



Book list compiled by: Jennifer Koss, HERC Education Coordinator
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Japanese Internment Camps

My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story by George Takei

A firsthand account of the author's childhood experiences in a Japanese American internment camp.

Fish for Jimmy: Inspired by One Family's Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp by Katie Yamasaki

A brother's efforts to care for his family while imprisoned in an internment camp.

A Scarf for Keiko by Ann Malaspina

A boy grapples with prejudice against his Japanese American friend during WWII.

Love in the Library by Maggie Tokuda-Hall

A love story set in a Japanese American internment camp.

Love Grows Here by Chloe Ito Ward

A moving tale about preserving hope and resilience within the harsh realities of WWII internment camps.

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

A young Japanese American boy finds hope and purpose in baseball while in an internment camp.

Immigration

Like a Dandelion by Huy Voun Lee

A poetic story about growing roots and thriving in a new place after relocation.

The Home We Make by Maham Khwaja

A family finds strength and unity in creating a home amidst displacement.

Facing Fear: An Immigration Story by Karen Lynn Williams

A refugee girl faces her fear while adjusting to life in a new country.

Something Happened to My Dad: A Story About Immigration and Family Separation by Ann Hazzard and Vivianne Aponte Rivera

A child navigates the challenges of family separation due to immigration policies.

My Two Border Towns by David Bowles

A boy and his father explore life on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Tia Fortuna's New Home: A Jewish Cuban Journey by Ruth Behar

A heartwarming story about preserving heritage while adapting to a new environment.

I is for Immigrants by Selina Alko

An alphabet book celebrating the diversity and richness of immigrant experiences.

Anita and the Dragons by Hannah Carmona and Anna Cunha

A girl imagines her fears as dragons while preparing to leave her homeland.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales

A moving story of immigration and finding a place in a new country through books and art.

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

A wordless masterpiece exploring the immigrant experience.

Indigenous People (Including Residential Schools)

When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett

A child learns about her grandmother's resilience and cultural identity during her time in a boarding school.

The Train by Jodie Callaghan

A moving story about a residential school survivor reflecting on their experiences.

The People Shall Continue by Simon Ortiz

A lyrical narrative about Native American resilience and history.

We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell

A book highlighting the ongoing struggles and contributions of Native peoples.

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom

A call to action for environmental justice inspired by Indigenous-led movements.

Today is Orange Shirt Day by Phyllis Webstad and Natassia Davies

A powerful story about the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

I Am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer

A true story of a girl who resists the dehumanization of a residential school.

Crossing Bok Chitto by Tim Tingle

A Choctaw girl helps an enslaved family escape to freedom.

Voting Rights

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter and Shane W. Evans

An elderly woman recalls her journey to secure voting rights.

Evicted! The Struggle for the Right to Vote by Alice Faye Duncan

A family fights against eviction and voter suppression in 1960s Tennessee.

Ida B. Wells Marches for the Vote by Dinah Johnson

A biography of journalist and suffragist Ida B. Wells.

Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles by Mara Rockliff

The adventurous story of two suffragists who traveled 10,000 miles to campaign for women's voting rights.

Women's Rights

Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican Freedom Fighter by Aida Salazar

The inspiring story of Jovita Idár, a journalist who fought for justice and equality.

Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight: Patsy Takemoto Mink and the Fight for Title IX by Jen Bryant

A biography of the first Asian American congresswoman and her role in Title IX.

Mary Wears What She Wants by Keith Negley

A story about Mary Edwards Walker, who defied societal norms by wearing pants.

Pink: A Women's March Story by Virginia Zimmerman

A young girl learns about activism and the power of standing up for what's right as she prepares to join her family at the Women's March.

Civil Rights & Segregation

To Boldly Go: How Nichelle Nichols and Star Trek Helped Advance Civil Rights by Angela Dalton

The inspiring story of Nichelle Nichols, whose role on *Star Trek* broke racial barriers and advanced the civil rights movement.

Because Claudette by Tracey Baptiste

The empowering story of Claudette Colvin, a courageous teenager who refused to give up her bus seat, igniting the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni

A beautifully illustrated account of Rosa Parks and her role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh

The story of Sylvia Mendez and her family's fight for school desegregation.

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

A powerful depiction of children's role in the Birmingham Children's Crusade.

Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton

A personal perspective on the civil rights movement through the eyes of a young girl.

Lizzie Demands a Seat! Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights by Beth Anderson

The true story of Elizabeth Jennings, who challenged racial segregation on streetcars and helped pave the way for civil rights progress.

Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book by Keila V. Dawson

The inspiring account of Victor Hugo Green, whose *Green Book* helped African Americans travel safely during segregation.

Mamie Tape Fights to Go to School by Traci Huahn

The story of Mamie Tape, a Chinese American girl whose family fought for her right to attend public school in 19th-century California.

Slavery

The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States by Alliah L. Agostini

A beautifully told account of the history and significance of Juneteenth, marking the end of slavery in the United States.

Freedom Bird by Jerdine Nolen

A poignant tale of two enslaved siblings who dream of freedom and find hope in a mystical bird.

Do You Know Them? Families Lost and Found After the Civil War by Shana Keller

A moving story of African American families searching for their lost loved ones after the Civil War.

An American Story by Kwame Alexander

A poetic and powerful exploration of America's history of slavery and its enduring impact.

Ona Judge Outwits the Washingtons: An Enslaved Woman Fights for Freedom by Gwendolyn Hooks

The courageous story of Ona Judge, an enslaved woman who escaped from George Washington's household to seek her freedom.

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford

A poetic retelling of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and her role as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Genocide

The Child is Me by Claver Irakoze [Rwanda]

A heartfelt exploration of identity, resilience, and hope through the perspective of a child survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.

Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of Cambodian Genocide by Icy Smith [Cambodia]

The harrowing story of a young boy's survival under the Khmer Rouge regime and his journey toward hope and resilience.

A Song for Cambodia by Michelle Lord [Cambodia]

The inspiring true story of Arn Chorn-Pond, a boy who survived the Cambodian genocide and used music to heal and advocate for peace.

The Librarian's Stories by Lucy Falcone [Bosnia]

A poignant tale about a librarian who brings hope and solace to children in a war-torn city through the power of storytelling.

Flowers for Sarajevo by John McCutcheon and Kristy Caldwell [Bosnia]

A moving story about a boy in war-torn Sarajevo who learns the power of kindness and resilience through the actions of a cellist commemorating lives lost in conflict.

Nour's Secret Library by Wafa' Tarnowska [Syria]

A story of children in war-torn Syria who create a secret library, finding hope and comfort through books amidst the chaos.

Workers' Rights

Thanks to Frances Perkins: Fighter for Workers' Rights by Deborah Hopkinson

The inspiring story of Frances Perkins, the first female cabinet member, who fought tirelessly for workers' rights and social reforms.

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel

This true story follows Clara Lemlich, a young immigrant who led one of the largest strikes in U.S. history to demand fair treatment for garment workers.

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers by Sarah Warren

This biography highlights Dolores Huerta's fight for farmworkers' rights alongside César Chávez, showing her determination to bring justice to those who toil in the fields.

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chávez by Kathleen Krull

Cesar Chávez grows from a shy boy into a powerful labor leader, organizing farmworkers to stand up for fair wages and humane conditions.

Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children by Jonah Winter

This book tells the true story of Mother Jones, who led a children's march to protest child labor in factories, demanding better treatment for young workers.

Equality/Discrimination

Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War by Duncan Tonatiuh

The remarkable story of a Mexican American soldier who used his experiences in WWI to champion civil rights and equality for his community.

Say Something by Peter H. Reynolds

Encouraging children to use their voices against injustice, this book highlights how speaking up can make a difference in the world.

My Name Is Bilal by Asma Mobin-Uddin

A Muslim boy struggles with discrimination at school but learns to embrace his identity with the help of a supportive teacher and family.

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson

A true story about a boy from Ghana born with one leg who defied expectations and fought for disability rights in his country.

Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor

Written by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, this book encourages children to embrace differences by learning about disabilities and unique abilities.

LGBTQIA+

Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders

A celebration of Harvey Milk and the creation of the rainbow flag as a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride.

When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff

A transgender boy learns to embrace his identity while preparing to be a big brother.

Julian Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

A beautifully illustrated story about a boy expressing himself and his love for mermaids.

Pink Is for Boys by Robb Pearlman

A story that challenges traditional gender roles and celebrates individuality.

South African Apartheid

The Soccer Fence by Phil Bildner

A story of friendship and hope during apartheid in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson

A beautifully illustrated biography of Nelson Mandela's life and fight for equality.

The Day Gogo Went to Vote by Elinor Batezat Sisulu

A little girl accompanies her 100-year-old great-grandmother to vote in South Africa's first free elections, marking a historic moment in the country's history.

Homelessness

The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern

A compassionate story about children helping a homeless woman in their community.

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting

A boy and his father struggle with homelessness while living in an airport.

A Shelter in Our Car by Monica Gunning

A girl and her mother navigate the challenges of living in their car.

Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005)

Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan by Mary Williams

The journey of Sudanese boys who survive war and find hope.

Holocaust

The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs by Chana Stiefel

A Holocaust survivor preserves the memory of her community through photography.

The Tree of Life: How a Holocaust Sapling Inspired the World by Elisa Boxer

The story of a tree planted in remembrance of those lost in the Holocaust.

Hold On to Your Music: The Inspiring True Story of the Children of Willesden Lane by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

A pianist finds hope and resilience through music during WWII.

The Promise by Pnina Bat Zvi and Margie Wolfe

Two sisters survive Auschwitz together by keeping a promise to their parents.

The Cat Who Lived with Anne Frank by David Lee Miller and Steven Jay Rubin

The Holocaust from the perspective of Anne Frank's cat.

The Pebble: An Allegory of the Holocaust by Marius Marcinkevičius

A metaphorical tale about the impact of the Holocaust.

Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto by Susan Goldman Rubin

The true story of Irena Sendler, who saved over 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust.

Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport by Caren Stelson

The harrowing journey of children rescued from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia via the Kindertransport.

A Hero and the Holocaust: The Story of Janusz Korczak and His Children by David A. Adler

The inspiring story of Janusz Korczak, a doctor and educator who chose to stay with the orphans in his care as they faced deportation to Treblinka.

The Champion of Children: The Story of Janusz Korczak by Tomek Bogacki

A poignant look at Janusz Korczak's life, dedicated to protecting and educating Jewish orphans during the Holocaust.

What Rosa Brought by Jacob Sager Weinstein

A touching story about resilience and rebuilding a sense of home after profound loss.

Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued by Peter Sís

The remarkable story of Nicholas Winton, who saved hundreds of children during the Holocaust, and the lasting impact of his heroic actions.

I Am Anne Frank by Brad Meltzer

A child-friendly introduction to Anne Frank's life and legacy, highlighting her courage during the Holocaust.