

This resource list was assembled to help you research and develop exhibitions and programming around the themes of the *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* exhibition. Work with your local library or bookstore to host book clubs, discussion programs, or other learning opportunities in conjunction with the exhibition or develop a display with books on the subject. This list is not meant to be exhaustive or all-encompassing. It is simply a start! A quick search of the library will reveal numerous lists compiled by experts. All titles should be readily available unless otherwise specified. Descriptions below are taken from the respective publishers.

Young Adult Fiction

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

In a profound work that pivots from the most pressing questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of an African American father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's painful racial history and our current civil rights crisis. Americans have built an entire society on the idea of "race," a false construct whose ramifications damage us, but fall most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion to their number in the population. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

De La Cruz, Melissa. *Something in Between*. Harlequin Teen, 2016.

A young woman explores her identity and her future when she learns from her parents that she is undocumented.

Farish, Terry. *The Good Braider*. Skyscape, 2012.

Viola's family migrates from Sudan to Portland, Maine. The book explores the dizzying changes in Viola's life and how the new experiences she faces clash with her family's values and identity.

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. New York: harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1932.

This dystopian satire is a brilliant and terrifying vision of a soulless society—and of one man who discovers the human costs of mindless conformity. Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls. Written in the shadow of the rise of fascism during the 1930s, *Brave New World* likewise speaks to a 21st-century world dominated by mass-entertainment, technology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the arts of persuasion, and the hidden influence of elites.

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1954.

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued.

Orwell, George. 1984. New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1949.

One of the most celebrated classics of the twentieth century, Orwell's cautionary tale of a man trapped under the gaze of an authoritarian state provides a cautionary tale of government gone wrong. In 1984, London is a grim city in the totalitarian state of Oceania where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston Smith is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm: A Fairy Story*. New York: The New American Library, 1946.

This account of a group of barnyard animals who revolt against their vicious human master, only to submit to a tyranny erected by their own kind, is a universal drama. Taking as his starting point the betrayed promise of the Russian Revolution, Orwell lays out a vision that, in its bitter wisdom, gives us the clearest understanding we possess of the possible consequences of our social and political acts. Orwell is one of the very few modern satirists comparable to Jonathan Swift in power, artistry, and moral authority; in *Animal Farm* his spare prose and the logic of his dark comedy brilliantly highlight his stark message.

Thanhha Lai. *Inside Out and Back Again*. Harper, 2013.

A retelling of the author's and her family's escape from Vietnam after the Vietnam War, the novel explores a child's view of immigration and settlement in a new country.

Young Adult Non-fiction

Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1955.

Written during the 1940s and early 1950s, when Baldwin was only in his twenties, the essays collected in *Notes of a Native Son* capture a view of black life and black thought at the dawn of the civil rights movement and as the movement slowly gained strength through the words of one of the most captivating essayists and foremost intellectuals of that era. Writing as an artist, activist, and social critic, Baldwin probes the complex condition of being black in America. With a keen eye, he examines everything from the significance of the protest novel to the motives and circumstances of the many black expatriates of the time, from his home in "The Harlem Ghetto" to a sobering "Journey to Atlanta."

Bausum, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2004.

This photo-illustrated history tells how women fought for and won the right to vote in the United States. The book starts with basic history on the struggle for women's rights, other groups' battles for the vote, and background on the 19th-century women's suffrage movement before focusing on the ultimately successful 20th-century efforts to enfranchise women. It details and illustrates the political lobbying and public protests as well as the backlash against these efforts, including intimidation, imprisonment, hunger strikes, and forced feeding of prisoners. Carrying

cloth banners and with determined spirits, suffragists marched, picketed, and paraded tirelessly until they were heard and their rights were inscribed into the Constitution.

Hennessey, Jonathan. *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation.*

Our leaders swear to uphold it, our military to defend it. It is the blueprint for the shape and function of government itself and what defines Americans as Americans. But how many of us truly know our Constitution? *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation* uses the art of illustrated storytelling to breathe life into our nation's cornerstone principles. What revolutionary ideas made the Constitution's authors dare to cast off centuries of rule by kings and queens? Why do we have an electoral college rather than a popular vote for president and vice president? How did a document that once sanctioned slavery, denied voting rights to women, and turned a blind eye to state governments running roughshod over the liberties of minorities transform into a bulwark of protection for all? *The United States Constitution* answers all of these questions.

Herda, D.J. *Thurgood Marshall: Civil Rights Champion.* New York: Enslow Publishers, 1995. Biography of civil rights leader Thurgood Marshall. Describes both the professional and personal life of the first African-American Supreme Court Justice who gained notoriety as a defender of civil rights and social justice.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Civil Disobedience.* New York: Signet Classics, 1980.

Sparked by Thoreau's outrage at American slavery and the American-Mexican war, *Civil Disobedience* is a call for every citizen to value his conscience above his government. Within this 19th century essay, Thoreau explains government of any sort – including democracy – does not possess more wisdom or justice than its individual citizens, and that it is every citizen's responsibility to avoid acquiescence. More than an essay, *Civil Disobedience* is a call to action for all citizens to refuse to participate in, or encourage in any way, an unjust institution.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America.* New York: G. Dearborn & Co., 1838.

A seminal study of the early American nation and its evolving democracy, from the outsider point of view of a French aristocrat and sociologist. Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-59) came to America in 1831 to see what a great republic was like. What struck him most was the country's equality of conditions, its *democracy*. The book he wrote on his return to France, *Democracy in America*, is both the best ever written on democracy and the best ever written on America. It remains the most often quoted book about the United States, not only because it has something to interest and please everyone, but also because it has something to teach everyone.

Travis, Cathy. *Constitution Translated for Kids.* Washington, D.C.: We the Books, CT Bookshelf, LLC, 2016.

Constitution Translated for Kids - winner of the 2011 Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award for Education (Government and Politics), the "Mom's Choice Award" and a "Best Books Award" - is a simple, widely acclaimed, non-ideological translation of the entire U.S. Constitution, side-by-side with the original 1787 text. Teachers hail the accompanying free Teacher's Guide as an extraordinary resource to teach the Constitution to all ages.

White, E.B. *On Democracy.* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

A collection of essays, letters and poems, centered on the subject of freedom and democracy in America. Decades before our current political turmoil, White crafted political statements that continue to resonate. "There's only one kind of press that's any good—" he proclaimed, "a press free from any taint of the government." He condemned the trend of defamation, arguing that "in doubtful, doubting days, national morality tends to slip and slide toward a condition in which the

test of a man's honor is his zeal for discovering dishonor in others." And on the spread of fascism he lamented, "fascism enjoys at the moment an almost perfect climate for growth—a world of fear and hunger." Speaking to Americans at a time of uncertainty, when democracy itself has come under threat, he reminds us, "As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman . . . the scene is not desolate."

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2003.

This classic national bestseller chronicles American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official narrative taught in schools—with its emphasis on great men in high places—to focus on the street, the home and the workplace. *A People's History of the United States* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles—the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality—were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance.

Zinn, Howard and Anthony Arnove. *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005.

Paralleling the twenty-four chapters of Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, *Voices of a People's History* includes testimonies to living history—speeches, letters, poems, songs—left by the people who make history happen but who usually are left out of history books—women, workers, nonwhites.

Children's Fiction

Bandy, Michael S. and Eric Stein. *Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box*. Candlewick, 2015.

Young Michael learns about the struggles that African Americans faced while working to attain voting rights when his grandfather attempts to register to vote in a segregated community.

Brown, Don. *A Voice from the Wilderness: The Story of Anna Howard Shaw*.

Anna Howard Shaw was a pioneer in the fight for woman suffrage. Her childhood on the frontier influenced her belief in woman's equality with men.

Dipucchio, Kelly. *Grace for President*. Disney-Hyperion, 2012.

When she learns that the United States has never had a woman as president, Grace resolves that she's going to become the president of her school and learns how the political process works.

Evans, Freddi Williams. *A Bus of Our Own*. Morton Grove: Albert Whitman & Company, 2001.

A story based on real events of a community that works together to gain civil rights. Mable Jean wants to go to school. She has to walk five miles to get there, though, and her papa told her that if she can't keep up, she'll have to wait another year. Mable Jean asks her parents why the black children don't have a bus, too.

Hena, Khan S. and S. *Amina's Voice*. Salaam Reads, 2017.

Amina is a young Pakistani-American woman who explores her own identity and the meaning of being an American after a tragic event in her community.

Lasky, Katheryn. *A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple, Mayflower, 1620*. New York: Scholastic, 1996.

The diary of a young Pilgrim girl who makes the dangerous journey on the Mayflower to America is filled with her thoughts about her new friends, her contact with Native Americans, and her love for her new land.

Mora, Pat and Libby Martinez. *I Pledge Allegiance*. Knopf, 2014.

Libby learns about citizenship and naturalization from her Mexican aunt Lobo as she works to become an American citizen.

Children's Non-fiction

Adler, David. *A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass*. New York: Random House, 1993.

A biography of the man who, after escaping slavery, became an orator, writer, and leader in the abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century. A tireless advocate to end slavery, Douglass urged slaves to escape and revolt. He inspired many with his bestselling autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Later on, Douglass cemented his status as a pivotal figure in American history when he helped Abraham Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation. He continued to fight for equality during Reconstruction and became the first African American to receive a vote for President of the United States in a major party's roll call vote. This accessible biography for children examines Douglass's amazing life with easy-to-understand facts and details, alongside elegant illustrations. Back matter includes a timeline and author's notes.

Arms, White Linda. *I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote*. New York: Scholastic, 2005.

This picture book biography introduces readers to Esther Morris, the driving force behind suffrage in Wyoming and the first woman to hold elected office in the United States. With lively text and humorous illustrations, this striking picture book biography is the true story of Esther Morris, who started out life believing she could do anything, and then proved it, by building her own business, raising a family in the Wild West, working to get women the vote for the first time, *and* becoming the first female judge and the first woman in the US to hold a political office!

Carlson, Laurie. *Colonial Kids: An Activity Guide to Life in the New World*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1997.

Young adventurers can learn about the settling of America while enjoying activities like stitching a sampler, pitching horseshoes, making an almanac, churning butter, and more.

Catrow, David. *We the Kids: Preamble of the Constitution of the United States*. New York: Puffin Books, Division of Penguin Group, 2002.

Perfect for inspiring discussion in classrooms and around kitchen tables, this fun-filled and cheerfully illustrated look at the Preamble provides an accessible introduction to America's founding ideals for citizens of *all* ages.

Fritz, Jean. *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*. New York: Putnam Berkley Group, Inc., 1987.

Newbery Honor author Jean Fritz's humorous touch chronicles the hot summer of 1787 where fifty-five delegates from thirteen states huddled together in the strictest secrecy in Philadelphia to draw up the constitution of the United States! Describes how the Constitution came to be written and ratified. Also includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Maestro, Betsy and Guilio. *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution*. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1987.

With accurate historical information, this easy-to-understand book tells why and how the Constitution of the United States was created. *A More Perfect Union* includes a map and back matter with a table of dates and a summary of the Articles of the Constitution.

Minor, Wendell. *Yankee Doodle America*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006.

Wendell Minor invites us on just such a journey through America in the days of its struggle for independence. Each striking illustration, painted on hand-carved replicas of these signs, introduces readers to the people, places and events that gave birth to our nation. Beginning with the Stamp Act that angered the patriots, readers meet George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other historical figures, and learn about the documents and battles that kept the fight for freedom alive.

Shamir, Ruby. *What's the Big Deal About Elections*. Philomel, 2018

Ruby Shamir's books help young readers explore why it is important that Americans participate in the democratic process.

Spier, Peter. *We, the People: The Constitution of the United States of America*. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1991

The book documents the creation of the U.S. Constitution through colorful illustrations.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be President?* New York: Philomel Books, 2012.

A creative children's book full of fun facts and information about U.S. Presidents in our history. Illustrated by Caldecott honor-winning artist David Small in the cherished tradition of political commentary, this rip-roaring celebration of forty-one Presidents shows us the foibles, the quirks, and — most of all — the humanity of those men who have risen to one of the most powerful positions in the world.