glorious adventure ride—all while dressed up in glamorous dinner party gowns.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
There's a Wolf at the Door	Zoe B. Alley	Informational Nonfiction	Face-to-face with three little pigs, the boy who cried wolf, Little Red Riding Hood, sheep who see instantly through his sheep's clothing disguise, and seven canny goslings who would rather not be eaten, the dapper, top-hatted lupine protagonist's attempts to secure a tasty dinner for himself are constantly thwarted. But the clever wolf always bounces back from these dinnerless evenings with a cunning new plan.	Starred Reviews, Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts 2009 (NCTE)

Unit 3: Plants and Animals Grow and Change

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Caterpillars	Marilyn Singer	Informational Nonfiction	Biological information introduced by a poem and enhanced with beautiful photography.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12, Children’s Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
One Red Apple	Harriet Ziefert	Informational Nonfiction	A single apple contains an entire story. After it’s picked and eaten by a child, birds peck at the core and spread seeds that grow into new trees. Ziefert’s spare, poetic text directs readers through a rough outline of the basic process. The illustrator, Karla Gudeon’s, rustic paintings evoke handmade quilts, with detailed borders and textured country fields. A solid autumn selection.	Best Books for Children Preschool through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed.
Butterflies	Seymour Simon	Informational Nonfiction	This book vividly explores the life cycles of butterflies and moths and offers readers amazing and fun facts about these fascinating insects.	Booklist Starred Reviews, 2012 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Hatch!	Roxie Monroe	Informational Nonfiction	Readers learn about different types of birds with this fun guessing game.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Frogs	Nic Bishop	Informational Nonfiction	Amazing photographs and fun simple facts engage readers as they learn about a wide range of different frogs.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers’ Choices
The Voyage of Turtle Rex	Kurt Cyrus	Realistic Animal Fiction	A prehistoric turtle hatches, crawls to the ocean. Most survive amongst dinosaur ocean creatures and return to the same beach to lay eggs.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Nightsong	Ari Berk	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	A young bat named Chiro heads off for his first time alone with only his “good sense” (echolocation) to guide him.	Starred Reviews Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Books of Special Note
Dolphin Baby!	Nicola Davies	Informational Nonfiction	Learn about the ocean through the eyes of a newborn baby dolphin as he swims with and learns from his mother how to survive.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Seeds, Bees, Butterflies and More!: Poems for Two Voices	Carol Gerber	Informational Poetry	Eighteen two-voiced poems explore relationships in nature. Readers will encounter whimsical poems about pollination, the role of sunlight, the purpose of roots, and more.	
No Monkeys, No Chocolate	Melissa Stewart	Informational Nonfiction	Young readers will get the giggles while learning how one of their favorite foods—chocolate—comes about via the help of mascots, lizards, and monkeys who munch on cocoa pods and spit out the seeds.	Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
From Seed to Plant	Gail Gibbons	Informational Nonfiction	Discovering the evolving growth of a plant, children learn about the growth cycle, and are invited to practice, given the “From Seed to Plant” project.	
What Do You Do With a Tale Like This	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	Animals can do some amazing things! Young readers explore the remarkable things animals can do with their eyes, noses, mouths, tails, and more.	Starred Reviews Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees

Unit 4: Stories Have a Narrator

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Uncle Andy's	James Warhola	Biography	Andy Warhol's nephew leaves his rural farm to visit Uncle Andy in NYC.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Starred reviews
The Hello, Goodbye Window	Norton Juster	Realistic Fiction	Everything happens at the kitchen window. For one little girl, it is where she and her grandparents look at the stars, play games, and say hello and goodbye.	Starred Reviews Caldecott Medal 2006
Grandpa Green	Lane Smith	Realistic Fiction	A great-grandson's storytelling of a grandfather's memories. Opens discussion of families, memories, sharing and a hint of Alzheimer's.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees, School Library Journal Best Books, School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Migrant	Maxine Trottier	Realistic Fiction	Retelling of a migrant worker's journey back to the fields from a child's perspective.	ALSC Book Picks, Starred Reviews New York Times Best Illustrated Books 2011
I Lost My Tooth In Africa	Penda Diakite	Realistic Fiction	Amina hopes she will lose her tooth while visiting her family in West Africa. The African tooth fairy exchanges a chicken for your tooth. When this happens, Amina hopes her chicken will lay eggs before she has to return to America. Written by a twelve-year-old.	Children's Notable Books Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Notable Children's Books in the English Language
Redwoods	Jason Chin	Informational Fiction/ Fantasy	A boy finds a book of facts about redwood trees, on the subway and how these trees have lived from paleolithic to medieval to present day and quickly gets pulled in, only to find a forest of them waiting for him when he steps off the subway.	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Orani: My Father's Village	Claire A. Nivola	Informational Nonfiction	A daughter and her father revisit his childhood home in Sardinia and find inspiration in the heartwarming village of Orani.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Starred Reviews
Clever Jack Takes the Cake	Candace Fleming	Modern Fairy Tale	Poor Jack trades in his working tools for ingredients to make a birthday gift for the beautiful princess's birthday party. On his way to the castle, his cake is sabotaged and all he has left is the story to tell. The princess is thrilled.	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Obstinate Pen	Frank W. Dormer	Fantasy	When Uncle Flood tries to write something with a pen, the pen decides to write something else instead! Officer Wonkle doesn't know what to do with the pen any more than Flood does. Young Horace, though, has an idea that just may work.	Horn Book Starred Reviews, Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts
Looking at Lincoln	Maira Kalman	Biography	A little girl wants to know things about Abraham Lincoln. But she wants to know about the things that very few people know. She learns that he had a dog named Fido, loved to eat apples and his wife's vanilla cake, and kept notes in his big hat.	BCCB Blue Ribbons, Cumulative Children's Choices Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Coral Reefs	Jason Chin	Informational Nonfiction	Coral reef ecology through the eyes of a young girl reading a library book about the ocean that comes to life.	Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12 Science Books and Films Best Books Science Books and Films Editor's Choice
House Held Up by Trees	Ted Kooser	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	A story of the life of a well-loved house and how it changed over the years.	Booklist Starred Reviews
Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku	Lee Wardlaw	Realistic Fiction	In a series of haiku (technically "senryu"), a cat narrates the tale of his adoption from an animal shelter and his new life.	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts School Library Journal Best Books Starred Reviews
I'm My Own Dog	David Ezra Stein	Fiction	A dog's narrative about how he is his own dog who eventually finds a person whom he takes for walks, tells him to sit (on a park bench), cleans up after him (dropped ice cream on the sidewalk), and how he's grown quite attached to his "little fella."	Starred Reviews

Unit 5: Technology at Work

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?	Christine Butterworth	Informational Nonfiction	This book will satisfy readers curious about where their food comes from. The author details how food is grown on farms and orchards and processed at mills, bakeries, and more.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum	Meghan McCarthy	Informational Nonfiction	Chewing gum has been around for centuries. In 1920, a factory in Philadelphia set out to invent a chewing gum that would allow people to blow bubbles. The workers experimented for months, but all they ended up with was a sticky mess, until they made an unexpected discovery in a most unusual way.	Starred Reviews
The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot	Alice Provensen	Biography	French aviation pioneer Louis Bleriot commits himself to the pursuit of flying and becomes the first man to fly across the English Channel.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Winners
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909	Michelle Markel	Informational Nonfiction	Clara Lemlich and her parents escaped the Kishinev pogrom of 1903 and traveled to America. Unfortunately, Clara has to work in awful conditions within the U.S. garment industry. She leads others to strike and fight for justice and better working conditions.	Booklist Starred Reviews Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Milton Hershey: Chocolate King, Town Builder	Charnan Simon	Biography	This biography documents the determined perseverance of Hershey Chocolate Company's founder and his generous community spirit.	
Next Stop Grand Central	Maira Kalman	Informational Nonfiction	A bustling tribute to the busiest train station on Earth.	Booklist Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba	Biography	Self-taught fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba saves his drought-blighted Malawi village by making a windmill from only scrap parts and information found in science books from his local library.	Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Machines Go to Work in the City	William Low	Realistic Fiction	There are many machines that work on city streets. Take a tour of a busy city and see dump trucks, garbage trucks, cranes, airplanes, and other hard-working machines.	Starred Reviews
All Aboard!: Elijah McCoy's Steam Engine	Monica Kulling	Informational Nonfiction	Elijah McCoy was fascinated by machines and went to Scotland to study mechanical engineering. Despite this, when he returned to the United States the railroad would only hire him to shovel coal—because Elijah McCoy was African American. Undaunted, he went on to invent something that would be used by railroads around the world.	

Unit 6: Stories Teach Many Lessons

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
A Bus Called Heaven	Bob Graham	Fantasy	Stella awoke one morning to find an abandoned bus, with the word "Heaven" painted on the front, parked on the street outside her house. Her whole community came together to fix up the interior of the bus and turn it into a place where they could play games and have fun.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Kirkus Books of Special Note
The Tortoise and the Hare	Jerry Pinkney	Fable	In this beautiful retelling of a famous fable, the tortoise and the hare race in a Southwestern desert past cacti, sand, and stones, as a crowd of other animals cheer them on.	School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
That Is NOT a Good Idea!	Mo Willems	Fiction	A sly fox in a top hat lures a plump goose into taking a stroll. The goose is repeatedly warned "That is NOT a good idea!" Readers will likely want to join in on the warning until they reach the surprise ending.	School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Penny and Her Marble	Kevin Henkes	Realistic Fiction	When Penny steals a shiny, irresistible marble, her guilt teaches her a valuable lesson.	Starred Reviews
Extra Yarn	Mac Barnett	Fantasy Fiction	On a cold, snowy day, Annabelle finds a box filled with yarn. Seemingly ordinary, Annabelle soon learns that the box has magical powers.	Starred Reviews
The Cloud Spinner	Michael Catchpool	Fantasy Fiction	A gifted boy has the unique ability to weave cloth from clouds. The cloth changes color throughout the day: it is gold in the morning, white in the afternoon, and red as the sun sets. He spins just enough cloth to create a scarf, but the greedy king wants an entire new wardrobe. As the boy does what he is commanded, the world begins to change around him.	Best Children's Books of the Year Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
The Lorax	Dr. Seuss	Fantasy Fiction	The Once-ler ponders how he destroyed the environment while expanding his business and in the end encourages a young boy to plant seeds and redevelop the environment.	
The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein	Fiction	All the giving tree wants to do is to make a young boy happy. The tree's generosity lasts throughout the boy's life: the tree gives apples when the boy is young, the tree gives wood when the boy is an adult, and the tree provides a place to sit when the boy is an old man.	Genrefied Classics: A Guide to Reading Interests in Classic Literature Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4

Unit 7: Past, Present, and Future

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Heroes of the Surf	Elisa Carbone	Informational Nonfiction	A story of the rescue of two boys based on the historic shipwreck off of the New Jersey shore in 1882.	
Noah Webster and His Words	Jeri Chase Ferris	Biography	Who is behind Webster’s American Dictionary? Noah Webster that’s who. Noah Webster was born in 1758 and spent decades working to unite America through language.	Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Starred Reviews
These Hands	Margaret H. Mason	Historical Fiction	This moving multigenerational story focuses on hands (the hands of a grandfather who was not allowed to mix dough at a bread factory because he is African American and the hands of a grandson who feels he can do anything) to tenderly reveal the effects of racism and the triumph over discrimination.	Notable Children’s Books in the English Language Arts ALSC 2012 Book Picks
All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel	Dan Yaccarino	Biography	A shovel, gifted by the author’s great-great grandfather to his own son years ago, provided food for this immigrant family.	Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers’ Choices
The House That George Built	Suzanne Slade	Informational Nonfiction	Following the framework of <i>This Is the House That Jack Built</i> , this historical story shares the details of how George Washington built the first President’s House now known as The White House.	Starred Reviews, Junior Library Guild Selection
César Chávez: The Struggle for Justice	Richard Griswold del Castillo	Biography	César Chávez grew up facing poverty and discrimination. As an adult, he organized farm workers to non-violently protest in order to achieve better working conditions and greater equality.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Starred Reviews, Carter G. Woodson Multicultural Award Winners
Jazz Age Josephine	Jonah Winter	Biography	The life of legendary star Josephine Baker makes for a moving and wonderfully illustrated tale of the triumph over poverty and discrimination, through determination and astounding talent.	Kirkus Books of Special Note, Starred Reviews
The Flag We Love	Pam Munoz Ryan	Informational Nonfiction	Learn all about the American flag in this book, which includes the making of the country’s first flag and the writing of “The Star Spangled Banner” as well as the tradition of flying the flag, which began at Lincoln’s funeral train, and continues today at the Olympics, at ports of entry to the United States, and on the moon.	Awards: Notable Children’s Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies, Understanding Diversity Through Novels and Picture Books
Henry’s Freedom Box	Ellen Levine	Biography	Based on a true story, this books tells the life of Henry Brown, a slave who paced years of diversity and devised an ingenious escape—he mailed himself north in a wooden crate and achieved freedom.	Notable Children’s Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Teachers’ Choices
Auntie Yang’s Great Soybean Picnic	Ginny Lo	Historical Fiction	On a Sunday drive, a young Chinese-American girl’s aunt spots a field of soybeans in Illinois. This discovery develops into an annual tradition in which many Chinese-American families come together for a picnic of soybeans, a traditional Chinese food.	Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Kirkus Books of Special Note, School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Matchbox Diary	Paul Fleishman	Historical Fiction	Follows a girl’s perusal of her great-grandfather’s collection of matchboxes and small curios that document his poignant immigration journey from Italy to a new country.	Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews

Unit 8: Observing the Sky

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Stars	Mary Lyn Ray	Realistic Fiction	Humor and poetry convey some of the ways children and their imaginations see and interpret stars.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements, Starred Reviews, ALSC 2012 Best Picks
Older Than the Stars	Karen C. Fox	Informational Nonfiction	Scientific facts are presented with flair and style in this book of verse that begins with the big bang.	Children's Choices Kirkus Books of Special Note, Notable Children's Books in the English Language, Arts Science Books and Films, Best Books Science Books and Films Editor's Choice.
National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Space	Catherine D. Hughes	Informational Nonfiction	Look at the sky, and you may wonder just what makes those faraway stars burn, or what awaits on planets that seem no bigger than your thumbnail. Here, kids take off to outer space for descriptions of stars, galaxies, and planets.	Best Children's Books of the Year
Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos	Stephanie Roth Sisson	Realistic Fiction	After attending the 1939 World's Fair, Carl Sagan is captivated by the possibility of better understanding the universe. This book follows Sagan's life from childhood and documents his illustrious career.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Book (2014)
Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space	Amy Sklansky	Informational Poetry	Focused on understanding space exploration and the universe, this book combines imaginative poems with facts and explanations.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Book (2012)
Eight Days Gone	Linda McReynolds	Informational Poetry	This book of poetry focuses on the eight-day mission of Apollo 11, with details about space travel and the context of NASA's attempts to land on the moon.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Book (2012)
How Many Stars in the Sky?	Lenny Hort	Fiction	A father and son begin to count stars together because they can't sleep, but the more stars they count, the more determined they are to count every star they can see.	
The Sun is My Favorite Star	Frank Asch	Read Aloud	This beautifully illustrated volume celebrates the star at the center of our solar system.	

Unit 9: We Use Goods and Services

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story	Deborah Hopkinson	Informational Nonfiction	Based on a real knitting event in 1918, this story tells about a boy whose father has gone overseas to fight in World War I and who participates in a knitting competition, making clothing for American soldiers.	Booklist Starred Reviews Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel	Dan Yaccarino	Biography	The Italian immigrant came to America with his parents' reminders to "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family," and his shovel, which he handed down through generations. This is the story of how one shovel became the talisman for generations of an Italian immigrant family.	Kirkus Best Books, Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
What Do We Buy: A Look at Goods and Services	Robin Nelson	Informational Nonfiction	Explains what goods and services are and their importance to the economy.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1-4
Flower Garden	Eve Bunting	Fiction	A father and daughter buy a window box garden as a birthday surprise for Mom.	
A Chair for My Mother	Vera B. Williams	Classics	This story follows a young girl and her waitress mother as they save loose change in hopes of one day buying a new, comfortable chair.	1983 Caldecott Honor Book
The Doorbell Rang	Pat Hutchins	Comedy and Humor	A mother bakes cookies for her two children, but the two must learn to share when a series of visitors arrive.	
Erandi's Braids	Antonio Hernandez Madrigal	General Fiction	Young Erandi offers to sell her beautiful long hair so that her family can buy a fishing net.	
How Much Is a Million?	David M. Schwartz	Informational	Marvelosissimo the Magician creates circumstances to help children understand and visualize just how much a million of something actually is.	

Unit 10: Exploring Sound and Light

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein	Jennifer Berne	Biography	Albert Einstein was a remarkable individual. As a child, he was late to start speaking. It was not until after he received a compass as a gift that he became inspired to speak more often. He was filled with curiosity and questions—questions about magnetism, gravity, and atoms. “Suddenly he knew there were mysteries in the world—hidden and silent, unknown and unseen.” Albert Einstein went on to spend his life “imagining, wondering, figuring, and thinking.”	School Library Journal Starred Review
The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors	Chris Barton	Biography	The story of brothers Joe and Bob Switzer, who experimented with ultraviolet lights and fluorescent paints and invented a new kind of color called Day-Glo.	2010 Children's Choices Starred Reviews 2011-2012 Children's Crown Award
Light Is All Around Us	Wendy Pfeffer	Informational Nonfiction	A fascinating look into the many ways that light brightens our lives.	Notable Children's Book (ALSC)
Next Time You See a Sunset	Emily R. Morgan	Informational Nonfiction	The beautiful photos and inquisitive text in this book encourages children's sense of wonder about the natural phenomena of sunsets.	2014 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Shhh! Listen!: Hearing Sounds	Richard Spilsbury and Louise Spilsbury	Informational Nonfiction	Explains how sound moves through the air to allow humans and other animals to hear things, and includes activities to help readers experiment with sound.	
What Makes Different Sounds?	Lawrence F. Lowery	Informational Nonfiction	Jim and Jane walk through their neighborhood and hear an array of sounds: roaring jet planes, trilling police whistles, booming marching bands, and more. High or low, soft or loud—each sound is described and observed.	

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 2
1	Government and Citizenship	Government at Work Why do we need a government?
2	Character	Characters Facing Challenges What can we learn when we face problems?
3	Life Science	Plants and Animals in Their Habitats How do living things get what they need to survive?
4	Point of View	Many Characters, Many Points of View How can a story change depending on who tells it?
5	Technology and Society	Solving Problems Through Technology Where do ideas for inventions come from?
6	Theme	Tales to Live By What can different cultures teach us?
7	History and Culture	Investigating the Past How does understanding the past shape the future?
8	Earth Science	Wind and Water Change Earth How do we react to changes in nature?
9	Economics	Buyers and Sellers How do the goods we make, buy, and sell connect us?
10	Physical Science	States of Matter How can something old become new?

Unit 1: Government at Work

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
How to Build Your Own Country	Valarie Wyatt	Informational Nonfiction	Invites readers to imagine setting up their own country as a way of introducing the concepts of citizenship and politics, discussing such topics as starting a government, holding elections, making laws, writing a constitution, and keeping the peace.	
Duck for President	Doreen Cronin	Fantasy	When Duck is unhappy with the chores Farmer Brown has given, he runs a campaign to replace him. Duck realizes how hard the job is after winning, and seeks higher office, eventually running for resident.	New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books
The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Our National Parks	Barb Rosenstock	Historical fiction	This account of Theodore Roosevelt's camping trip in Yosemite with naturalist John Muir explains Roosevelt's opinions on preserving nature.	NCSS 2013
My Country, 'Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights	Claire Rudolf Murphy	Informational	An exploration of the history and changes to one of America's most recognizable patriotic songs.	NCSS 2015
Memorial Day Surprise	Theresa Martin Golding	General Fiction	Mama rushes Marco to a Memorial Day parade, telling him that a big surprise awaits him there – what could it be?	
Election Day	Patricia J. Murphy	Informational	This book serves as an explanation of different ways of voting and civic engagement.	
Arthur Meets the President	Marc Brown	Comedy and Humor Series/Fiction	After winning an essay contest and being invited to the White House, Arthur must give his speech from memory.	

Unit 2: Characters Facing Challenges

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
King for a Day	Christiane Kromer	Realistic Fiction	Annual Pakistani kite-flying festival story of a young wheel-chair bound flyer who beats the bully next door from his balcony, with assistance from his sister.	Starred Reviews
Can I Play Too?	Mo Willems	Realistic Fiction/ Animal Fantasy	An Elephant and Piggie book. Snake asks Gerald and Piggie if he can play catch with them. How do you play catch with someone who doesn't have hands?	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Flabbersmashed About You	Rachel Vail	Realistic Fiction	Katie is back as she deals with feeling “flabbersmashed” by her best friend, who suddenly wants to be friends with another kid. We've all been flabbersmashed by a friend—left out of an activity or secret, left to feel sorry for ourselves, or move on. Will Katie ever stop feeling left out?	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
Chirchir Is Singing	Kelly Cunnane	Realistic Fiction	Chirchir just wants to make herself useful like all her other family members. But she drops Mama's water bucket, spills Kogo's tea, and sends Baba's potatoes tumbling down the hill. Isn't there something that Chirchir does best? Set in the rolling hills of rural Kenya, this is a wise and lyrical story about belonging .	Children's Books of the Year 2012–Ages 5–9 Notable Children's Books 2012–Younger Readers
Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom	Joan Holub	Mythology	Retells the story of Zeus, Cronus, and the Olympians.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
Larf	Ashley Spires	Fiction	No one believes Larf exists, and he likes it that way. Larf, you see, is a Sasquatch, the only Sasquatch in the world (or so it seems). But everything changes one morning when Larf discovers that another Sasquatch is scheduled to make an appearance in the nearby city of Hunderfitz.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4
Billy Twitters and His Whale Problem	Mac Barnett	Humorous Fiction/ Animal Fantasy	Billy has a huge problem one day when his mother orders him a giant pet blue whale as punishment for not cleaning his room.	Starred Reviews, Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
999 Tadpoles	Ken Kimura	Animal Fantasy/ Humor	“We'll have to move,” says Mother, after realizing the pond is too small. But moving a family of 999 young frogs is fraught with danger! Hungry snakes are crawling through the grass. Hungry hawks are flying through the sky. A young frog makes a mighty tasty morsel. Never underestimate the quick wits of 999 young frogs!	Booklist Editors Choice Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present
Infinity and Me	Kate Hosford	Realistic Fiction	A little girl's preoccupation with understanding infinity leads her to a surprise revelation. After getting a new pair of red shoes, Uma gazes at the stars and wonders how many there are. She soon thinks about all the things she might like to do if she could do them forever. Everyone seems to have a different way of describing infinity, and only when Uma's grandmother finally notices Uma's shoes does the girl understand what infinity really means.	Children's Notable Books Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Books of Special Note
This Is Not My Hat	Jon Klassen	Fiction	While a large fish is sleeping, a much smaller fish decides to steal the tiny hat that was sitting upon his head. When the large fish wakes up he begins to search for the one who stole his hat. The small fish believes he is safe, but is he?	Randolph Caldecott Medal Winners School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Underground	Shane Evans	Informational Nonfiction	A runaway slave family tells their story of running North via the Underground Railroad.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners, Starred Reviews
Togo	Robert J. Blake	Historical Fiction	Based on a true story of the Iditarod/rescue mission that carried diphtheria serum to beleaguered Nome in 1925.	Best Children's Books of the Year Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements, Starred Reviews
Glamorous Glasses	Barbara Johansen Newman	Realistic Fiction	Joanie and Bobbie are cousins and best friends. When Joanie needs to get glasses, Bobbie is right by her side, and a little envious of her cousin's new fashion accessory.	Starred Reviews, Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1–4 Kirkus Books of Special Note
Monsier Marceau	Leda Schubert	Biography	The story of Marcel Marceau, the maestro of mime. Born in France, he was sixteen when WWII broke out and changed his life. He changed his last name to hide his Jewish identity and worked with the French Underground. After the war, he studied mime and created his signature character, Bip. Quotes from Marceau connect the silence of those who returned from concentration camps (where his father had died) with his own choice of silence on stage.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present, Starred Reviews

Unit 3: Plants and Animals in Their Habitats

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Over and Under the Snow	Kate Messner	Informational Nonfiction	A girl and her father enjoy the day together skiing, but she wonders where the animals that are hibernating are.	ALSC 2012 Picks, Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
What Do You Do When Something Wants to Eat You?	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	Jenkins answers the question of what different creatures do when another animal wants them for dinner. He identifies the animal on one page ("the bombardier beetle defends itself...") and then follows up with its defense mechanism on the next ("by shooting a mixture of hot chemicals from its rear end and into the face of an attacker").	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books, 7th ed.
Butterfly Eyes: And Other Secrets of the Meadows	Joyce Sidman	Informational Poetry	Discover the hidden world of a meadow in this unique combination of poetic riddles and scientific wisdom. Beginning with the rising sun and ending with twilight, this book reveals how butterflies can see ultraviolet markings on flowers, how certain bugs protect themselves in a bubble of spit, how grasshoppers use sunlight to start moving in the morning, and how all things in the meadow are interconnected.	Starred Reviews, Children's Notable Books, Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
See What a Seal Can Do?	Chris Butterworth	Informative Nonfiction	Don't be fooled by the lazy seal bumping slowly along the shore. The second that seal hits the water, there's no telling where it will go. Join a gray seal as it heads from the sand to the sea, revealing how the seal's unique shape allows it to rocket through the water and shoot straight down with its flippers.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-Present Science Books and Films Best Books Science Books and Films Editor's Choice
Time to Eat	Steve Jenkins	Informative Nonfiction	An introduction to what animals eat and how they collect and store their food.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-Present Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle	Lynne Cherry	Informational Nonfiction	A mangrove seed floats to a lagoon in the Caribbean, takes root, and slowly begins to grow. Over many years, the mangrove tree will provide a home for numerous creatures. Fiddler crabs and shrimp live among its roots; lizards and hummingbirds dwell in its branches. Ever threatened by human destruction, the mangroves are endangered, but in Lynne Cherry's richly illustrated story, one such habitat survives, inspiring readers to preserve this vital ecosystem.	Green Earth Book Award Winners
A Strange Place to Call Home	Marilyn Singer and Ed Young	Informational Nonfiction	Dark forests, frozen glaciers, barren deserts provide shelter for thousands of creatures who, seeking safety from predators and advantage from the competition, call these harsh environments home.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books and Films Best Books
Even an Octopus Needs a Home	Irene Kelly	Informational Nonfiction	A close look at a baby octopus's ocean habitat.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books and Films Best Books Science Books and Films Editor's Choice Teachers' Choices
The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest	Lynne Cherry	Animal Fantasy	This inspired book takes a look at what the Kapok tree means to the creatures that live in it--and what rain forests mean to the world's ecology	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
At the Sea Floor Café: Odd Ocean Critter Poems	Leslie Bulion	Informational Poetry	Using complex poetry forms and cleverly constructed lines, Bulion pays tribute to sea creatures: "They're hunters and foragers, hidiers and peekers, / continuous feeders and one-meal-a-weekers." Informational text accompanies each poem, which, combined with the backmatter on poetic form, makes this a useful interdisciplinary catch.	
The Wolves Are Back	Jean Craighead George	Informational Nonfiction	Over a century ago, wolves were persecuted in the United States and became nearly extinct. This book describes the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park for the benefit of the ecosystem.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Frog Song	Brenda Guiberson	Informational Nonfiction	Frogs do more than jump around and eat flies. Kids learn how frogs impact the ecosystem and create unique music, something they've been doing since the time of dinosaurs.	Starred Reviews
Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems	Joyce Sidman	Informative Nature Poetry	From spring's first thaw to autumn's chill, a pond is a dramatic place, teeming with life and full of surprises. A unique blend of whimsy, science, poetry, and hand-colored woodcuts, this collection invites young readers to take a closer look at the hidden world of ponds and wetlands, from peepers to painted turtles, duckweed to diving beetles.	Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Unit 4: Many Characters, Many Points of View

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Ice Bear	Nicola Davies	Informational Nonfiction	The story of the polar bear told through the eyes of an Inuit.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12
Dear Primo: Letter to My Cousin	Duncan Tonatiuh	Realistic Fiction	A town mouse/country mouse feel to this story of cousins writing letters to each other. One living in NYC and one in rural Mexico.	Children's Notable Books Pura Belpre Awards
I Want My Hat Back	Jon Klassen	Animal Fantasy	A bear asks the other animals questions to help him find his missing hat. But it is the one question asked of him that triggers his memory.	E. B. White Read Aloud Winner 2012 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Honorees
Zen Shorts	John J. Muth	Animal Fantasy/ Mythology	John Muth explains, "'Zen shorts' are short meditations." Those in this beautifully illustrated edition include some borrowed from ancient civilizations. In the author's words, they are "ideas to puzzle over."	Caldecott Honor Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
The Obstinate Pen	Frank W. Dormer	Fantasy	When Uncle Flood tries to write something with a pen, the pen decides to write something else, instead! Officer Wonkle doesn't know what to do with the pen any more than Flood does. Young Horace, though, has an idea that just may work.	Horn Book Starred Reviews, Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts
Bink & Gollie	Kate DiCamillo	Humorous Realistic Fiction	Best-selling writers Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee verbally animate a day in roller-skating motion, with the help of illustrator Tony Fucile's vibrant illustrations, allowing Bink and Gollie to happen upon a colorful treat.	Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winner–2011
Kali's Song	Jeanette Winter	Prehistoric Fiction	Cave Dweller Kali was expected to learn how to hunt like all the men in his tribe. He was given a bow to practice shooting arrows with for the coming hunt. Instead, Kali plucked the bow and made beautiful music with it. The tribe saw how his music charmed the animals and decided Kali would be better suited being a shaman.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Chicken Big	Keith Graves	Humorous Fiction/ Animal Fantasy	One day a big chicken hatches in the coop. No one knows what it is, but it is the only one with any common sense.	Starred Reviews
H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination	Christopher Myers	Realistic Fiction	An intense conversation over a game of ball	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000–Present, Coretta Scott King Award Honorees
Creepy Carrots	Aaron Reynolds	Animal Fantasy	These scary vegetables are Jasper Rabbit's worst nightmare.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Teachers' Choices
The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos	Deborah Heiligman	Historical Biography	He was twenty before he knew how to butter his own bread. Join Paul Erdos on his mathematical journey around the world, soaking up numbers and equations as he meets and collaborates with mathematicians the world over.	Starred Reviews
I'm My Own Dog	David Ezra Stein	Fiction	A dog's narrative about how he is his own dog . . . who eventually finds a person whom he takes for walks, tells him to sit (on a park bench), cleans up after him (dropped ice cream on the sidewalk), and how he's grown quite attached to his "little fella." A great example of perspective with a humorous twist and fun, colorful, childlike drawings.	Starred Reviews

Unit 5: Solving Problems Through Technology

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Going Up!™ Elisha Otis's Trip to the Top	Monica Kulling	Informational Nonfiction	As a boy in the early 1800s, Otis enjoyed watching the pulleys and ropes hoist hay on his family's farm. After his grist mill went bust, he found success creating a rail-turner machine for a bed-frame factory and inventing a hoisting platform for heavy machinery. But when Otis expanded his operation to make elevators that would hoist people, spectators were skeptical. A daring demonstration in the 1854 World's Fair in New York convinced the audience of the viability of elevators and paved the way for skyscrapers.	Journal reviewed
Glorious Flight: Across the English Channel with Louis Bler, July 25, 1909	Alice Provensen	Biography	French aviation pioneer Bler, the first man to fly across the English Channel	Randolph Caldecott Medal Winners
John Henry	Julius Lester	African American Folklore	This book retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain	Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Winners Children's Notable Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Teachers' Choices
Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Classrooms Around the World	Susan Hughes	Informational Nonfiction	This book examines innovative schools around the world, the educators who brought them about, and the students who attend them. The book has three chapters. 'Working with the Environment' features boat schools, rainforest schools, and tent schools;	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Oh No! Not Again: (Or How I Built a Time Machine to Save History) (Or at Least My History Grade)	Mac Barnett	Realistic Fiction/Imagination	A genius girl has missed the first question on her history test, costing her a perfect score. She just can't accept getting something wrong so she builds a time machine to go back in time to make her answer correct.	Kirkus Books of Special Note, Starred Reviews
Come See the Earth Turn	Lori Mortensen	Informational Nonfiction/Biography	Slow in school but gifted as a craftsman, in 1851 Foucault was the first to find a way to demonstrate the earth's spin on its axis, using a pendulum. Mortensen invites young readers into this French scientist's life with a quick description of his childhood difficulties, but the focus of this enjoyable story is the 'beautiful experiment' for which he's noted.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Cars on Mars	Alexandra Siy	Informational Nonfiction	This text describes the Mars Exploration Rover program, focusing on the purpose of the mission, the scientists involved, and the advancements in our understandings of the surface of Mars.	Booklist Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Boy Who Harnessed The Wind	William Kamkwamba	Biography	Self-taught 14 year-old William Kamkwamba saves his drought-blighted Malawi village by creating a windmill from odd parts using science books from his local library.	Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Papa's Mechanical Fish	Candace Fleming	Historical Fiction	This picture book is a fictional account based on events in the life of eccentric inventor Lodner Phillips as told from the perspective of his daughter, Virena. Papa theorizes and tinkers but never succeeds. Finally, while the family is dropping lines from a pier into Lake Michigan, his daughter asks, "have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fish?" Immediately the man dashes back to his workshop and soon produces one of the world's earliest submarines, the Whitefish.	
Randy Riley's Really Big Hit	Chris Van Dusen	Fiction	Randy Riley is a boy genius with a special fascination with space. Unfortunately, he is not a gifted baseball player and has never managed to hit the ball. So when he detects a giant fireball headed toward earth, he hatches a plan to build a robot that can hit that fireball back into outer space and redeems his flagging self-esteem.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Best Children's Books of the Year Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
How the Sphinx Got To the Museum	Jesse Hartland	Informational Nonfiction	Among the priceless treasures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City is the sphinx of Hatshepsut. Hartland tells the true story of how this artifact got there from Egypt. Follow the sphinx from its creation by skilled Egyptian sculptors, shipment to the U.S., and reassembly by conservators at the museum.	Booklist Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine	Gloria Whelan	Historical Fiction	Prince Albert comes up with a royally creative solution to Queen Victoria's modesty concerns in this true story that reveals an overlooked splash of history. Poor Queen Victoria! She loves to swim, but can't quite figure out how to get to the water without her devoted subjects glimpsing her swimming suit. (Because, of course, such a sight would compromise her regal dignity.) Fortunately for the water-loving monarch, it's Prince Albert to the rescue with an invention fit for a queen!	"Booklist Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews"

Unit 6: Tales to Live By

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India	Gerald McDermot	Folklore	The island in the middle of the river has yummy mangoes which Monkey would love to eat, but he doesn't know how to swim. The hungry Crocodile offering a free ride on his back is hungry as well. Will Monkey get to eat the sweet fruit on the island without being eaten himself?	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Seed by Seed:	Esme Rajo Codell	Informational Nonfiction	Johnny Appleseed traveled across the young United States in the early 19th century planting trees and teaching anyone he met valuable life lessons. Johnny believed in using what you have, sharing, respecting nature, and making peace in places there is war.	Star Reviews
The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse	Helen Ward	Fable	Rediscover the tale of the simple country mouse, magically retold by Helen Ward. Beguiled by his cousin's amazing tales, the country mouse visits the electric city. Unfortunately the town mouse forgot to mention that the city has a lot of noise, tall buildings . . . and dangerous dogs! Helen Ward's 1930s New York at Christmas is at once gorgeous and frighteningly busy. In the end the reader understands both why the town mouse loves his exciting life and why the country mouse is content with his peaceful home.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Starred reviews
Elves and the Shoemaker	James LaMarche	Fairytale	Here is the classic tale of elfin magic, loved by generations of children and made new by an artist of international acclaim.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Teachers' Choices
Mouse and Lion	Rand Burkert	Fable	In a ridge above the Kalihari, Lion naps, until Mouse bumbles into him willy-nilly, startling him awake. After a show of teeth, Lion is softened by Mouse's pledge of loyalty, and sets him free. When a cold moon brings a humbling lesson, Lion comes to recognize Mouse's keen skill and deeper kindness.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Starred Reviews
Fox Tails: Four Fables from Aesop	Amy Lowry	Fable	A fox has a very unusual day when four of Aesop's classic fables are woven together into a single story. The four fables used are "The Fox and the Grapes", "The Fox and the Crow", "The Fox and the Goat", and The Fox and the Goat."	Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
The Invisible Boy	Trudy Ludwig	Realistic Fiction	Invisible boy Brian finally stands out after befriending Justin, the new boy, and teaming together for a class project. Accustomed to drawing fantastical pictures when no one else knows he exists, Brian is about to become anything but invisible	Starred Reviews
Family Tree	David McPhail	Realistic Fiction	When a man clears the woods to build a home in the 1800s, he leaves one tree standing. That tree stands throughout the generations. When a highway plan comes along, it's up to a little boy and his animal friends to save the tree they love.	Starred Reviews Green Earth Book Award Winners

Unit 7: Investigating the Past

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution	Don Brown	Informational Nonfiction	As the American Revolution was getting underway, George Washington knew he needed cannons to defeat the British. Unfortunately, he was camped outside British-held Boston, and the nearest big guns were 300 miles away at Fort Ticonderoga, New York. They were thought to be impossible to retrieve, until Henry Knox agreed to try. Brown employs a light touch in telling this exciting true story. Moving 120,000 pounds of artillery in winter involved dragging the pieces, sailing, sledding, and even retrieving them from freezing water when the ice broke under their weight. Readers will be fascinated by the various methods employed to keep the cannons moving, including poles, ropes, and chains to help the sleds scale steep heights.	Booklist Starred Reviews Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Barnum's Bones	Tracy E. Fern	Biography	The story of the discoverer of the first fully intact fossil of a Tyrannosaurus Rex.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Best Books
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirstwaist Maker's Strike of 1909	Michelle Markel	Informational Nonfiction	In the winter of 1909, a brave girl named Clara Lemlich, only five feet tall, picketed for workers' rights. She arrived in America along with hundreds of other immigrants from eastern Europe, hardly speaking any English. But instead of her father being hired, it's Clara the factories want, and off she goes to make women's clothing in a garment factory from dawn till dusk. The conditions are appalling: "If you prick your finger and bleed on the cloth, you're fined. If it happens a second time, you're fired," and more. While the men at the factory don't think girls are strong enough to strike, Clara proves them wrong, eventually leading the "largest walkout of women workers in U.S. history."	Kirkus Books of Special Note Orbis Pictus Award Winners Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
These Hands	Margaret H. Mason,	Informational Nonfiction	An African American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory. Based on stories of bakery union workers; includes historical note.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6 Starred Reviews
Cesar Chavez: A Struggle for Justice	Richar Griswold Del Castill	Biography	A simple biography of the man who worked to win fairer treatment of the migrant farm workers in California in the 1960s and to establish the United Farm Workers union	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Starred Reviews Carter G. Woodson Multicultural Award Winners
Pocahontas: Princess of the New World	Kathleen Krull	Biography	She was the favored daughter of the Chief of the Powhatan Indians, and a girl in motion; always laughing, teasing, and dancing. But from the moment John Smith and the colonists of Jamestown set foot into her world in 1607, her life would change forever. She soon became an ambassador and peace keeper between the Powhatan and the colonists. Because of her curiosity and courage, Pocahontas became the bridge between the two worlds.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Starred reviews
Mammoths on the Move	Lisa Wheeler	Informational Nonfiction	Join a pack of woolly mammoths as they trek south for the winter, braving fierce storms, deadly predators, and raging rivers while making their slow journey across the unspoiled lands of the North American continent.	Children's Notable Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Science Books & Films Editor's Choice

Unit 8: Wind and Water Change Earth

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
All The Water In The World	George Ella Lyon	Informational Nonfiction	A rhythmic look at where water comes from and protecting the resource.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Science Books & Films Editor's Choice Teachers' Choices
Big Green Book of the Big Blue Sea	Helaine Becker	Informational Fiction	Becker explains just how the ocean works and why it is in dire need of our protection. Scientific concepts are simply explained by conducting experiments that use everyday materials. Find the answers to the questions of why the ocean is salty and the reason fish don't get waterlogged even though they spend all of their time underwater. Young scientists will also learn how the latest environmental problems are being solved.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
All the Water In the World	George Ella Lyon	Informational Fiction	All life on Earth depends on water for survival. But where does it come from? Where does it go when we're done using it? Our water supply is limited and must be protected. Lyon gives tips on how kids can help preserve this extremely important resource.	Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice Teachers' Choices
What Makes an Ocean Wave?: Questions and Answers About Oceans and Ocean Life	Gilda Berger and Melvin Berger	Nonfiction	This book offers answers to questions of varying complexity about the ocean.	
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba	Nonfiction	After a drought strikes William Kamkwamba's village, the adolescent goes to the library and learns that using the energy of the wind could help his community.	NCSS 2013
The Magic School Bus Wet All Over: A Book About the Water Cycle	Pat Relf, Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen	Fiction	Ms. Frizzle's class boards the Magic School Bus and experiences each stage of the water cycle first hand.	
About Habitats: Oceans	Cathryn Sill	Nonfiction	This informative text familiarizes children with facts about the ocean and ocean life.	NSTA 2013
Our World of Water: Children and Water Around the World	Beatrice Hollyer	Nonfiction	This book examines the lives of children around the world and explores their different takes on water and its use in their communities.	NSTA 2010

Unit 9: Buyers and Sellers

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Cesar Chavez: A Struggle for Justice	Richar Griswold Del Castill	Biography	A simple biography of the man who worked to win fairer treatment of the migrant farm workers in California in the 1960s and to establish the United Farm Workers union.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Starred Reviews Carter G. Woodson Multicultural Award Winners
Who's Buying, Who's Selling: Understanding Consumers and Producers	Jennifer S. Larson	Informational Nonfiction	Introduces the basics of buying and selling and their importance to the economy.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated
How Pizza Came to Queens	Dayal Kaur Khalsa	Fiction	After moving to a new country, Mrs. Pelligrino finds herself craving pizza. This book details the steps of making a pizza from the economic perspective of understanding needs and wants.	
Ox-Cart Man	Donald Hall	Fiction	Readers will learn the four steps of production as the Ox-Cart Man packs his cart full of goods to sell at the market.	1980 Caldecott Medal Book
Strega Nona Meets Her Match	Tomie dePaola	Fiction	Strega Nona makes a living by selling potions and magical cures to the villagers in her town, but a newcomer challenges her by starting a competing business based on modern technology.	
Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday	Judith Viorst	Fiction/Comedy and Humor Series	Alexander wants to save a dollar he receives in order to buy a walkie-talkie, but his frivolous spending choices leave him empty-handed.	
The Big Buck Adventure	Shelley Gill	Fiction	Exploring a deli, candy shop, toy store, and pet department, a young girl investigates what she could buy with a dollar at each store.	

Unit 10: States of Matter

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
All About Matter	Mary C. Schuh	Informational Nonfiction	Simple text and full-color photographs provide a brief introduction to matter and its properties.	
Gases	Cindy Rodriguez	Informational Nonfiction	Using simple text and illustrations, describes the properties of gases.	
Liquids	Cindy Rodriguez	Informational Nonfiction	Using simple text and illustrations, describes the properties of liquids.	
What is a Liquid?	Jennifer Boothroyd	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the relevant state of matter, along with basic vocabulary. The layout is bright with many color photographs featuring children of different ethnicities. The text is spare; each spread includes, on average, three sentences. The book concludes with a simple explanation and graphic of the oxygen cycle. Liquid states that this form of matter also takes the shape of its vessel and can be changed into other states.	
What is a Gas?	Jennifer Boothroyd	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the relevant state of matter, along with basic vocabulary. The layout is bright with many color photographs featuring children of different ethnicities. The text is spare; each spread includes, on average, three sentences. In <i>Gas</i> , the fact that gases take the form of their container is accompanied by photographs of a balloon slowly filling. The book concludes with a simple explanation and graphic of the oxygen cycle.	
What is a Solid?	Jennifer Boothroyd	Informational Nonfiction	Each of these introductions explains the relevant state of matter, along with basic vocabulary. The layout is bright with many color photographs featuring children of different ethnicities. The text is spare; each spread includes, on average, three sentences. In <i>Solid</i> , the text concludes with a simple experiment using a tea bag, drink mix, and glass of water to show how solids can dissolve in a liquid.	
Is it Transparent or Opaque?	Susan Hughes	Informational Nonfiction	Why can we see through some materials and not others? This informative title helps young readers discover the answer to this question and more. Readers explore the differences between transparent and opaque materials, including examples of their uses in everyday life.	
Things That Float and Things that Don't	David A. Adler	Informational Nonfiction	How density is relative to the size of the object shows the dog looking over a kitchen sink full of water as a piece of aluminum foil floats as a loose ball and sinks as a tight one. This title supports the Common Core State Standards that focus on measurement skills, interpretation of data, and incorporation of key ideas and details in the text.	Booklist Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 3
1	Government and Citizenship	Government for the People Why do people participate in government?
2	Character	Ways Characters Shape Stories How do our actions influence our lives?
3	Life Science	Animal Adaptations How do living things adapt to change?
4	Point of View	Comparing Points of View What makes people view the same experience in different ways?
5	Technology and Society	Advancements in Technology What is the value of innovation?
6	Theme	Making Decisions What helps us solve problems?
7	History and Culture	Communities Then and Now What is a community?
8	Earth Science	Weather and Climate How can we predict the unknown?
9	Economics	Spending Time and Money What do our economic choices tell us about ourselves?
10	Physical Science	Forces and Interactions How does understanding science help us achieve our goals?

Unit 1: Government for the People

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Worst of Friends: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and the True Story of an American Feud	Suzanne Tripp Jurmain	Informational Nonfiction	A lighthearted account of how the longtime friendship and feuding between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams helped shape American democracy.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements School Library Journal Best Books Starred Reviews
So You Want to Be President?	Judith St. George and David Small	Informational Nonfiction	A brief but informative collection of facts about many of our presidents, providing details about their achievements and revealing their personal quirks.	Caldecott Medal
What Are the Amendments?	Nancy Harris	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, discusses the history of its amendments, and describes the different freedoms these amendments protect.	
The Bill of Rights	Christine Taylor-Butler	Informational Nonfiction	Recounts the origins of individual rights in the colonies and the effort to add explicitly stated rights to the Constitution, and discusses how these rights were extended to all American citizens.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed.
The Bill of Rights in Translation	Amie Jane Leavitt	Informational Nonfiction	Provides a line-by-line translation of the Bill of Rights that supports students' understanding and appreciation of the text.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
The Bill of Rights: Protecting Our Freedom Then and Now	Syl Sobel, J.D.	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the content of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, how these amendments came into being, and how the freedoms they protect apply to the daily lives of citizens.	
How the U.S. Government Works . . . and How It All Comes Together to Make a Nation	Syl Sobel, J.D.	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the three branches of the federal government—legislative, executive, and judicial—and how they interact.	

Unit 2: Ways Characters Shape Stories

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art	Barb Rosenstock and Mary Grandpré	Informational Biography	The life of a young Russian boy named Vasily is forever changed when his aunt gives him a paint box. As Vasya (as Vasily is known) mixes one color with another, he realizes that he can actually hear the colors making sounds. Rosenstock describes the mixing of Vasya's senses--or synesthesia, as it is now known--through the shapes he paints.	Starred Reviews 2015 Caldecott Medal Honor Book ALA Notable Books for Children, 2015
Georgia in Hawaii: When Georgia O'Keefe Painted What She Pleas	Amy Novecky	Informational Biography	Tells the story of O'Keefe's 1939 visit to Hawaii, where she was sent to create a promotional piece for the Hawaiian Pineapple Company. Lush language and imagery.	Boston Globe Honor Book
Miss Rumphius	Barbara Cooney	Realistic Fiction	Inspired by a true story, this classic tale demonstrates how one character can fulfill her dreams while making the world a more beautiful place.	National Book Awards American Book Award Caldecott Medal
Colorful Dreamer: The Story of Artist Henri Matisse	Marjorie Blain Parker	Biography	Aided by vivid illustrations, this story focuses on how a frustrated dreamer learned to express himself with paint and canvas.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Starred Reviews Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
Charlotte's Web	E. B. White	Realistic Fiction/Animal Fantasy	The charming tale of the special friendship that forms between a plucky pig and a compassionate spider, <i>Charlotte's Web</i> is one of the most popular children's stories of all time.	John Newberry Medal Honor books
14 Cows for America	Carmen Agra Deedy	Informational Nonfiction	Nine months after the September 11 attacks, an American diplomat attends a ceremony in a far-flung village in western Kenya to accept a special gift from the Maasai people. For a heartsick nation, the gift of fourteen cows emerges from the choking dust and darkness as a soft light of hope and friendship.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	Folktales	Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly, on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.	John Newberry Medal Honor Books, Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts, Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies, Starred Reviews, Teachers' Choices
Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky	Faith Ringgold	Historical Fiction/Fantasy	With Harriet Tubman as her guide, Cassie retraces the steps escaping slaves took on the Underground Railroad in order to reunite with her younger brother.	

Unit 3: Animal Adaptations

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Survival at 120 Above	Debbie S. Miller	Informational Nonfiction	The desert may be barren and extremely hot, but it is still full of life. Animals such as the red kangaroo and sand goanna who call the deserts of Australia home have ways to survive in this unforgiving landscape. Miller takes the reader on a trip to the Simpson Desert National Park where a seven-year drought is about to end	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4, Library Media Connection Starred Reviews, Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Teachers' Choices
Seeds, Bees, Butterflies and More!: Poems for Two Voices	Carole Gerber	Informational Poetry	Eighteen two-voiced poems that explore relationships in nature and the complexity of the world's ecological systems. These fanciful rhymes explore subjects such as pollination, the purpose of roots, and how bees collect nectar.	
Time to Sleep	Steve Jenkins and Robin Page	Informational Nonfiction	Explores the various (and sometimes amazing) ways that different animals get their rest: lying down, standing up, hanging upside-down, floating in water - even flying!	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
On the Move: Mass Migrations	Scotti Cohn	Informational Nonfiction	Uses captivating, straightforward language to explain the different factors that influence animal migration, such as habitat and eating, hibernating, and breeding.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Monarch Butterfly Migration	Rebecca Hirsch	Informational Nonfiction	Describes the physical characteristics, habitats, and life cycle of the monarch butterfly, and illustrates the threats it faces from pollution, climate change, and habitat loss.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews
Desert Elephants	Helen Cowcher	Informational Nonfiction	Migration of desert elephants in Mali Africa.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration	Nick Dowson	Informational Nonfiction	Take a look at the wildlife that make great migrations to and from the Arctic.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Island: The Story of the Galapagos	Jason Chin	Informational Nonfiction	Nearly 200 years ago, Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands and found a variety of plants and animals that could not be found anywhere else on the planet. Learn how these fantastic islands were formed by volcanoes and how their unique wildlife came to live on them.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, Starred Reviews
Bugs and Bugcicles: Insects in the Winter	Amy S. Hansen	Informational Nonfiction	Dragonflies die, leaving their young buried safely at the bottom of the stream. Monarch butterflies fly all the way to Mexico. And the woolly bear caterpillar freezes solid, then thaws out to live another day. Discover the awe-inspiring tricks that insects use to outwit the killing frost.	Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	In an engaging interactive format, this book explores the various ways animals utilize their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails.	Starred Reviews Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Starred Reviews
Just the Right Size: Why Big Animals are Big and Little Animals are Little	Nicola Davies	Informational Nonfiction	Explains why different size adaptations are ideal for some animals, but not for others.	BCCB Starred Reviews Horn Book Fanfare
Where Else in the Wild	David M. Schwartz and Yael Schy	Informational Nonfiction	Explores the numerous forms of camouflage animals employ, and the ways both predators and prey use them.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice Teachers' Choices Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4

Unit 4: Comparing Points of View

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
I Have a Dream	Martin Luther King Jr	Informational Nonfiction	Words from this 1963 famous speech given in front of the Lincoln Memorial are paired with colorful illustrations that helps commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech.	Coretta Scott King Award Honorees, Starred Reviews
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	Jon Scieszka	Fractured Fairy Tales	A humorous retelling of the story of the Three Little Pigs, told from the point of view of the wolf.	
Chloe and the Lion	Mac Barnett	Humorous Fiction	With references to traditional tales, Chloe bumps into a lion on the way home and the author and illustrator of the book quarrel over the way the story should play out.	Starred Reviews
One Cool Friend	Toni Buzzeo	Realistic Fiction	While visiting the aquarium, Eliot discovers that a penguin would make the perfect pet for a proper boy like himself. He is surprised when his father tells him it is okay for him to have one. How will Eliot's father react when he finds a real penguin in the house and not a stuffed toy?	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Starred Reviews Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees
Columbus	Demi	Biography	A balanced and richly illustrated portrait of Columbus, weighing his achievements as a great navigator and explorer against his promotion of slavery and his mismanagement of the colonies under his control.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4, Starred Reviews
The Art of Miss Chew	Patricia Polacco	Realistic Fiction	Though a bright student, Patricia struggles in school, until she comes under the influence of Miss Chew, the head of her high-school's art department, who nurtures Patricia's talent. When a substitute teacher threatens to stifle Patricia's creativity, Miss Chew comes to the rescue.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
Anatole	Eve Titus	Animal Fantasy	Anatole the French mouse is shocked when he finds out humans are upset by his sampling of cheese. Determined to earn his living, he begins to leave cheese review notes on orange peels next to cheeses he's sampled at a cheese maker's factory and soon the cheesemaker has the best cheese in town, but how will he find Anatole to thank him?	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees
Tales for Very Picky Eaters	Josh Schneider	Realistic Fiction	Being the dad of a picky eater isn't easy. James' dad has to think of extremely creative ways in order to make James eat things he doesn't think he likes. Eventually, James finds out by himself that some of these foods are actually pretty good.	Children's Notable Books, Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winners
Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table	Jacqueline Briggs Martin	Informational Nonfiction	Tells the inspiring story of Will Allen, who became one of the pioneers of the urban farming movement when he reclaimed a Milwaukee city lot with empty greenhouses.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews

Unit 5: Advancements in Technology

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Making Contact!: Marconi Goes Wireless	Monica Kulling	Informational Biography	Describes how Guglielmo Marconi's childhood fascination with radio waves drove him to invent the wireless telegraph, which he used to make the first transcontinental wireless transmission in 1901.	Journal reviewed
All Aboard!: Elijah McCoy's Steam Engine	Monica Kulling	Informational Biography	Relates the story of Elijah McCoy, the son of parents who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. Returning to the United States as an adult, McCoy overcame the discrimination of his time to become a successful and prolific inventor and railroad innovator.	Journal reviewed Best Books for K-6, Core Collection List
It's A Snap!: George Eastman's First Photograph	Monica Kulling	Informational Biography	Explains how George Eastman brought photography to the masses with his invention of the Kodak camera in 1888.	Journal reviewed Best Books for K-6, Core Collection List
50 Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington	Jabari Asim	Biography	Growing up, Booker T. Washington endured struggles as he lived through slavery and pursued his dream with nothing but fifty cents in his pocket when he headed for the Hampton Institute and a college degree. Learn how he became a leader for the African American community and made his dream a reality.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Best Books SLJ Best Books
So You Want to Be an Inventor	Judith St. George	Informational Nonfiction	This spirited and witty look at the history of inventors features people such as Thomas Edison, Eli Whitney, Alexander Graham Bell, and more. From well-known inventions such as the radio to lesser-known inventions such as the vacuum haircutting helmet, this book spans the fascinating world of turning ideas into reality.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements, Teachers' Choices
I, Galileo	Bonnie Christensen	Biography	Told from the perspective of the famous scientist and inventor, this book outlines the Aristotelian and Ptolemaic views of the universe, and describes how Galileo's discoveries challenged and overturned these beliefs.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth	Kathleen Krull	Biography	This picture-book biography of Philo Farnsworth covers his childhood interest in electricity, and how it led him invent one of the most important communication tools of the 20th century.	Star Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Up, Up in a Balloon	Lawrence F. Lowery	Informational Nonfiction	While explaining scientific processes and principles of flight, <i>Up, Up in a Balloon</i> tells the story of the Montgolfier brothers, who ushered in the age of flight when they launched the first hot air balloons more than 200 years ago.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Unit 6: Making Decisions

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Underground: Finding the Light Freedom	Shane Evans	Informational Nonfiction	A runaway slave family tells their story of running North via the Underground Railroad.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners, Starred Reviews
Lester's Dreadful Sweaters	KG Campbell	Fiction	Rich vocabulary and sentence structure drive this silly story of what happens when a cousin knits dreadful sweaters that you really don't want to wear.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Starred Reviews
Chair for My Mother	Vera Williams	Realistic Fiction	A young girl describes her life with Mama, a waitress, and Grandma, who seems always to stay at home. A fire destroys their home and their belongings, but friends, neighbors and relatives come to their aid and contribute the essentials to set up a new home. Unfortunately there is no comfortable chair, only three useful but hard, straight kitchen chairs. Will they be able to save enough money to buy Grandma a comfortable chair?	Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Winners Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees
The Man Who Walked Between Towers	Mordcai Gernstein	Biography	Tells the breathtaking story Philippe Petit, who stunned New Yorkers with a daring high-wire walk between the recently-completed World Trade Center towers in 1974.	Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Winners
A Little Peace	Barbara Keerly	Informational Nonfiction	Global tapestry of how people of the world make and celebrate peace. National Geographic photos.	Randolph Caldecott Medal Winners
Lincoln Tells a Joke: How Laughter Saved the President	Kathleen Krull	Informational Nonfiction	At a time when his country was torn in two by civil war and he was not well liked as a president, Lincoln still found plenty of things to laugh about. This book celebrates this great figure's unique sense of humor.	Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Puffling Patrol	Ted Lewin	Informational Nonfiction	The story of the annual return of the puffling bird for hatching and the recovery efforts a group of children called "The Puffling Patrol" who search for confused hatchlings who don't make it out to sea safely.	Green Earth Book Award Honors Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
Sparrow Jack	Mordecai Gerstein	Fiction based on true story	Based on a true story, this book describes how John Bardsley, an English immigrant, saved his adopted home of Philadelphia from a troublesome inchworm infestation with the help of one thousand sparrows from his home country.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story	S.D. Nelson	Informational Nonfiction	Based on the work of ethnographer Gilbert L. Wilson, this book provides a vivid portrait of Native American life on the Great Plains during the early 19th century.	Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Liberty's Voice: The Story of Emma Lazarus	Erica Silverman	Biography	Emma Lazarus was one of the leading poets of the 19th century and used her fame to help the impoverished immigrants of Eastern Europe. When the Statue of Liberty came from France, Emma was inspired to write the poem 'The New Colossus,' which is now engraved on a plaque on the statue's base.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Bug Shots: The Good, The Bad, and the Bugly	Alexandra Siy	Informational Nonfiction	The author offers a fresh perspective on insects that are commonly mistrusted and misunderstood.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Fate of Achilles	Bimba Landmann	Mythology	Ignoring his divine mother's warnings that doing so will cost him his life, Achilles agrees to help the Greeks in their great war against the Trojans. Achilles's courage and honor are put to the test as he fights alongside the troops of King Agamemnon.	Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4

Unit 7: Communities Then and Now

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Goin' Someplace Special	Patricia C. McKissack	Historical Fiction	A young black girl is excited to go to a special place in the 1950's South, but is disheartened when she steps on the bus and has to sit in the back. An honest sympathetic look at Jim Crow Laws.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Starred Reviews
Freedom Summer	Deborah Wiles	Historical Fiction	When a new law banning segregation is passed in 1964, Joe and his best friend John Henry look forward to finally being able to swim together at the town pool. The pair soon learns, however, that changing laws does not automatically change people's attitudes.	Ezra Jack Keats Book Award Winners Library Talk Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
I Will Come Back for You: A Family in Hiding in WWII	Marisabina Russo	Historical Fiction	A little girl learns what it was like to grow up Jewish in Italy during WWII from her grandmother. She listens to the story of how her grandmother was separated from her father and had to go into hiding in the mountains to stay safe from those who wanted to harm Jews.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909	Michelle Markel	Informational Nonfiction	Tells the inspiring story of Clara Lemlich, a young Ukrainian immigrant who came to the U.S. on 1903 and went on to lead one of the largest and most successful labor strikes in American history. Also includes supporting information about social activism, early twentieth-century immigration, and the garment industry.	Booklist Starred Reviews Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Aztecs: Life in Tenochtitlan	Matt Doeden	Informational Nonfiction	This book explores the milieu of these culturally rich Aztec civilizations in six chapters that stylishly cover daily life, religion, government, ideas and inventions, and important people.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
Which Side are You On?: The Story of a Song	George Ella Leon	Informational Nonfiction	Sam Reece was a coal miner in 1931 living in Kentucky where the conditions were harsh. Safety was not a concern of the owners and the workers were paid a meager wage. Sam decided to unionize the workers and became a target. He ran off to hide when he was told some thugs were going to try and kill him. Sam's wife wrote a song that would inspire the unionized miners while bullets were being fired at and through her home	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
Baseball Saved Us	Ken Mochizuki	Historical Fiction	In order to lift the spirits of Japanese Americans confined to an internment camp during World War II, Shorty and his father build a baseball field and form a league. In the process, Shorty learns an important lesson about self-respect and community.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
Dear Miss Breed	Joanne Oppenheim	Informational Nonfiction	Before war broke out between the United States and Japan in 1941, children's librarian Clara Breed was a friend to dozens of Japanese-American children in the San Diego area. When these children were shipped to internment camps by the American government, she encouraged them all to write to her. This collection of primary source letters reveals the special bond that developed between Miss Breed and the children.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews

Unit 8: Weather and Climate

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
A Warmer World	Caroline Arnold	Informational Science	Species by species, this book discusses the effects of global climate change on wildlife around the world.	Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year Junior Library Guild selection for 2012 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Editors' Choice, Library Media Connection California Readers California Collection, Elementary and Middle School
On the Same Day in March: A Tour of the World's Weather	Marilyn Singer	Informational Fiction	Introduces the connection between longitude and weather by revealing the forecast in different countries around the world on the same day in March.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Booklist Top 10 Science Books for Children
Lightning	Seymour Simon	Informational Science	Learn more about lightning—nature's magnificent light show—in this comprehensive book about how lightning forms, its causes and effects, and how to stay safe when caught in a lightning storm.	
W is for Wind: A Weather Alphabet	Pat Michaels	Informational Science	Understanding the science behind Earth's weather is as easy as learning the alphabet with this A, B, C book of weather.	Elementary California Collection Listing Learning Magazine Teachers' Choice Award Science Books & Films Best Books for Children list, Earth Science category
What Makes a Tornado Twist? And Other Questions about Weather	Mary Kay Carson	Informational Science	This book sets out to turn curiosity into knowledge by providing answers to questions about all of the different types of Earth's wild weather.	
Close to the Wind: The Beaufort Scale	Peter Malone	Informational Fiction	The incredible story of the Royal Navy captain who developed the Beaufort scale for measuring wind force at sea. This book follows Captain Francis Beaufort from 1805 to 1810 as he sails the ocean far and wide, carefully observing the wind's effects on his ship, the sea, and the land.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Discovering El Niño: How Fable and Fact Together Help Explain the Weather	Mary Kay Carson	Informational Science	Beginning with fisherman folklore and working up to scientific evidence, this exploration of the theories that attempt to explain El Niño—the wind current that originates along the coastal waters of Peru—captures both the imagination in and fact behind this weather phenomena.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Professor Fergus Fahrenheit and His Wonderful Weather Machine	Candace Groth-Fleming	Informational Fiction	When a drought afflicts the town of Dry Gulch, the citizens wait desperately for a storm to blow in. What the people of Dry Gulch get instead is Professor Fergus Fahrenheit, a mad scientist of sorts who uses his weather machine to produce rain.	

Unit 9: Spending Time and Money

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
What Can You Do With Money?: Earning, Spending, and Saving	Jennifer S Larson	Informational Nonfiction	Uses age-appropriate, real-world examples to explain economic concepts. Includes a glossary and suggestions for further reading.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, Supplement to the 9th ed. Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Ella Earns Her Own Money	Lisa Bullard	Realistic Fiction	Through the story of Ella, who really wants a new soccer ball, this book provides real-world instruction about earning, saving, and making economic choices.	
Lawn Boy	Gary Paulsen	Realistic Fiction	The author teaches complicated economic principles as he narrates the story of a boy starting a business. With the help of his stockbroker neighbor, the boy expands his business and investments by sponsoring a fighter.	
The Little Red Hen: an Old Story	Margot Zemach	Folktales	The Little Red Hen finds some grain. She then proceeds to ask her friends for help planting it, harvesting it, and then making bread out of it. None of her friends will help her do any of the work. In the end all of her friends want to reap the benefits of her work and want to eat the bread. In the end the Little Red Hen who did all of the work is the only person who benefits and gets to eat the bread.	
The Donut Chef	Bob Staake	Fiction	A baker opens a small donut shop in a busy street. Not long after there is a long line of people waiting for his donuts. When another donut shop opens across the street the competition begins. Who has the BEST donuts in town? After lowering the prices and creating crazy complex donuts, two-year-old Debbie Sue has something to say. Sometimes simple is better!	
A New Coat for Anna	Harriet Ziefert	Historical Fiction	In post-World War II Europe, a mother trades the few valuables she has left for the supplies she needs to weave a new winter coat for her daughter. Introduces children to the concepts of scarcity and sacrifice, and to the consequences of warfare.	

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 4
1	Government and Citizenship	Government in Action How can government influence the way we live?
2	Character	Characters' Actions and Reactions How do we reveal ourselves to others?
3	Life Science	Observing Nature How do we respond to nature?
4	Point of View	Understanding Different Points of View What do we learn when we look at the world through the eyes of others?
5	Technology and Society	Technology for a Green Future How do we make decisions about developing new technology?
6	Theme	Confronting Challenges How do we overcome obstacles?
7	History and Culture	Developing a Nation How do communities evolve?
8	Earth Science	Earth Changes How do Earth's natural processes impact our lives?
9	Economics	Resources and Their Impact How does access to resources influence people's lives?
10	Physical Science	The Power of Electricity Where do scientific discoveries lead us?

Unit 10: Forces and Interactions

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer	Informational Nonfiction	A picture book edition of the bestseller. Tells the extraordinary true story of William Kamkwamba, the Malawi teenager who brought wind power to his drought-stricken village.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Cooperative Children's Book Center's 2013 Best-of-the-year list NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, Environment/Energy/Ecology
The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Science	Dive into the world of the engineers and scientists that are attempting to harness the force of our oceans, one of nature's most powerful energy sources. These innovators are paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future in which cities and countries are powered by wave energy.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Review Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2014, Middle-Grade Books
The Fantastic Ferris Wheel: The Story of Inventor George Ferris	Betsy Harvey Kraft	Informational Nonfiction	At the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, the engineer George Ferris debuted his observation wheel or as we know it today, the Ferris Wheel. This book looks back at how Ferris' invention came to be and explains the many challenges Ferris faced as he planned and constructed his observation wheel.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Review Kirkus Reviews Starred Review
Newton and Me	Lynne Mayer	Informational Science	Told in rhyme, this book follows a boy and his dog, Newton as they discover how the laws of force and motion apply to their everyday activities.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Motion: Push and Pull, Fast and Slow	Darlene R. Stille	Informational Science	An examination of how the principles of motion—inertia, gravity, and friction—are at work in everyday activities, such as throwing a baseball or kicking a soccer ball.	
Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering	Martin W. Sandler	Informational Nonfiction	The fascinating story of the engineer who designed and funded New York City's first subway.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 A Junior Library Guild selection
Car Science	Richard Hammond	Informational Science	What do Sir Isaac Newton's three laws of motion have to do with cars? This book sets out to provide an answer by investigating the science behind how cars go.	NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
An Invisible Force: The Quest to Define the Laws of Motion	Glen Phelan	Informational Science	Traces the history and science behind humanity's quest to understand the forces that govern nature, and looks ahead to future developments.	

Unit 1: Government in Action

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Bill of Rights in Translation	Amie Jane Leavitt	Informational Nonfiction	This book series uses appealing graphics and nearly line-by-line translations to make key historical documents more accessible for students.	
I, Too, Am America	Langston Hughes	Poetry	This picture book merges the classic poetry of Langston Hughes with the inspiring illustrations of Bryan Collier.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners
Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books	Karen Leggett Abouraya	Informational Nonfiction	In January 2011, thousands of students, demonstrators, and library workers formed a human chain around Egypt's Library of Alexandria to protect the library and stand up for the freedom it represented.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Books of Special Note
Rosa's Bus: The Ride to Civil Rights	Jo S. Kittinger	Informational Nonfiction	Follow the historic bus #2857 from the assembly line to its enshrinement in the Henry Ford museum. This is the bus that Rosa Parks was riding when she bravely refused to give her seat to a white passenger.	Crystal Kite Award
Gandhi: A March to the Sea	Alice B. McGinty	Informational Nonfiction	This picture book tells of the 1930 Salt March in India, a peaceful protest of the British taxation of salt in that country. A crowd of 79 people, led by Gandhi, walked over 200 miles to gather salt for untaxed use and sale. Read how Gandhi, with the support of villagers along the way, kept the marchers going in the face of British resistance.	
The Price of Freedom: How One Town Stood Up to Slavery	Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin	Informational Nonfiction	Read about an Ohio community that bravely sought to protect escaped slave John Price. This book discusses Price's escape from Kentucky, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, and the dramatic confrontation.	Kirkus Books of Special Note

Unit 2: Characters' Actions and Reactions

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Whiskers, Tails & Wings: Animal Folk Tales from Mexico	Judy Goldman	Historical Folk Tales	This animated book contains five traditional tales, enriched with information about the indigenous groups who tell them. Each short tale is followed by a description of the traditional and contemporary cultures of the group.	Kirkus Books of Special Note
Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal	Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	Biography	Meet the brave and clever Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, an escaped former slave. In spite of his society's aversion to a black lawman, Reeves became known for his skill in capturing criminals.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners Kirkus Books of Special Note Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
March On!: The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World	Christine King Farris	Informational Nonfiction	One day in August of 1963, hundreds of thousands of people marched into Washington, D.C., seeking equality. Martin Luther King, Jr., the younger brother of the author, gave the "I Have a Dream" speech that day in one of the most important moments in the history of civil rights.	Teachers' Choice, 2009
Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty	Linda Glaser	Informational Nonfiction	This book recounts the life of the Jewish woman whose words are inscribed at the foot of the Statue of Liberty.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Jane Addams Children's Book Award, 2011 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins	Barbara Kerley	Informational Biography	Commissioned by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins was the first to build life-size dinosaur models.	Indie Choice Book Awards, Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Science
Turtle in Paradise	Jennifer L. Holm	Historical Fiction	When Turtle's mother gets a new job, Turtle has to move in with relatives in Key West. Turtle doesn't know how to take this sudden change in scenery, but it may bring her out of her shell.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
A Tale Dark and Grimm	Adam Gidwitz	Fairy Tales	Hansel and Gretel leave their own narrative and walk into eight other classic fairy tales. As the siblings find out the real story behind these tales, they learn to control their destinies and create their own happy ending.	School Library Journal Best Books Texas Lone Star Reading List, Cumulative VOYA's Top Shelf Fiction

Unit 3: Observing Nature

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Animals Upside Down	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	This picture book of cut-paper artwork investigates upside-down creature conduct, uncovering how an intermittent flip or plunge is a matter of survival for skunks, mallards, and other animals.	Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Can We Save the Tiger?	Martin Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	Martin Jenkins explores the experiences of endangered species such as the marsupial wolf and the great auk to show how our actions can either threaten or save the tigers sharing our world.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with Chimps	Jeanette Winter	Biography	Jeanette Winter recounts the work of Jane Goodall, a British scientist dedicated to studying and protecting chimpanzees.	Kirkus Starred Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard	Annette LeBlanc Cate	Informational Nonfiction	This beginner's bird-watching guide emphasizes the observation of avian creatures from home, explaining the many characteristics by which birds can be identified. Cate also provides instruction in sketching one's observations of species' traits.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Seeds, Bees, Butterflies and More!: Poems for Two Voices	Carol Gerber	Informational Poetry	Through eighteen two-voiced poems, Gerber explores the interrelationships that make up our world's ecosystems, covering such topics as pollination, bee activity, and root function.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Dinosaur Mountain: Digging Into the Jurassic Age	Deborah Kogan Ray	Informational Nonfiction	This book presents excerpts from the field notes of Earl Douglass, an accomplished dinosaur hunter of the early 20th century who uncovered 350 tons of fossils over sixteen years.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews
One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Life of Charles Darwin	Kathryn Lasky	Biography	Young Charles Darwin jumps at the opportunity to sail the southern hemisphere, studying and collecting plants and animals along the journey.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure	Clint Twist	Informational Nonfiction	Through maps, drawings, and excerpts from Darwin's own writings, this book explores the famous naturalist's visit to the Galapagos Islands.	School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
At This Very Moment	Jim Arnosky	Informational Nonfiction	Describing what animals around the world are doing at any given moment, this book presents a variety of creatures as they feed, play, and go about their daily lives.	Kirkus Reviews Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
An Island Scrapbook: Dawn to Dusk on a Barrier Island	Virginia Wright-Frierson	Informational Nonfiction	A first-person narrative, this book describes the observations of the author and her daughter as they explore a North Carolina barrier island. The narrative is enriched with illustrations and torn-out notebook pages.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
The Barefoot Book of Earth Tales	Dawn Casey & Anne Wilson	Folk tales	This anthology explores how cultures around the world live in harmony with nature.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Unit 4: Understanding Different Points of View

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Crossing Bok Chitto	Tim Tingle	Historical Fiction	A well-known Choctaw storyteller and Cherokee artist describe the interactions of southern Native Americans and enslaved African Americans.	American Indian Youth Literature Award Booklist Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books
The Boy Who Loved Math	Deborah Heiligman	Historical Biography	Learn about the work of mathematician Paul Erdos, who met and collaborated with other scholars all over the world.	Booklist Starred Reviews
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	Fiction/Fantasy	When Edward Tulane, a proud china rabbit, becomes lost, he embarks on an adventurous journey home. Through this story, we are shown how a broken heart can learn to love again.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Indies Choice Book Awards School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Inside Out and Back Again	Thahna Lai	Historical Fiction	When ten-year-old Ha, along with her family, is forced to leave her home city of Saigon after the Vietnam War, she ends up in Alabama, where she has to adjust to the dull cuisine and unusual surroundings.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Kirkus Best Books National Book Awards Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	Fiction	Ivan, a laid-back gorilla, lives in a glass mall exhibit, barely missing his home in the jungle. When, however, he meets the newly arrived baby elephant Ruby, he begins to see their home in a new way.	John Newbery Medal Winner
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell	Fiction	In the Pacific is a fish-shaped island around which blue dolphins swim. Indians once lived on the island, but when they sailed away for a new home, they left behind a young girl named Karana. This novel tells the story of her survival as she waits through the years for a ship to come and take her away.	John Newbery Medal Winner

Unit 5: Technology for a Green Future

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Boy Who Harnessed The Wind	William Kamkwamba	Biography	William Kamkwamba, only 14 years old, saves his Malawi village from drought by building a makeshift windmill.	Publishers Weekly Starred Review
Energy Island	Allan Drummond	Informational Nonfiction	An island in Denmark invents a new way to produce sustainable energy.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Booklist Starred Review
Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life	Jan Reynolds	Informational Nonfiction	Rice farming is more than simply farming to the people of Bali, Southeast Asia. It is embedded in their society, culture, and religion. These Balinese farmers use their knowledge of cycles of nature and water to generate a method of sustainable farming that has lasted them for at least a thousand years.	Kirkus Reviews
Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share	Molly Bang	Nonfiction	In one village, natural resources have become limited. How will each villager's wishes and needs be cooperatively met, and how will the villagers wisely handle what they have left?	School Library Journal Starred Review Kirkus Reviews
Saving Animals from Oil Spills (Rescuing Animals from Disasters)	Stephen Person	Narrative Nonfiction	In these true-life stories, scientists and volunteer rescuers save animals from disasters such as oil spills, floods, and earthquakes. The pictures present the heart-rendering plight of these creatures.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, 2013
Biomimicry: Inventions Inspired by Nature	Dora Lee	Nonfiction	Surprisingly, and yet not, we look to various animals and plants for technological inspiration—from small, simple inventions to solutions for impending global disasters. The text showcases actual field research conducted by leading scientists working at the cutting edge.	Norma Fleck Award
Green Boy	Susan Cooper	Fiction	On a fictitious Bahamian island, Trey, Lou, and their grandfather try to protect their home from developers spoiling the island. The brothers suddenly find themselves in Pangaia, an alternate reality, polluted and overdeveloped – what might become of their island. Back home, Lou is mute and known to act "strangely," but in Pangaia a group of militant environmentalists see him as their savior.	Publishers Weekly Starred Review Booklist Starred Review
The Down-to-Earth Guide To Global Warming	Laurie David	Nonfiction	Have questions about global warming? What is it exactly? How did it start? How does it affect the planet? What can we do help prevent it from getting worse? How can we repair what is already damaged? This guide offers straightforward answers these questions.	Kirkus Best Books of 2007 San Francisco Chronicle Best Books of 2007

Unit 6: Confronting Challenges

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Treasury of Greek Mythology	Donna Jo Napoli	Mythology	The book explores the myths of well-known Greek gods and goddesses, and shows how they are related to real-life people and events.	2012 Notable Children's Books - ALSC School Library Journal Best Books of 2011
Young Zeus	G. Brian Karas	Mythology	As soon as he was born, Zeus was in danger. His mother had to hide him away on the island of Crete. But with the help of nymphs, a goat, and several Olympian gods, Zeus eventually becomes ruler of the gods and master of thunder and lightning.	Children's Choices, 2011 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
Nation's Hope: The Story Behind Boxing Legend Joe Louis	Matt De La Peña	Biography	Just before the start of WWII, world boxing champion Joe Louis fought the only man who had defeated him, Nazi Germany's Max Schmeling. In their rematch in Yankee Stadium, Louis not only had African Americans cheering for him, but he also carried the hopes of all Americans to defeat the German.	Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People Publishers Weekly Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review
Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero	Marissa Moss	Biography	During the Civil War, nineteen-year-old Sarah Emma Edmonds wanted to help the U.S. fight against the Confederacy. She disguised herself as a man in order to be let into the army. She was such an excellent soldier and nurse that she was chosen to go behind enemy lines to spy.	Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, 2012 Publishers Weekly Starred Review Teachers' Choices List, 2012
Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories	Sandra Markle	Informational Nonfiction	From cats and dogs to gorillas and dolphins, trained and wild animals have saved many people from life-threatening situations. Author Sandra Markle describes how and why these animals rescue people.	Library Media Connection Starred Review Teachers' Choices List, 2009
Annie and Helen	Deborah Hopkinson	Biography	When Helen Keller was only an infant, a terrible illness left her both blind and deaf. Since she had no way to tell people how she felt or what she wanted, Helen felt angry and frustrated. A woman named Annie Sullivan came to live with Helen and slowly taught her how to communicate using her fingers to draw letters on her hand.	School Library Journal Starred Review
The Dreamer	Pam Muñoz Ryan	Historical Fiction	Ricardo Eliecer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto, a very shy boy, likes to read and write and daydream. His authoritative father disapproves and mocks him. But in his late teens, he eventually becomes one of the most well-known poets in the world, under the pseudonym Pablo Neruda.	Americas Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature Children's Choices, 2011 Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People Publishers Weekly Starred Review Pura Belpré Awards School Library Journal Starred Review
American Tall Tales	Mary Pope Osborne	Folklore	This book contains a collection of American tall tales about folk heroes such as Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Maker's Strike of 1909	Michelle Markel	Informational Nonfiction	Clara Lemlich, an immigrant from Ukraine, is hired to work at a factory that manufactures women's clothing. Working more than ten hours a day, she deals with terrible working conditions, poor treatment from her employers, and little payment. Eventually, Clara leads the largest strike of women workers in American history.	Orbis Pictus Award Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books 2013, Nonfiction School Library Journal Starred Review
Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Saved Jews During the Holocaust	Karen Gray Ruelle	Informational Nonfiction	During the Nazi occupation of Paris, the Muslim community helped to rescue Jews, who took refuge in tunnels, rooms, and catacombs underneath the Grand Mosque of Paris. Read about how courage, faith, and devotion to justice saved the lives of many Jews of all ages.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Library Media Connection Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America	Sharon Robinson	Biography	Sharon Robinson writes a biography of her father, Jackie Robinson, one of the most famous American baseball players in history. Sharing her own memories of her father, letters, and family photographs, she describes how he broke racial barriers in baseball—and American sports in general—and his eventual work as a civil rights activist.	Booklist Starred Review Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Publishers Weekly Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review

Unit 7: Developing a Nation

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Seed by Seed: The Legend and Legacy of John "Appleseed" Chapman	Esme Raji Codell	Informational Nonfiction	This poetry book tells the story of John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, who traveled across the young United States in the early 19th century. Throughout his nomadic life, he planted trees and taught everyone he met valuable lessons.	Kirkus Reviews School Library Journal Starred Review
Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette	Selene Castrovilla	Informational Nonfiction	At the birth of a nation, two men form a lasting friendship. The Marquis of Lafayette visits America in support of George Washington and the Patriotic cause in this story of their friendship and Lafayette's impact on America.	Booklist Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review
Sacagawea	Lise Erdrich	Biography	Born into the Shoshone tribe, Sacagawea was kidnapped by a group of Hidatsa at age 11. At 15, she was forced into a marriage with a much older French Canadian fur trapper and gave birth a son. But her greatest adventure began when she joined Lewis and Clark's groundbreaking expedition as a guide and interpreter.	Carter G. Woodson Multicultural Award Winners International Reading Association Teacher's Choice and Children's Choice Awards
Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak	Kay Wiinters	Informational Nonfiction	This book examines the events that led to the Boston Tea Party and explains how this act of rebellion led to the outbreak of the War of Independence.	Booklist Starred Reviews Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People School Library Journal Starred Review Teachers' Choices
Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain	Russell Freedman	Informational Nonfiction	One million of them found a new place to call home. Letters, poems, and memoirs paint the portraits of the new Asian immigrants who came to America between 1892 and 1940. Readers will learn about the people who came to Angel Island and why, California's immigration screening process and immigration policy changes, and the island's reopening as a historical location.	Booklist Starred Reviews Kirkus Books Starred Review Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Locomotive	Brian Floca	Informational Nonfiction	One day in the summer of 1869, the transcontinental railroad embarks on its first trip. Follow the train as it travels from Omaha to Sacramento, and learn through sensory details what it was like for passengers to ride and workers to work on the rail line.	Caldecott Medal Winner Sibert Honor Book Hornbook Starred Review
The Camping Trip That Changed America	Mordicai Gerstein	Informational Nonfiction	President Theodore Roosevelt needed a vacation. Along with naturalist John Muir, Roosevelt ventured to California and camped in the uncharted woods of Yosemite. The sights and landscapes the men experienced led to Roosevelt founding National Parks to help preserve the beauty and splendor of places like Yosemite.	Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People School Library Journal Starred Review

Unit 8: Earth Changes

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Volcano Rising!	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Nonfiction	Read about eight active and inactive volcanoes around the world. While learning scientific terms, the different types of volcanoes, and how volcanoes work, discover the ways their eruptions alter and have altered the land around them.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students, 2013 CCBC Choice
Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Nonfiction	Volcanic eruptions are still unpredictable. Currently, a billion people around the world are in danger at any given moment. Join a small group of scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey known as the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program as they endeavor to learn more about volcanoes so that they will be able to predict future eruptions and avert any more calamities.	School Library Journal Starred Review Kirkus Starred Reviews
Inside Volcanoes	Melissa Stewart	Informational Nonfiction	What causes volcanoes to form, and how are they formed? How are they measured? What can scientists learn from them?	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Middle and Junior High Core Collection, 10th ed. and Supplements
You Are the Earth	David Suzuki, Kathy Vanderlinder	Informational Nonfiction	Seeking to teach conversation ethics to children, this book delves into the interconnectedness of the life on Earth and the planet's resources by discussing clean air, water, soil, the sun's energy, and plant and animal life.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews Booklist Starred Reviews
Gopher to the Rescue! A Volcano Recovery Story	Terry Catasús Jennings	Informational Nonfiction	In this book that demonstrates the interconnectedness of nature, one gopher survives a volcanic eruption and digs to save other animals.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, 2013
Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and Rediscovery of the Past	James M. Deem	Informational Nonfiction	Every so often, receding glaciers reveal mummified remains, including that of Iceman Ötzi, over five thousand years old, in the Alpine mountains; climber George Mallory, found on Mount Everest; and others across time and around the world. These remains can provide us insight into the cultures to which these people once belonged. Also explored in this book is the methodology of glaciology.	Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, 2009 School Library Journal Starred Review
Inside Earthquakes	Melissa Stewart	Informational Nonfiction	What are earthquakes? Why, how, and where on Earth do they occur? Learn more about earthquakes with features such as satellite photographs and firsthand accounts.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide to Children's Young Adult Books Middle and Junior High Core Collection, 10th ed. and Supplements

Unit 9: Resources and Their Impact

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Money Madness	David A. Adler	Informational Nonfiction	As an introduction to the concept of currency, this guide explains the purpose of money, when it was invented, and the different types of transactions we use in the present day.	Children’s Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles
Weslandia	Paul Fleischman	Fiction	Summer break has begun, and Wesley, after learning that civilizations have staple crops, plans to form his own civilization. To begin, he starts with a garden in his backyard, growing large, peculiar plants that provide him with food, drink, clothing, and shelter. Eventually, his neighbors and classmates begin to catch on...	School Library Journal Starred Review Publisher’s Weekly Starred Review
Uncle Jed’s Barbershop	Margaree King Mitchell	Historical Fiction	Sarah Jean’s uncle wants to own his very own barbershop. As he attempts to save enough money to open one, he faces repeated financial hardships—from the Great Depression bank failures to his niece’s emergency surgery. Eventually, though, through perseverance, Uncle Jed achieves his dream.	Coretta Scott King Award Kirkus Reviews
Tuttle’s Red Barn: The Story of America’s Oldest Family Farm	Richard Michelson	Historical Fiction	In 1632, John Tuttle left England to move to New England. He decided to settle in Dover, New Hampshire, the largest settlement in the state, consisting of only twenty cabins. His farm would operate for generations to come, as his family participated in and witnessed major historical events.	Kirkus Reviews
Chicken Sunday	Patricia Polacco	Realistic Fiction	When Patricia’s grandmother – her only family – passes away, she is taken into her neighbor’s family – a white Russian American among African Americans. After learning that her surrogate grandmother has been eyeing an Easter bonnet, Patricia and her new brothers set out to buy the bonnet as a present. The reader will learn lessons of tolerance throughout the book.	Booklist Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review
A New Coat for Anna	A New Coat for Anna	Historical Fiction	It is the aftermath of World War II, a time of financial hardship for many. Anna needs a new coat, and, though Anna’s mother doesn’t have any money, she is determined to provide a coat for her daughter, even if it means having it made from scratch.	Booklist Starred Review Publisher’s Weekly Starred Review
A Llama in the Family	Johanna Hurwitz	Fiction	For some time, Adam has been hoping for a new mountain bike. When his parents announce there’s a surprise for him, he is certain it will be a new bicycle. To his great shock, however, he finds a llama in his backyard. We follow Adam as he starts to realize just how profoundly his new animal companion will change his life.	Publisher’s Weekly Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review
The Toothpaste Millionaire	Jean Merrill	Fiction	Rufus Mayflower just wants to make toothpaste at a lower price than he’d have to pay at the store. With his friend Kate Mac Kinstrey, Rufus figures out a process for toothpaste production, and becomes a millionaire by the time he’s in eighth grade! The story features a number of mathematical problems that the protagonists must solve as they build their toothpaste empire.	Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children’s Book Award
Tarantula Shoes	Tom Birdseye	Fiction	Eleven-year-old Ryan feels out of place after his family moves from Arizona to Kentucky. Hoping that establishing himself as a great basketball player will make him feel more comfortable in his new school, he aims to buy a pair of basketball shoes – but they’re very expensive. He, his new friend Gordon, and his pet tarantula Fang raise the money to buy the shoes.	Booklist Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review

Unit 10: The Power of Electricity

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World	Elizabeth Rusch	Biography	This picture-book biography explores Nikola Tesla's life and inventions. Thomas Edison who? Learn about two of Tesla's enterprises that changed our lives forever: the establishment of alternating current as the worldwide standard, and the harnessing of the power of Niagara Falls for hydroelectric power.	Gelett Burgess Award for Biography CBC/Bankstreet College Best Book of the Year, 2011
Charged Up: The Story of Electricity	Jacqui Bailey	Informational Nonfiction	This introduction to electricity teaches you how electricity takes its journey from power stations to your home, whether you live in the country, suburbs, or city.	Science Books and Films
Electricity	Matt Mullins	Informational Nonfiction	Learn all about electricity – its history, the science involved, and scientists such as Benjamin Franklin and James Faraday.	
Wired	Anastasia Suen	Informational Nonfiction	Ever wondered how you have electricity in your home? Discover how electricity is conveyed from power plant to bedroom lamp or laptop.	Kirkus Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Magic School Bus and the Electric Field Trip	Joanna Cole	Informational Nonfiction	It's time to learn about electricity in Mrs. Frizzle's class, so the class embarks on a field trip. As they travel through power lines around town, they learn about voltage, how electricity generates light and heat, and how electrical appliances function, including light bulbs and toasters.	Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Honor Book Booklist Starred Review
Electricity in the Real World	Sarah E. Ward	Informational Nonfiction	Read to explore electricity: its history, its production, and the different ways we use it, whether it be for satellites or our living room television sets.	
Flick a Switch: How Electricity Gets to Your Home	Barbara Seuling	Informational Nonfiction	This book provides a history of electricity and an explanation of the science behind this intriguing phenomenon. Included are discussions of the first devices invented to harness it and of the numerous ways in which we utilize it today.	Booklist Starred Review School Library Journal Starred Review
Electricity All Around	Barbara Alpert	Informational Nonfiction	Ever wanted to learn more about electricity? This book explains what it is, where it comes from, how we control and use it, and how exactly we bring it to our homes.	

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 5
1	Government and Citizenship	The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now Why do laws continue to evolve?
2	Character	Developing Characters' Relationships Why do we value certain qualities in people?
3	Life Science	Cultivating Natural Resources How do we decide which resources we should develop?
4	Point of View	Recognizing Author's Point of View How can other perspectives help us evaluate the world?
5	Technology and Society	Technology's Impact on Society What value does technology bring to people's lives?
6	Theme	Up Against the Wild What compels us to survive?
7	History and Culture	Conflicts That Shaped a Nation How does conflict shape a society?
8	Earth Science	Water: Fact and Fiction What does water mean to people and the societies they live in?
9	Economics	The Economic Development of Cities How do economic changes impact society?
10	Physical Science	Transforming Matter Why do we measure and describe the world?

Unit 1: The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
1776: A New Look at Revolutionary Williamsburg	K.M. Koystal	Informational Nonfiction	Allows students to view the American Revolution from the perspectives of the everyday men and women who were most affected by it.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies VOYA's 5Q Picks
The Signers: The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence	Dennis Brindell Fradin	Informational Nonfiction	Profiles the 56 men who pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" in support of American independence.	Children's Notable Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
Those Rebels, John and Tom	Barbara Kerley	Informational Nonfiction	Provides a vivid portrait of two men—Thomas Jefferson and John Adams—who joined forces to secure America's independence, in spite of their own conflicting personalities.	Booklist Starred Reviews Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
The Constitution	Stephen Krensky	Informational Nonfiction	An in-depth study of the framework of our government.	Best Children's Books of the Year
We the People: The Story of our Constitution	Lynne Cheney	Informational Nonfiction	Outlines the difficulties the new nation faced following the Revolution, and how the framers of the U.S. Constitution addressed these issues.	Starred Reviews
Articles of Confederation	Blair Belton	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the reasons behind the creation of the Articles of Confederation, its effects on American history, and the individuals involved in its development.	
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution	Jean Fritz	Informational Nonfiction	Provides students with a behind-the-scenes look at the closed-door deliberations that produced the U.S. Constitution.	An ALA Notable Book
How the Consitution was Created	Janet Hubbard-Brown	Informational Nonfiction	Traces the history of the U.S. Consitution from its roots in previous documents to its role in contemporary American society, and spotlights key individuals who contributed to its development and success.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Best Books for Middle School and Junior High Readers, Grades 6-9, 2nd ed. Children's Catalog, 19th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4
U.S. Constitution and You	Syl Sobel, J.D.	Informational Nonfiction	Uses straightforward language to make real-world connections between the U.S. Constitution and the everyday freedoms it protects, and to explain how power is shared between the different levels of government.	
Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies	Cokie Roberts	Informational Nonfiction	Highlights the contributions of various female patriots of the American Revolution, including Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Phyllis Wheatley, Mercy Otis Warren, Sarah Livingston Jay, and others.	Starred Review

Unit 2: Developing Characters' Relationships

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection	Matt Dembicki	Folktale	A collection twenty-one trickster tales from a variety of Native American traditions, rendered in graphic novel format.	Booklist Starred Reviews Great Graphic Novels for Teens Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Odd and the Frost Giants	Neil Gaiman	Norse Myth/Fiction	An unlucky Norwegian boy named Odd, 12, has run into a bad streak of luck. He lost his father on a Viking expedition, his foot got crushed under a tree, and the winter is dragging on. Everything changes when he goes into the woods and releases a trapped bear. After meeting three Norse gods, trapped in animal form, they ask him to find the frost giants who have Thor's hammer. Is he up to the task?	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
Shutting Out the Sky	Deborah Hopkinson	Informational Nonfiction	Recounts the stories of five immigrants to New York's Lower East Side, and their struggles to achieve the American dream.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
Lady Liberty: A Biography	Doreen Rappaport	Informational Nonfiction	Tells the story of the building of the Statue of Liberty through a series of first-person narratives told from the perspectives of those involved in its conception and construction, as well as those who have been inspired by it.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies , Starred Reviews Teachers' Choice
Inside Out & Back Again	Thanhha Lai	Realistic Fiction	A series of poems chronicles a young girl's flight from her home in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, and her struggle to adjust to her new home in Alabama.	National Book Award John Newbery Medal Honor Books Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	Fantasy Fiction	Edward Tulane is a vain, cold-hearted china rabbit who never appreciates love until he embarks on an accidental journey that takes him from the bottom of the ocean to the streets of Memphis.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Indies Choice Book Awards Kirkus Books of Special Note Library Media Connection Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews

Unit 3: Cultivating Natural Resources

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
The Tapir Scientist	Sy Montgomery	Informational Nonfiction	Examines the little-seen and endangered tapir, "the gardener of the forest," which plays a critical role in maintaining foliage in the world's largest wetland area.	Booklist Editors Choice Booklist Starred Reviews Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
How to Clean a Hippopotamus: A Look at Unusual Animal Partnerships	Steve Jenkins & Robin Page	Informational Nonfiction	Explains the concept of animal symbiosis through lively descriptions of some of nature's most fascinating partnerships.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
City Fish, Country Fish	Mary M. Cerullo	Informational Nonfiction	Cerullo contrasts the lives of "city fish" (those that live in tropical waters) and "country fish" (those that live in colder oceans), and examines how each type of fish is adapted to meet the challenges of its habitat.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Bones: Skeletons and How They Work	Steve Jenkins	Informational Nonfiction	Jenkins compares the skeletal structure of different animals, illustrating the difference between an elephant's heavy leg and a stork's feather-light femur, or the difference between a human hand and that of a spider monkey.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present, Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
All About Sleep From A to Zzzz	Elaine Scott	Informational Nonfiction	Aided by fanciful cartoon illustrations, this book examines what happens to the human body during sleep. Includes information on dreams and sleep disorders.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Middle and Junior High Core Collection, 10th ed. and Supplements
Elephant Scientist	Caitlin O'Connell & Donna M. Jackson	Informational Nonfiction	Namibia's elephants as they communicate through sounds and vibrations that they feel. Process of hypothesis and remarkable discovery.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books
After the Kill	Darrin Lunde	Informational Nonfiction	This book reveals the dramatic struggle for survival among predator, prey, and scavenger, through the story of a lioness who attacks and kills a grazing zebra. After the kill, the lioness brings the zebra to her cubs to feed. What remains is fought over by vultures, jackals, and hyenas. The chain of animals involved is absolutely fascinating and when they are done the bones are indeed clean and left to bleach in the sun on the hot Serengeti Plain where they will eventually turn to dust.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Animal Eyes	Beth Fielding	Informational Nonfiction	This book introduces the eyes of humans and 12 animal species from cats to flies, comparing and contrasting their appearance and abilities.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Animals Upside Down	Steve Jenkins & Robin Page	Informational Nonfiction	With the aid of colorful interactive elements, this book explores the reasons for, and the advantages of, upside-down animal behavior. Includes a glossary.	Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Unit 4: Recognizing Author's Point of View

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Shutting Out the Sky	Deborah Hopkinson	Informational Nonfiction	Recounts the stories of five immigrants to New York's Lower East Side, and their struggles to achieve the American dream.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
Inside Out & Back Again	Thanhha Lai	Realistic Fiction	A series of poems chronicles a young girl's flight from her home in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, and her struggle to adjust to her new home in Alabama.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Realistic Fiction	August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial difference that has kept him from attending school—until now. Told from multiple points of view, this affecting story about Auggie's first day of school touches upon the themes of bullying, kindness, courage, and acceptance.	
Pie	Sarah Weeks	Realistic Fiction	Alice's beloved Aunt Polly dies, and astounds the whole town by leaving her award-winning pie crust recipe to her cat, Lardo. When Lardo goes missing, Alice decides to investigate, learns an important lesson about family and friendship along the way.	Kirkus Books of Special Note Library Media Connection Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Forgiveness Garden	Lauren Thompson	Realistic Fiction	Inspired by the real Garden of Forgiveness in Lebanon and an educational movement of the same name, this story teaches how a single act of kindness and forgiveness can break a cycle of hatred and revenge.	Best Children's Books of the Year
Paiute Princess: The Story of Sarah Winnemucca	Deborah Kogan Ray	Biography	Depicts Sarah Winnemucca's journey as a "a child of two worlds" in the Old West. The daughter of a Paiute chief, Winnemucca served as an interpreter and scout for the U.S. Army, but also wrote and lectured widely about American injustices toward Native Americans.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Duel! Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words	Dennis Brindell Fradin	Informational Nonfiction	The story of two founding fathers, once friends, who could not overcome a feud. They stood face to face for an illegal duel to the death that changed both of their lives forever.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Elephant's Friend and Other Tales From Ancient India	Marcia Williams	Informational Nonfiction	Eight individual stories form a magical collection of India's best-loved animal folk tales. It is taken from the three books of Indian folk tales—"Hitopadesha Tales", "Jataka Tales" and "Panchantra Tales"—the stories are packed with humour and warmth.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Return to Sender	Julia Alvarez	Realistic Fiction	After his family hires Mexican migrant workers to help save their Vermont farm, Tyler, 11, befriends Mari, the oldest daughter. Their friendship is tested, however, when Tyler learns that Mari may not be in the country legally.	Americas Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature Children's Notable Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Pura Belpre Awards

Unit 5: Technology's Impact on Society

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Next Stop Grand Central	Maira Kalman	Informational Nonfiction	An exuberant tribute to the busiest train station on Earth. Full of fun, history, information and Grand Central's New Look.	Booklist Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies, School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Potatoes on the Rooftops	Hadley Dyer	Informational Social Studies	An examination of the growing urban farming movement, aided by age-appropriate language and colorful graphics.	
Ice! The Amazing Story of the Ice Business	Laurence Pringle	Informational Social Studies	To get ice today, we need to go no farther than our freezers, but this was not always the case. Learn how ice was first transported as Laurence Pringle looks at Rockland Lake, coined 'the ice box of New York City.' You'll get all the chilly facts about how the ice industry got its start in a world where cold drinks on a hot day were few and far between.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Kirkus Books of Special Note
One Times Square: A Century of Change at the Crossroads of the World	Joe McKendry	Informational Science	Tells the story of the development, decline, and revitalization of "The Crossroads of the World."	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Kirkus Best Books
Drones: From Insect Spy Drones to Bomber Drones	Scholastic	Informational Science	Describes the applications of, and controversy surrounding, this emerging technology.	NSTA 2015
Sally Ride: Life on a Mission (A Real-Life Story)	Sue Macy	Biography	A gifted student and athlete, Sally Ride grew up to become the first American woman in space, and spent the rest of her life as a tireless advocate for women in science.	NSTA 2015
Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering	Martin W. Sandler	Informational Science	Describes how one visionary built the first subway in New York City.	NSTA 2010
Stronger Than Steel: Spider Silk DNA and the Quest for Better Bulletproof Vests, Sutures, and Parachute Rope	Bridget Heos	Informational Science	With the aid of eye-catching photographs and real-world examples, this book explores the latest developments in genetics, and discusses how these discoveries might be used to improve our lives.	NSTA 2014
The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Science	Tells the amazing story of the twin rovers that explored the surface of Mars, and the determined geologist who worked to get them there.	NSTA 2013

Unit 6: Up Against the Wild

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Terezin: Voices From the Holocaust	Ruth Thomson	Informational Social Studies	Primary source personal narratives from survivors of the infamous "show" camp of Terezin, where the Nazis forced inmates to use their artistic talents to fool the international community about the true nature of the Holocaust.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Can We Save the Tiger?	Martin Jenkins	Informational Science	Explains how human actions are threatening the survival of a number of species, from large cats to smaller mammals.	Starred Reviews, Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Out of the Dust	Karen Hesse	Historical Fiction	Out of the Oklahoma dust bowl of 1934 comes Billie Jo, 15, who must forgive her father, for causing the accident that left her savagely scarred, and her mother too weak to live through childbirth for abandoning her when she most needed to be loved. Written in unrhymed verse, the author explores the ecology of the land and the topography of the heart.	John Newbery Medal Winners, Starred Reviews Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts
I Came From the Water: One Haitian Boy's Incredible Tale of Survival	Vanita Oelschlager	Historical Fiction	Based on a real story, a young boy tells his story of surviving a 2004 Haitian flood as an infant, being rescued and sent to an orphanage and surviving several other natural disasters including earthquakes and cholera, since then.	
Children of the Great Depression	Russell Freedman	Informational Biography	Describes the challenges faced by young people during the Great Depression, and profiles their resiliency in the face of these challenges.	Starred Reviews, Library Media Connection Starred Reviews Orbis Pictus Award Winners Teachers' Choices VOYA's 5Q Picks
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	Fiction	When thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson's plane crashes, he finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothes, a windbreaker, and a hatchet he received from his mother as a present. Brian must summon all of his wits, determination, and courage to survive and find his way back to civilization.	John Newberry Honor
Titanic: Voices from the Disaster	Deborah Hopkinson	Informational Social Studies	Retells the story of the doomed ocean liner through the accounts of those who survived the disaster, aided by actual photographs taken on board the ill-fated vessel.	Kirkus Best Books Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices
Outbreak: Plagues That Changed History	Bryn Barnard	Informational Social Studies	Shows the causal link between specific plagues, such as the Black Death, smallpox, and cholera, and the course of human history.	Teachers' Choices VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	Historical Fiction	Esperanza's privileged childhood comes to an abrupt and tragic end when her father is murdered by bandits. With her family and household staff, Esperanza escapes to the United States, where she is forced to adjust to life not only in a new country, but in a new social class as well.	Best Books for Young Adults Children's Notable Books Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Pura Belpre Awards Young Adults' Choices

Unit 7: Conflicts That Shaped a Nation

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen from Both Sides	Rosalyn Schanzer	Informational Social Studies	The saying <i>there are two sides to every story</i> comes to life visually in this book. On each spread, King George III and George Washington face each other with stern expressions, each trying to tell their version of the events that sparked the American Revolution.	School Library Journal Starred Review ALA Notable Book Orbis Pictus Recommended Book Capitol Choices Best Book Chicago Public Library Best Books
Patriots in Petticoats: Heroines of the American Revolution	Shirley Raye Redmond	Informational Social Studies	Showcasing twenty-four Daughters of the Revolution, this volume explores the roles of women in the American Revolution on the battlefield and behind the scenes.	
Lafayette and the American Revolution	Russell Freedman	Informational Social Studies	An account of the revolutionary exploits of the Marquis de Lafayette, the young French nobleman who came to America to aid the colonists in their fight for independence.	Booklist Starred Review ALA: Youth Media Award Winners
The Black Regiment of the American Revolution	Linda Crotta Brennan	Informational Social Studies	This book celebrates the regiment of African-American soldiers who fought in the Battle of Rhode Island, telling the story of the regiment's formation and their valor on the battlefield.	
Let It Begin Here!: Lexington & Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution	Dennis Brindell Fradin	Informational Social Studies	An introduction to the final events leading up to the start of the Revolutionary War, from the Midnight Ride to the Battles of Lexington and Concord.	Booklist Starred Review BookLinks Starred Review
The Price of Freedom: How One Town Stood Up to Slavery	Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin	Informational Social Studies	Describes how one Ohio community fought to secure the freedom of an escaped slave, in defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom	Tim Tingle	Historical Fiction	A stirring tale of cooperation between Native Americans and African Americans in the antebellum South.	American Indian Youth Literature Award Booklist Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books
Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas: The Story Behind an American Friendship	Russell Freedman	Biography	The lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were surprisingly similar and parallel. They were both self taught, loved books, and came from poor upbringings to reach positions of great power. Even though they met a few brief times, Douglass helped Lincoln end the Civil War, abolish slavery, and bring the country back together.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Best Books, Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books Starred Reviews VOYA's 5Q Picks

Unit 8: Water: Fact and Fiction

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Clear Choices: The Water You Drink	Matt Higgins	Informational Nonfiction	Discusses where water is scarce in the world where water it is contaminated. A colorful bar graph depicts a World View of the relative percentages of populations with access to safe drinking water. Color photographs depict the effects of pollution. Innovative technologies for remediation of polluted water and desalinization of sea water are explored as well as conservative measures such as rainwater collection.	Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
Frozen Secrets: Antarctica Revealed	Sally M. Walker	Informational Science	Provides an overview of the history, topography, and climate of Antarctica, and discusses current scientific exploration and research in the area.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Tornado: The Story Behind These Twisting, Turning, Spinning, and Spiraling Storms	Judith Bloom Fradin & Dennis Brindell Fradin	Informational Science	Explains the science behind twisters, and uses news reports and first-person accounts from survivors and storm chasers to describe the experience of living through a tornado.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Inside Tornadoes	Mary Kay Carson	Informational Science	Examines the nature, formation, appearance, and measurement of tornadoes. Includes accounts of four devastating tornadoes from the past.	Starred Reviews
Inside Hurricanes	Mary Kay Carson	Informational Science	Examines the nature, appearance, and causes of hurricanes, and provides tips on how to stay safe in a storm.	Starred Reviews
Inside Weather	Mary Kay Carson	Informational Science	What causes things to happen in nature like the blowing wind? Why are some locations very wet while others hardly ever get a drop of rain? There are people called meteorologists whose job it is to find the answers to these questions and others relating to weather. Learn how they make their predictions and take a look at weird weather phenomena from around the world.	
Inside Lightning	Melissa Stewart	Informational Science	Examines scientific research on lightning, and includes accounts from real-life lightning-strike survivors.	Starred Reviews
All the Water In the World	George Ella Lyon	Poetry	This colorful and inspirational poem presents facts about water while stressing the need for water conservation.	

Unit 9: The Economic Development of Cities

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
The Great American Dust Bowl	Don Brown	Graphic Nonfiction	Richly illustrated, this graphic novel explains the topographical, environmental, and agricultural causes of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, and provides vivid accounts of how it affected the people of the Great Plains.	Starred Reviews
River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River	Hudson Talbot	Informational Social Studies	Explains the strategic, economic, and cultural importance of the Hudson River, and discusses its affect on American art and society.	
Blue Jean Book: The Story Behind the Seams	Tanya Lloyd Kyi	Informational Social Studies	Covers the history of denim from its origins with miners and cowboys to its embrace by rebels and fashion enthusiasts.	School Library Journal Best Books
Muckrakers: How Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens Helped Expose Scandal, Inspire Reform, and Invent Investigative Journalism	Ann Bausem	Informational Social Studies	Highlights the achievements of three of the most important writers in the history of American journalism, and describes how their work impacted American society.	Teachers' Choices
Follow Your Money: Who Gets It, Who Spends It, Where Does it Go?	Kevin Sylvester	Informational Social Studies	Using engaging illustrations, this book introduces readers to a number of important economic concepts, such as price, cost, profit, producer, and consumer.	
Through Time: Beijing	Richard Platt	Informational Social Studies	Traces the history of this great city from its prehistoric beginnings to the rise and fall of its great dynasties, and tells the story of the people who have inhabited it, right up to the present day.	

Unit 10: Transforming Matter

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
How the World Works: A Hands-On Guide to Our Amazing Planet	Christian Dorion	Informational Nonfiction	A broad overview of Earth's cycles and processes, including the water cycle, plate tectonics, and more.	Royal Society Young People's Book Prize 2011
When the Earth Shakes: Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Tsunamis	Simon Winchester	Informational Nonfiction	Not even the ground beneath our feet is entirely stable, as this book explores with accounts and explanations of the forces that violently shape our planet.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 2016 School Library Journal Starred Review
Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle	Miranda Paul	Informational Nonfiction	A group of kids take an illustrated journey through the water cycle and explore liquids, solids, and gases.	
Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium	Carla Killough McClafferty	Biography	A biography of the Nobel prize-winning physicist who worked with radioactive elements that would change the world.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Erosion: How Land Forms, How It Changes	Darlene R. Stille	Informational Nonfiction	An exploration of erosion: the physical changes to Earth's surface caused by wind, water, and ice.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
In Search of the Fog Zombie: A Mystery about Matter	Lynda Beauregard	Informational Fiction	Learn about solids, liquids, gases, and properties of matter alongside the campers and counselors at Camp Dakota as the elusive Fog Zombie looms.	
A Drop Of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder	Walter Wick	Informational Nonfiction	Water is one of nature's most fascinating magicians. This book explores the different states of water and all of water's tricks: evaporation, condensation, snowflakes, frost, dew, and clouds.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards, Winner, 1997 Orbis Pictus Honor Book
Guts: Our Digestive System	Seymour Simon	Informational Nonfiction	Reveals the science secrets behind the complex workings of our digestive system by chronicling the journey of food through the body, from the mouth to the intestines and every stop in between.	NTSA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Unit	Knowledge Strand	Grade 6
1	Government and Citizenship	Beyond Democracy Why might societies form different types of government?
2	Character	Characters at Crossroads How can people inspire and change us?
3	Life Science	Relationships in Nature What roles can we play in the balance of nature?
4	Point of View	The Reader's Perspective How does the journey through life influence a person's point of view?
5	Technology and Society	Technology in the 21st Century How do we take responsibility in making advances in technology?
6	Theme	Legendary Journeys What inspires a quest?
7	History and Culture	Achievements of Ancient Cultures Why do we consider certain civilizations "great"?
8	Earth Science	Exploring Earth's Structures How does Earth itself inspire human endeavors?
9	Economics	Economic Expansion What does it mean to be a citizen in a global society?
10	Physical Science	Understanding Our Energy Resources What does our energy future look like?

Unit 1: Beyond Democracy

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Gandhi: The March to the Sea	Alice B. McGinty	Informational Nonfiction	Tells the story of Gandhi's involvement in the 1930 Salt March, a peaceful demonstration against the British taxation of salt in India. Gandhi, along with many others, walked more than 200 miles to gather salt to sell, in direct opposition of British Law.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain	Peter Sis	Informative Biography	The story of a young artist's dream to be able to draw whatever he wanted and how he came of age during the communist cultural revolution. Offers European perspective of things "American."	Randolph Caldecott Medal Honorees, Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Kubla Khan: Emperor of Everything	Kathleen Krull	Biography	Describes the life of Kubla Khan, beginning with his childhood and moving forward chronologically. Revealing anecdotes are discussed in context with historical developments that occurred in Khan's lifetime, such as the construction of Beijing.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Alive In the Killing Fields: Surviving the Khmer Rouge Genocide	Nawuth Keat	Informational Nonfiction	After murdering most of his family, Khmer Rouge soldiers dragged nine-year-old Keat from his bed, shot him three times, and left him to die. Somehow, Keat survived, and spent the next several years evading the Khmer Rouge and fighting for his life. This memoir offers a compelling and poignant glimpse of life as a child in Cambodia in the 1970s.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Under a Red Sky: Memoirs of a Childhood in Communist Romania	Haya Leah Molnar	Informational Nonfiction	An only child living in postwar Bucharest, eight-year-old Eva Zimmermann has just discovered she is Jewish. Eva's family will do anything to keep her safe, including hiding her own identity from her. This memoir of author Haya Leah Molna's childhood experiences depicts the harsh and frightening reality of living behind the iron curtain.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Kirkus Books of Special Note National Jewish Book Award Winners Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews
Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler's Shadow	Susan Campbell Bartoletti	Informational Nonfiction	Explores the various factors which led many of Germany's young people to pledge their loyalty and support to the dictator and join the Hitler Youth during his rise to power.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
90 Miles to Havana	Enrique Flores-Galbis	Historical Fiction	A deeply affecting narrative account of 'Operation Pedro Pan,' the mass evacuation of 14,000 Cuban children to Miami. Many children will be able to relate to the excitement and fear that Julian feels when he is left alone in an orphanage in Miami. Featuring clear but poetic writing, this novel is sure to engross readers in Julian's fascinating story.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Pura Belpre Award Honorees
Forms of Government	Peter Benoit	Informational Nonfiction	A unique culture and history shapes the government of every individual country in the world. In this informative text, readers will learn about the structure of the United States' government, and will compare it to the governments of other nations.	
Governments Around the World	Ernestine Giesecke	Informational Nonfiction	In this informative text, students will learn about different (but connected) topics about government every two pages. An excellent supplement to a unit on any level of government.	Best Books for Children Preschool Through Grade 6, 9th ed. Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements"

Unit 2: Characters at Crossroads

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Fatty Legs: a True Story	Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton	Informative Biography	After insisting on traveling to a school to learn how to read from her village in the high Arctic, eight-year-old Margaret Pokiak quickly learns the terrors of living away from home. A nasty nun named Raven develops an immediate disdain for Margaret, and sets out to humiliate her in any way possible. Margaret quickly learns important lessons about standing up to injustice and cruelty, and remains steadfast and brave throughout the story.	
Wild Boy	Mary Losuer	Informational Fiction	A fascinating story of a feral boy's journey to Paris. Readers come to understand that despite eventually entering society, the feral boy retains key habits and behaviors he learned while growing up in the wilderness of southern France.	
Dead End in Norvelt	Jack Gantos	Historical Fiction	After accidentally discharging his father's war relic Japanese rifle, Jack is grounded for the summer. His only refuge from the boredom of his confinement comes when a neighbor's arthritis prevents her from writing, compelling Jack's mom to volunteer him as the woman's scribe.	Newbury Winner
Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans	Kadir Nelson	Informative Nonfiction	The history of African American in the United States. Includes the oppression of slavery, suffering in a country torn in two by Jim Crow Laws, and then newfound inspiration in the Civil Rights Movement.	Coretta Scott King Award Winners, starred reviews
Chains	Laurie Halse Anderson	Historical Fiction	At the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is sold to a cruel loyalist family even though her former owner has promised her freedom. She meets Curzon, who convinces her that the only way to freedom is to help the rebels by spying on her new owners. Faced with the choice of working for or against the British, she chooses to side with herself and work with anyone who can help her.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements Teachers' Choices VOYA's 5Q Picks Margaret A. Edwards Award Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
The View from Saturday	E. L. Konigsburg	Fiction	A collection of four connected short stories, this book explores Mrs. Olinski's return to teaching after suffering an injury in an automobile accident. Without realizing it, coaching her Academic Bowl team becomes the way in which she once again finds confidence and success.	Newbury Winner

Unit 3: Relationships in Nature

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Life in a Grassland	Dorothy Hinshaw Patent	Informational Nonfiction	<i>Life in a Grassland</i> explores the unique qualities of a grassland ecosystem, going into great detail about the geographical features, natural processes, and different species of animals and plants that live in the ecosystem.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Life in a Deciduous Forest	Dianne M. Macmillan	Informational Nonfiction	This nonfiction text gives an overview of New York state's Adirondack forests, discussing key features of the area such as the plants and animals that live there, and how the forest functions as an ecosystem.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Life in the Tundra	Cherie Winner	Informational Nonfiction	Explores the ecosystem of Alaska's North Slope, including the different species of plant and animal life that exist there, as well as the geographical features and natural processes of the area.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Life in an Old Growth Forest	Valeria Rapp	Informational Nonfiction	This informative text explores the ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest's old growth forests. Particular emphasis is placed on decomposition and forest recovery, but more general concepts like the plant and animal life that exists in the ecosystem, and the relationships that exist in the ecosystem are also discussed.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Alien Deep: Revealing the Mysterious Living World at the Bottom of the Sea	Bradley Hague	Informational Nonfiction	Focusing on the hydrothermal vents that are found on the ocean floor, this informational book also describes how related deep-sea discoveries continue to be made.	Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead	Rebecca L. Johnson	Informational Nonfiction	Focusing on organisms that commandeer the brain of a host entity, this book not only articulates the large number of organisms that can control another life-form, but also describes how many of them are found in North America.	Children's Notable Books Horn Book Guide Titles, Rated 1 - 4 Kirkus Best Books Kirkus Books of Special Note School Library Journal Starred Reviews VOYA's 5Q Picks
Wild Horse Scientists	Kay Frydenborg	Informational Nonfiction	The ecosystem is in danger from the creatures who have called Assateague Island home for hundreds of years. Two scientists seek a way to protect the island's ecosystem and maintain the wild pony population that roam its shores.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Moonbird: A Year On the Wind with the Great Survivor B95	Phillip M. Hoose	Informational Nonfiction	Imagine flying 9000 miles every year. Now imagine flying that far. The 'rufa' red knot B95 flies from Argentina to Canada each March, heading back to Argentina come August. Now, the so-called Moonbird is in trouble; human activity has interrupted its flight pattern. Is there any way we can save this species and maintain our own resources?	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Buzz on Bees: Why Are They Disappearing?	Shelley Rotner	Informational Nonfiction	Honeybees are disappearing at an alarming rate. This book looks at the possible explanations for these massive die-offs and what is being done to address the problem.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
After the Kill	Darrin P Lunde	Informational nonfiction	This book reveals the dramatic struggle for survival among predator, prey, and scavenger, through the story of a lioness who attacks and kills a grazing zebra. After the kill, the lioness brings the zebra to her cubs to feed. What remains is fought over by vultures, jackals, and hyena. The chain of animals involved is absolutely fascinating and when they are done the bones are indeed clean and left to bleach in the sun on the hot Serengeti Plain where they will eventually turn to dust.	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice

Unit 4: The Reader's Perspective

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Dear Miss Breed	Joanne Oppenheim	Informational Nonfiction	Clara Breed, a children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library in the early 1940s, was a friend to dozens of Japanese-American children when the war broke out in December 1941. The story of how she became their lifeline during their internment is shared through letters that her friends wrote her during that time. It's also the story of a woman who was brave enough to speak out against a shameful chapter in American history.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Who Was First?	Russell Freedman	Informational Nonfiction	Author Russell Freedman explores the mystery of who first arrived at America through physical evidence, anecdotes, maps, and more.	Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books VOYA's 5Q Picks VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
And the Soldiers Sang	J. Patrick Lewis & Gary Kelly	Historical Fiction	Told from the perspective of a fictional young Welshman, this piece of historical fiction tells the true story of the Christmas Truce of 1914.	Boston Globe Honoree, Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Denied, Detained, Deported : Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration	Ann Bausum	Informational Nonfiction	Multiple perspectives of the dark side of US immigration including racism, prejudice, political concerns, and fear. This beautifully designed photo-essay connects past immigration issues of economics, racism, national security, and patriotism with what is happening now.	Carter G. Woodson Multicultural Award Winners
The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales	James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac	Folktales	This beautifully illustrated collection contains legends from Native American peoples from all over the United States. These legends and folktales articulate the belief systems and wisdom of various tribes, and offer unique insight into their respective cultures.	Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present
Ellis Island: Coming to the Land of Liberty	Raymond Bial	Informational Nonfiction	A perfect shared read-aloud, this book explores the influences and factors of the mass immigration of people into the United States. It provides a descriptive glimpse at the experience many immigrants had, including the time they spent on Ellis Island.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies
Buried Alive	Elaine Scott	Informational Nonfiction	Beneath the Chilean desert on Aug. 5, 2010, thirty-three miners were buried alive 2,000 feet below the surface. There was no contact with the men for seventeen days and there was little hope that any of them survived. But all thirty-three men were miraculously alive. How did they manage to live for that long in complete darkness and very little food?	Starred Reviews
Mysterious Bones: The Story of Kennewick Man	Katherine Kirkpatrick	Informational Nonfiction	In 1996, two young men looking to sneak into a boat race along the Columbia River in Kennewick, Washington, got the shock of their lives. What they found were the oldest and most complete skeletal remains ever discovered in this country. This discovery set off one of the most important archaeological controversies and changed what scientists believed about the colonization of the Americas	Teachers' Choices
The Extraordinary Life of Mark Twain (According to Susy)	Barbara Kerley	Biography/Memoirs	Mark Twain is known as a humorist, but his daughter, Susy Clemens, knows he is much more. To set the record straight, Susy decides to document her famous father, from his habits (good and bad!), to his writing routine, to the family's colorful home life. This book includes excerpts from Susy's actual journal, which gives rare insight into an American icon. Book ends with author's note about Susy and Mark and a step-by-step guide to writing biographies.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies

Unit 5: Technology's in the 21st Century

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Word of Mouth: the Food You Eat	Nancy Higgins	Informational Nonfiction	Examines the global problem of world hunger, several contamination issues such as salmonella and tuberculosis and the effects of industrialization and climate change on food production. There is also a concise comparison of grass fed beef and grain fed beef.	Science Books & Films Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice
From Mud Huts to Skyscrapers	Christine Paxxman	Informational Nonfiction	This visually-stunning book includes spreads that focus on individual buildings, ranging from the first man-made huts to the Guggenheim museum. Pertinent information about each structure, such as background on the architect, style, and historical context is also included.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Warriors and Wailers: One Hundred Ancient Chinese Jobs You May Have Relished or Reviled	Sarah Tsiang	Informational Nonfiction	Covers over 4,000 years of Chinese history. Rank was very important in China, with nobles and civil servants valued just above peasant farmers, while artisans were just below them. Highest of all was emperor, and the lowest were merchants, because they didn't create anything. Some of the more fascinating jobs include a professional wailer, cormorant fisher, sorceress, noodle maker, and dark green head.	
Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China	Jane O'Connor	Informational Nonfiction	In 1974, three farmers were digging a well in a northern province of China when a farmer's shovel struck something hard--the head of a statue. It was the first of the thousand-year-old terracotta soldiers--and horses--that would be unearthed and called wonders of the ancient world.	Booklist Starred Reviews Booklist Top of the List Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story	Linda Sue Park	Historical Fiction	11-year-old Salva's life changes drastically when the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985. Separated from his family, Salva is forced to walk through parts of southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya with his fellow Dinka tribe members in search of safe haven.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews VOYA's 5Q Picks
Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon	Steve Sheinkin	Informational Nonfiction	Following a German chemist's discovery of what causes uranium atoms split into two, Germany, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States all entered into a race to develop the ultimate weapon.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Kirkus Books of Special Note Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12
Pharaoh's Boat	David Weitzman	Informational Nonfiction	The most skilled shipwrights of Egypt congregate in the shadow of the Great Pyramid at Giza to construct a massive vessel that will transport the mighty Pharaoh, Cheops, into a new world. The ship will become a true sight to behold, and is prepared for the long and mysterious voyage ahead, but not even the pharaoh can imagine exactly where the journey will lead.	Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews
What's the Big Idea: Inventions That Changed Life on Earth Forever	Helaine Becker	Informational Nonfiction	Focusing on inventions that fulfill the six basic needs of human beings (food, sleep, shelter, security, good health, and companionship), <i>What's the Big Idea?</i> includes spreads that feature specific inventions, ranging from the wheel to the Internet.	Library Media Connection Starred Reviews

Unit 6: Legendary Journeys

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Bodies From the Ice: Melting Glaciers and Rediscovery of the Past	James M. Deem	Informational Nonfiction	Operating through the methodology of glaciology, archaeology, and climate change, this book explores mummified remains discovered in different glaciers and time periods. Famous examples of glacial remains such as the Alpine Iceman Otzi and the body of George Mallory on Mount Everest are discussed in detail.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Rome You Wouldn't Want to Know	Victoria England	Informational Nonfiction	This book offers an amusing take on history by establishing a few general facts about ancient Rome and its culture before listing the ten most unpleasant aspects of living there.	
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Egypt You Wouldn't Want to Know	Victoria England	Informational Nonfiction	This book offers an amusing take on history by establishing a few general facts about ancient Egypt and its culture before listing the ten most unpleasant aspects of living there.	
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Greece You wouldn't Want to Know	Victoria England	Informational Nonfiction	This book offers an amusing take on history by establishing a few general facts about ancient Greece and its culture before listing the ten most unpleasant aspects of living there.	
Dear Miss Breed	Joanne Oppenheim	Informational Nonfiction	Clara Breed, a children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library in the early 1940s, was a friend to dozens of Japanese-American children when the war broke out in December 1941. The story of how she became their lifeline during their internment is shared through letters that her friends wrote her during that time. It's also the story of a woman who was brave enough to speak out against a shameful chapter in American history.	School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Growing Up In Coal Country	Susan Campbell Bartoletti	Informational Nonfiction	The story of coal mining in Pennsylvania is the story of immigrant families working together to make a new life for themselves in America. It is women and children secretly collecting scraps of coal to use and sell. It is the story of families bonding together in ethnic groups to keep their old-world practices and beliefs alive. And it is the story of workers who overcame their differences to unite and strike against the unfair-labor practices of coal owners. The voices of men, women, and children, who lived in the late 1800s and early 1900s in northeastern Pennsylvania, speak out	Best Books for Young Adults Booklist Editors Choice Booklist Starred Reviews Children's Notable Books Horn Book Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal
Skywalkers: Mohawk Ironworkers Build the City	David Weitzman	Informational Nonfiction	Charting the shift of the Mohawk people from unskilled laborers to skilled ironworkers, this book provides an account of the Mohawk people who made the construction of bridges and skyscrapers in Southern New England possible.	Booklist Starred Reviews Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate	Jacqueline Kelly	Historical Fiction	In central Texas in 1899, Calpurnia Virginia Tate (Callie Vee), 11, learns about nature and the natural world around her through exploration with her cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist. Along the way to discovery of this hidden world at the river where they spend a lot of time, she also develops a close relationship with him as she navigates the dangers of being the only girl among seven children and what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.	John Newbery Medal Honor Books Booklist Editors Choice Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Best Books Teachers' Choices

Unit 7: Achievements of Ancient Cultures

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Angel Island: Getaway to Gold Mountain	Russell Freedman	Informational Nonfiction	One million of them found a new place to call home. Now, memoirs, letters, and poems help paint the portraits of the Asian immigrants who came to America between 1892 and 1940 as readers discover the people who came to Angel Island and why. Readers also take a look at Angel Island, California's screening process, immigration policy changes, and its reopening.	Booklist Starred Reviews Kirkus Books of Special Note Publishers Weekly Starred Reviews School Library Journal Starred Reviews
Digging for Troy: From Homer to Hisarlik	Jill Rubalcaba	Informational Nonfiction	The history of the digging up of Hisarlik, believed to be where the Trojan War took place. The book begins with a brief but exciting retelling of the Trojan War, giving readers a firsthand appreciation of why generations have been fascinated by this tale, and goes on to profile Heinrich Schliemann, the German businessman who spent a fortune ham-handedly digging up the site in the 19th century. After Schliemann, generations of archaeologists have excavated Hisarlik: along with the history of the excavations, readers are given an overview of technological developments in the field, from comparative dating using potsherds to noninvasive imaging. Competing theories and conclusions are objectively presented, with supporting diagrams, maps, and models.	
Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491	Charles C. Mann	Informational Nonfiction	Mann's concise adaptation of 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus (Vintage, 2006), Mann paints a superb picture of pre-Columbian America. In the process, he overturns the misconceived image of Natives as simple, widely scattered savages with minimal impact on their surroundings. Well-chosen, vividly colored graphics and photographs of mummies, pyramids, artifacts, and landscapes as well as the author's skillful storytelling will command the attention of even the most reluctant readers.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews Teachers' Choices VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Buried Treasures: Uncovering Secrets of the Past	Stephane Compoint	Informational Nonfiction	Discovery of ancient sites, some fairly well known such as Pompeii and Easter Island, while others are a bit more obscure, including Cahuachi, the site of giant drawings in Peru and Chile, and Zeugma, a site in Turkey now underwater due to recent dam construction.	VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World	Jane Breskin Zalben	Informational Nonfiction	Sixteen famous peacemakers, including Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, and recent Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, this book reveals how these remarkable individuals started down their path to peace during childhood, and challenges readers to think of ways to improve others' lives.	Teachers' Choices
The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened & How It Changed the World	Marc Aronson	Informational Nonfiction	This highly pictorial, readable overview provides significant depth of coverage to the melding aspects of the European discovery of the Western Hemisphere. "Causes" discusses the European explorers and American civilizations. The roles of religion, competition, wealth, and glory are considered, and the Aztec and Inca empires and the civilization of Cahokia are described, not as primitive societies but as burgeoning, complex social networks. Next, the "What Happened" section discusses Columbus's voyages and the campaigns of Cortes, Pizarro, Cartier, De Soto, and Drake. Finally, "Consequences" looks at diseases, plants and animals, mingling and elimination of populations, migration, the force gold exerted, and the spread of ideas and lifestyles	
On the Texas Trail of Cabeza de Vaca	Peter Lourie	Informational Nonfiction	Governor Pánfilo de Narváez sailed westward from Spain to explore the land that stretched between present-day Florida and Mexico, colonizing and conquering. With him, as his treasurer and sheriff, was Cabeza de Vaca. The men ran out of food, and Spanish ships failed to return for them. In desperation, they built five rafts and attempted to sail to Mexico. The survivors made it as far as Galveston. By this time, the governor was dead, and Cabeza de Vaca served as the commander. Eight years later, he returned to Spain, one of only four to live through the ordeal. He didn't bring the hoped-for gold, but he did return with a wealth of information, codified in La Relación, his account of his experience. Then, 475 years later, Lourie set out to follow Cabeza de Vaca's trail through Texas, using La Relación as a guide.	
Feudalism and Village Life in the Middle Ages	Mercedes Padrino Anderson	Informational Nonfiction	The fourth book covers feudalism, manorialism, village life, food and drink, clothing, and entertainment, and compares the lord's household with the peasant's. Sidebars, some with quotes from original manuscripts, add to the information presented in the texts.	

Unit 7: Achievements of Ancient Cultures (cont.)

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
Bodies From the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii	James M. Deem	Informational Nonfiction	In 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius erupted annihilating and completely burying the city of Pompeii. It was not until the 18th century that workers began to uncover the remains of this nearly forgotten, except in legend, city and its inhabitants. In this well-researched account, Deem retells the story of this devastating eruption, combining a lively text with photographs of the bones and artifacts that have been unearthed through the years.	Best Books for Young Adults Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Best Books Science Books & Films Editor's Choice VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Rome You Wouldn't Want to Know	Victorian England	Informational Nonfiction	Presents general facts about the culture of ancient Rome, and a list of ten of the most unpleasant parts of living there.	
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Egypt You Wouldn't Want to Know	Victorian England	Informational Nonfiction	Presents general facts about the culture of ancient Egypt, and a list of ten of the most unpleasant parts of living there.	
Top 10 Worst Things About Ancient Greece You Wouldn't Want to Know	Victorian England	Informational Nonfiction	Presents general facts about the culture of ancient Egypt, and a list of ten of the most unpleasant parts of living there.	
The Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China	Jane O'Connor	Informational Nonfiction	When three farmers, digging a well in a field near Xi'an, China, unearthed a pottery head, they were completely unaware of the magnitude of their discovery. As archaeologists began to excavate the site, they found an entire army of life-sized pottery soldiers of every rank, horses, chariots, weapons—an army fit for an emperor. In lively fashion, this handsome book recounts the story of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuang, who ordered the army's construction to ensure that he remain safe and powerful if his quest for unending life was unsuccessful.	Book Report Starred Reviews Booklist Editors Choice Booklist Starred Reviews Booklist Top of the List Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Teachers' Choices
The King Who Barked: Real Animals Who Ruled	Charlotte Foltz Jones	Informational Nonfiction	The brief accounts in this whimsical collection of animal anecdotes introduce symbolic leaders such as goat mayors, dog-kings, and a rhinoceros who won a seat on the Sao Paulo city council in a write-in campaign. The stories, which are arranged by continent of origin, hail from legends and oral histories, though some are more recent and better documented.	Children's Choices

Unit 8: Exploring Earth's Structures

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
World Without Fish	Mark Kurlansky	Informational Nonfiction	The alarming true story of what's happening to the fish, the oceans and our environment. It tells how and why the fish we most commonly eat, including tuna, salmon, cod and swordfish, could become extinct within fifty years. It is a call to action. With its focus on supporting sustainable fishing it shows how from little steps to big kids and -- and must make a difference.	
Forest In the Clouds	Sneed B. Collard	Informational Nonfiction	"Collard introduces young readers to the world of Costa Rica's Monteverde Cloud Forest. He highlights unusual plants and animals and explains the interrelationships among the forest's inhabitants. His concern for the area's ecology is apparent in his account of the disappearance of species, notably the golden toad. Informational nonfiction"	Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 Teachers' Choices
Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Nonfiction	These sleeping giants can wake up at any time, spewing lava down the countryside and killing all that's in their way. Join a volcano crisis team as you discover how scientists study volcanoes in Chile, Colombia, the Philippines, and elsewhere.	BCCB Blue Ribbons, Cumulative Children's Notable Books Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2000-present Horn Book Starred Reviews Kirkus Books of Special Note Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Best Books School Library Journal Starred Reviews

Unit 9: Economic Expansion

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
The Story of Salt	Mark Kurlansky	Informational Nonfiction	This lovely picture book, which is based on Mark Kurlansky's own bestseller <i>Salt: A World History</i> , explores all things salt: how it's gathered, how important it was in ancient times, its role in the American Revolution, and even how the search for salt led to the discovery of oil.	
Open the Door To Liberty	Anne Rockwell	Biography	This book describes the life of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who was born a slave in the French colony of St. Domingue. Toussaint led the first successful slave uprising in the Americas before going on to lead the Haitian revolution. The significance of Haiti's Revolution for the U.S. becomes clear as the author connects Napoleon's defeat in Haiti with his sale of French Louisiana to the United States.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies School Library Journal Starred Reviews
River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River	Hudson Talbot	Informational Nonfiction	This book tells the history of the Hudson River, from its key role in colonial America to its use during the Revolutionary War and finally its part as the birthplace of the environmental movement.	
The Silk Route: 7,000 Miles of History	John S. Major	Informational Nonfiction	This book describes the early history of silk and the route that developed from the trade of this precious fabric, a route that forever altered the cultures it touched.	
Who Was Marco Polo?	Joan Holub	Biography	This biography examines the famous traveler Marco Polo and delves into questions historians still have about Polo's life and the tales he told of the silk road.	
Looking for Marco Polo	Alan Armstrong	Fiction	In this fantasy novel, 11-year-old Mark travels back in time to discover what life was like in Venice and along the historic Silk Road during the 13th century.	

Unit 10: Understanding Our Energy Resources

Title	Author	Genre	Summary Notes	Awards
50 Burning Questions About Fire	Tanya Lloyd Kee	Informational Nonfiction	This book explores fire and its history, both literally and figuratively. The clever question-based format is sure to spark the interest of readers, who might be surprised to discover the role fire has played and continues to play in almost every aspect of our lives.	Children's Core Collection, 20th ed. and Supplements
Bodies From the Ice: Melting Glaciers and Rediscovery of the Past	James M. Deem	Informational Nonfiction	This book explores mummified remains recovered from several locations and time periods, including the over 5000-year-old Alpine Iceman Otzi, the mummified Incan children of the Andes Mountains, and the identification of George Mallory's body on Mount Everest. The field of glaciology is discussed, as are important issues in climate change and archaeology.	Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 School Library Journal Starred Reviews
The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans	Elizabeth Rusch	Informational Nonfiction	This book examines the various ways scientists are attempting to convert ocean wave energy into a renewable energy source.	
Energy Island	Allan Drummond	Narrative Nonfiction	This book tells the story of how the people of Samso, an island in Denmark, drastically reduced their carbon emissions and became almost fully energy-independent. The witty illustrations show how they built wind turbines, erected solar panels, and built a biomass furnace. Sidebars provide teachers, parents, or advanced readers with additional information about energy topics.	
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba	Memoir/Autobiography	Willima Kamkwamba, a boy from a small village in Malawi, learned about windmills from books at the local library and became determined to build his own so that his village could have electricity and running water. He built his windmill using parts salvaged from old cars, bikes, and pipes.	
One Well: The Story of Water on Earth	Rochelle Strauss	Informational nonfiction	This informational science book takes a close look at water, one of our most important resources. The book explains where water is found on earth and discusses the importance of water conservation, preservation, and protection.	
A Cool Drink of Water	Barbara Kerley	Informational nonfiction	This beautiful book of photographs and accompanying text shows how people around the world use and conserve water.	
Clean Energy	Laurie Goldman	Informational nonfiction	This book from the Sally Ride Science series discusses alternative energy sources, such as solar power, wind power, and biofuels. The text details the importance of developing sustainable energy sources for the future of our planet.	