

Carter G. Woodson Book Awards, 2009



In an effort to promote cultural literacy in children and young adults, the Racism and Social Justice Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies created the Carter G. Woodson Book Award. The purpose of the Woodson Award, given annually since 1974, is to promote the writing, publishing, and dissemination of sensitive and accurate social science books for children. These works are to promote an understanding of ethnic minorities and relations in the United States. The award was named in honor of an African American pioneer in the field of black studies, Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson, social scientist and educator, dedicated his life to research, writing, and publishing works that increased literary resources available on black history and the significant contributions of black Americans. Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, he established “Negro History Week” in 1926, which evolved into “Black History Month.”

NCSS and the Carter G. Woodson Book Award Committee are pleased to present reviews for the book award winners at the elementary (K – 6), middle (5 – 8), and secondary (7 – 12) levels for 2009. These award and honor books have been determined to be superior examples of books that focus on individual or collective experiences of ethnic minorities in the United States. Reviews will provide a summary of each book along with specific NCSS thematic strands identified for curriculum development and classroom use.

—Dr. Patrick M. Westcott

2009 Carter G. Woodson Awards Committee Chair

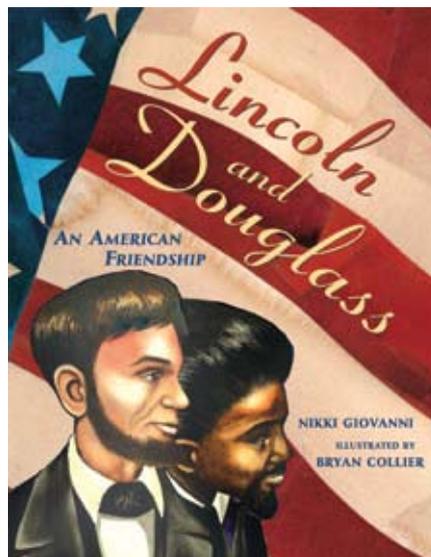
Elementary Winner

Lincoln and Douglass: An American Friendship, by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

Reviewed by Amy Camardese, associate professor, Department of Education, Westminister College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

Lincoln and Douglass is a beautiful story about an unusual friendship that had profound implications for the anti-slavery movement. Nikki Giovanni begins the story at the 1865 inaugural reception for Abraham Lincoln, with Lincoln keeping an eye out for special guests, Frederick Douglass and his wife. The reader is then taken back to the boyhood years of both Lincoln and Douglass, and we learn about similarities in their upbringings. Examples of honesty, persistence, and dedication

to learning in their younger years are shared for each of these future leaders. We learn how Douglass escaped slavery and found refuge with Quakers. Lincoln, on the other hand, walked five miles to return a nickel.



When the two first met at the beginning of their respective careers, they discovered a common bond in the abolitionist movement. Both men were convinced that slavery was morally wrong. Others felt the same, and the story recounts John Brown’s attack on Harper’s Ferry in 1859. The reader is then transported to Lincoln’s presidency and the Civil War. Bryan Collier’s cut paper collages are stunning and pull the reader into the tragedy of war through a magnificent pullout mural of Confederate soldiers fighting Union soldiers.

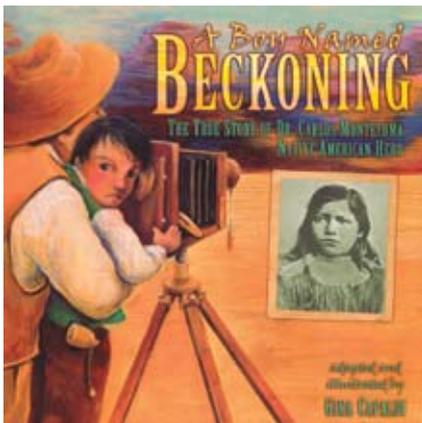
At the conclusion, readers are brought back to the inaugural reception where Lincoln and Douglass are together, reminiscing about the progress that had been made while alluding to the progress still to be made. ❶ CULTURE; ❸ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ❹ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ❺

Elementary Honor

A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero, adapted and illustrated by Gina Capaldi. Carolrhoda Books (A Division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.).

Reviewed by Stephanie Nicole Robinson, professor in the College of Education at North Central University in Prescott, Arizona.

A Boy Named Beckoning is a first-person account of a Native American child who became a prisoner of war and was sold into slavery. He was sold to a white photographer, and grew up to become an accomplished physician. As an adult, Dr. Montezuma fought for civil rights for Native Americans and to maintain tribal lands.



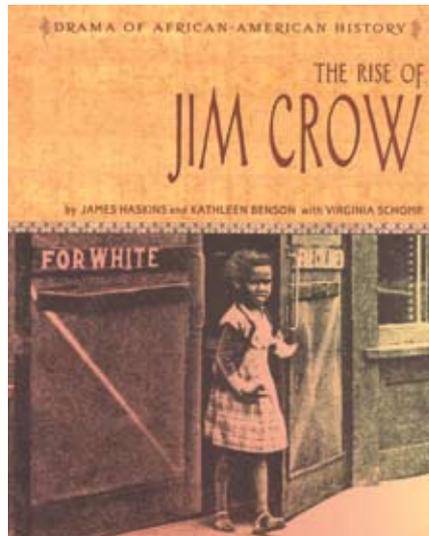
Most of the story is set in Arizona and depicts tribal wars and cultural differences between Native Americans and Europeans from the perspective of a child. Author and illustrator Gina Capaldi uses Montezuma’s adopted father’s photos and her own textured illustrations to convey the emotional story. The story is based on a letter written by Montezuma. **● CULTURE; ● POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ✕ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES.**

Middle Level Winner

The Rise of Jim Crow (Drama of African-American History), by James Haskins and Kathleen Benson with Virginia Schomp. Marshall Cavendish Benchmark.

Reviewed by Loraine Moses Stewart, associate professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

This is the sixth book in the ten-volume *Drama of African-American History* series that strives to trace the experiences of African Americans from their roots in Africa to present day America. The first five books in this well researched and documented series depict the life and experiences of Africans living in Africa before and during the slave trade, the horrific brutality of the slave trade and middle passage, and life for African Americans living in America during the Civil War and Reconstruction.



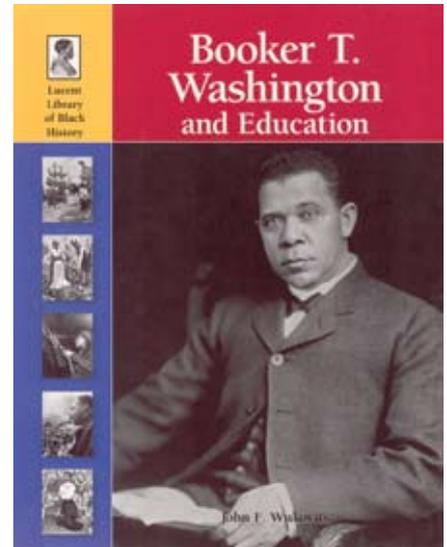
The Rise of Jim Crow focuses on the years from the end of Reconstruction through the beginning of the twentieth century—a period that shifted from promise and hope to one of the saddest periods in American history. Many primary sources, including photographs, newspapers, quotes, and illustrations are incorporated throughout the book, adding to the visual appeal and historical accuracy. The sidebars and photos

enhance and complement the text, providing strong imagery of the feelings and experiences of the time. Several additional resources are provided including a glossary, a list of additional books on the topic, and notes on the quotes that are woven throughout the book. **● CULTURE; ● TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ● INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.**

Middle Level Honor

Booker T. Washington and Education (Lucent Library of Black History), by John F. Wukovits. Lucent Books.

Reviewed by Carrie Sorensen, professor, College of Education, Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, Michigan.



In May of 1896, Booker T. Washington received a prestigious award from Harvard University. Freed from slavery at age 9, he grew up observing the struggle of former slaves searching for ways to support their families. Washington obtained a formal education, and dedicated his life to finding ways to help other African Americans prepare themselves for better economic opportunities. By the time the honor from Harvard came, he had provided much-needed leadership as the driving force behind the development of the Tuskegee Institute. John F. Wukovits’s biography of Washington provides in-depth description of Washington’s rise

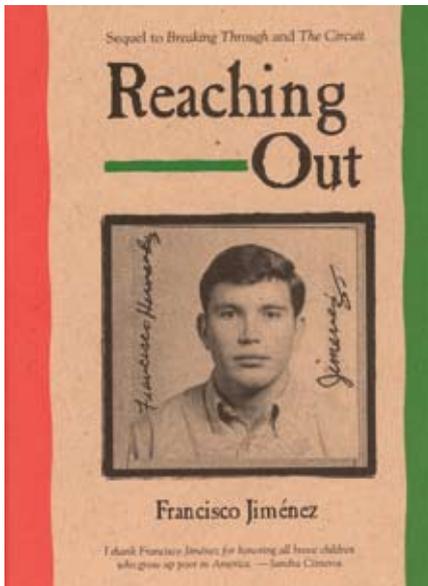
from slave to university leader. Middle-level teachers will find classroom application through Washington's focus on goal setting. Wukovits also clearly describes the controversy surrounding the Tuskegee curriculum, which focused on skilled trades rather than professional studies. Students can choose a side to defend and debate. ① CULTURE; ② TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ③ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

.....

Secondary Winner

Reaching Out, by Francisco Jiménez. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Reviewed by Denise B. Geier, associate professor, Northcentral University, Prescott Valley, Arizona.



Reaching Out touches the hearts of readers as they follow author Francisco Jiménez to Santa Clara University. As the first in his family of migrant workers to attend college, he is aware of the struggles his family will have to endure in his absence. Since he will no longer be a contributor to the family finances, his brothers will have to work harder in his absence. Arriving at college, Francisco encounters new challenges and continues to face prejudice while anxiously taking on any opportunity to earn money to send home. Summer vacations find Jiménez resuming his

janitorial job. Fortunately, he also finds mentors and supportive friends as he becomes a U.S. citizen and later as he applies for, and is awarded, a Woodrow Wilson fellowship. The final pages describe not only his satisfaction at graduation, but the pride of his entire family.

This book will give readers the opportunity to learn about the life of a migrant family through the compelling vignettes integrated into the story. Readers become familiar with the special challenges that students face when confronting new experiences such as meeting a roommate, living in a dorm, making new friends, and managing schoolwork. Issues such as poverty, discrimination, and prejudice are evident as readers follow Jiménez's personal struggles. ① CULTURE; ② PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ③ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

.....

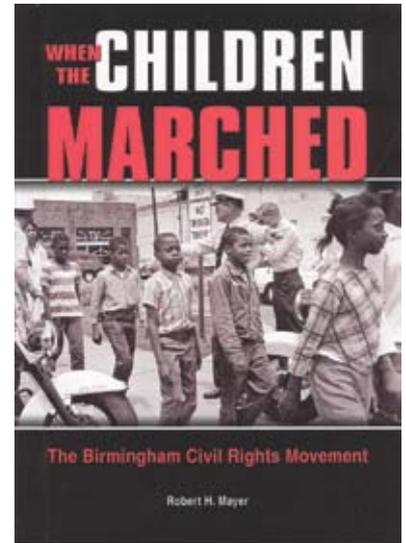
Secondary Honor

When the Children Marched: The Birmingham Civil Rights Movement, by Robert H. Mayer. Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Reviewed by Patrick Westcott, chair of the Carter G. Woodson Award Committee and an assistant professor at Rowan University.

Many worthy books have been written about the Birmingham civil rights movement, but Mayer focuses his account on the difficult decision to involve young people in nonviolent marches as a protest tactic in the battle for social justice. Considered the most segregated city in America, civil rights leaders fought to focus the country's attention on the inhumanity of segregation. The involvement of children was controversial, drawing both considerable criticism and praise. Yet it galvanized other young people throughout the nation, eventually leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mayer's carefully selected relevant archival pho-

tographs and riveting personal accounts brings tremendous immediacy to the



text. Sidebars on significant individuals of the time, source notes, a bibliography, websites, and a timeline will encourage further student research. ③ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ④ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ⑤ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES 🌐

BOOK SALE!
FIVE for \$50.00

NCSS has a special offer for teachers, schools and school districts. Choose any five books published in the NCSS Bulletin series for \$50 plus shipping and handling. This offer provides discounts of about 50% on the list prices of most books. Want to order more than five? Each extra book costs only \$10.

Attention, Schools and School Districts! A purchaser of 50 books or more gets an extra two dollars off each book-50 for \$400 and, after that, a charge of only \$8 for each extra book (51 for \$408). Purchasers of 100 books or more should call Michael Simpson at 301-588-1800, ext. 105, or send an e-mail to publications@ncss.org with the subject line "NCSS Book Sale" describing the quantity and title of books requested and asking for a quote. Books are non-returnable and available only while supplies last. Details of this special sale are at www.socialstudies.org.