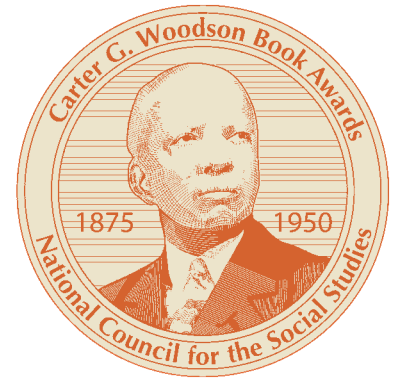


# Carter G. Woodson Book Awards, 2010



The Carter G. Woodson Book Award was created in 1974 by the Racism and Social Justice Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies to promote cultural literacy in children and young adults. Presented annually, the award identifies authors, illustrators, and publishers of exceptional books that forward understanding of ethnicity in the United States. The award was named in honor of African American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson, considered the “Father of Black History,” earned his Ph.D. in history from Harvard in 1912 and dedicated his life to researching, writing, and publishing works that increased literary resources available on black history. He established “Negro History Week” in 1926, a forerunner of today’s widely celebrated “Black History Month.”

NCSS and the Carter G. Woodson Award Committee present the award winners of the elementary (K-6), middle (5-8), and secondary (7-12) levels for 2010. These award and honor books are outstanding examples of books that focus on individual or collective experiences of ethnic minorities in the United States. The following reviews provide a summary of each book along with specific NCSS thematic strands identified for curriculum development and classroom use.

—Dr. Patrick M. Westcott, 2010 Carter G. Woodson Awards Committee Chair

## Elementary Winner

*Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story*, by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Lin Wang. Lee & Low Books, Inc.

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



*Shining Star* is the life story of Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American movie star. The book is set in the early 1900s in California. As a young girl working in her family’s laundry business,

Wong had dreams of becoming a glamorous Hollywood movie star. Later, when she pursued acting, she found herself being limited to stereotypical roles. As she rose to prominence, she had to make a decision: stay in America and continue to act in movie roles that were unflattering to Chinese Americans; or embrace her ethnic identity by going abroad in search of more authentic acting roles.

The book provides excellent lessons about the importance of having a supportive family, working hard to pursue a dream,

maturing as a person, and embracing one’s ethnic identity. There are vivid watercolor illustrations throughout the book that guide the reader through Wong’s triumphs and heartbreaks. The emotions depicted in the pictures can be easily understood by readers of all ages.

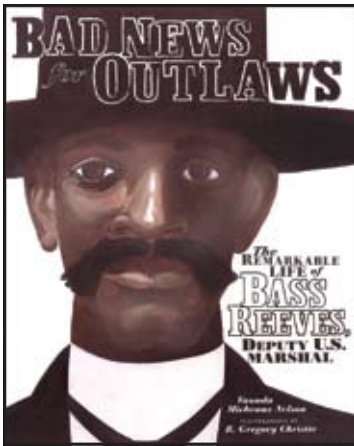
④ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ⑤ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

## Elementary Honor

*Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal*, by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Carolrhoda Books, a Division of Lerner.

Reviewed by Terrence A. James, assistant professor of elementary/secondary education at New Jersey City University, New Jersey.

*Bad News for Outlaws: the Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal* chronicles the life of Bass Reeves an African American man in nineteenth-century America, who escaped from slavery. The book describes Reeves’s life as a runaway, as the father of a large family, his employment, and successes and dilemmas as a deputy U.S. marshal at a time when the authority of an African American was not respected.



The book explores Deputy Marshal Reeve's reputation and preference for "bringin' em in alive" as a first resort, his techniques for planning captures, originality in disguises, skill with weapons, devotion to duty and sense of justice. He is considered by many historians a true champion of the American West.

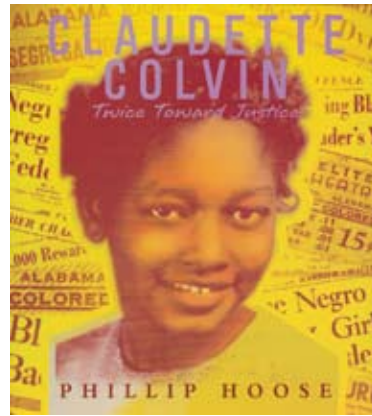
The storyline and events easily implement three or

more NCSS strands such as: ③ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ⑤ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; AND ⑥ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE.

### Middle Level Winner

*Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, by Phillip Hoose. Melanie Kroupa Books.

Reviewed by Dean Cristol, academic coordinator of educational programs in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University.



Philip Hoose's book, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, chronicles the life of a little known, but important person in the struggle to end the segregation laws in the United States. Nine months before Rosa Parks took her heroic stand, Claudette, then 15, had courageously refused to give up her seat on a

crowded Montgomery city bus. At the time, leaders of the civil rights movement considered Claudette's age, her strident personality, and her class status as negative attributes for one who might serve as a role model to end segregation. While most people would have been insulted, Claudette felt the cause was greater than her personal hurt. During the boycott, she served as one of four plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit *Browder v. Gayle*, that abolished segregated bus seating in Alabama.

Hoose brings a sense of reality in this vivid portrayal of Claudette's experience as well as the oppression, violence, and discrimination African Americans faced, particularly in the South. Even as the book's descriptions can be disturbing,

# Stories & Strategies from the Classroom

**FREE SHIPPING!**  
USE CODE GS\*



**Stenhouse**  
PUBLISHERS

*Professional Resources by Teachers for Teachers*

See the entire text of all our new books online

[www.stenhouse.com](http://www.stenhouse.com)  
[800] 988-9812

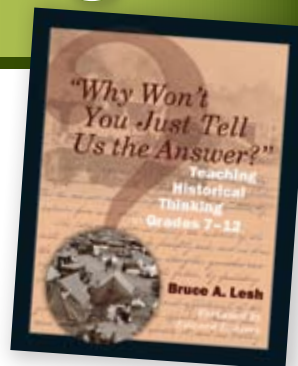
## "Why Won't You Just Tell Us the Answer?"

Teaching Historical Thinking in Grades 7-12

**Bruce A. Lesh; Foreword by Edward L. Ayers**

History teacher Bruce Lesh shows how to improve student performance in and appreciation of historical studies by teaching historical thinking rather than rote memorization. When students are actively engaged in investigating the past—the way professional historians do—they find that history class is not about boring memorization. Instead, it's challenging fun. Historical study that centers on a question, where students gather a variety of historical sources and then develop and defend their answers to that question, allows students to become actual historians immersed in an interpretive study of the past.

Grades 7-12 | GS-0812 | \$22.00 paper



## Making History Mine

Meaningful Connections for Grades 5-9

**Sarah Cooper**

*Making History Mine* provides a solid framework for exploring and understanding history, including how to analyze primary source documents, extrapolate themes, and detect bias in a historian's argument. A one-page description at the beginning of each chapter explains the embedded skills and shows how the lessons correlate to state and national history standards.

Grades 5-9 | GS-0765 | \$24.00 paper



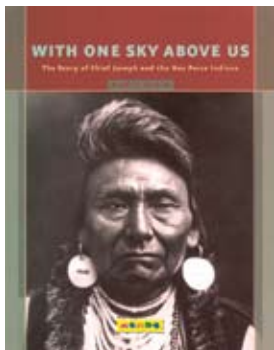
\* Prepaid orders only. Offer expires 6/30/2011.

Hoose’s overlay of the power of peaceful organized resistance for a greater cause leaves the reader feeling empowered and grateful that such individuals as Claudette Colvin exist. ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ INDIVIDUAL, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ❹ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ❺ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

### Middle Level Honor

*With One Sky Above Us: The Story of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians*, by Nancy Plain. Mondo Publishing.

Reviewed by Patrick M. Westcott, Ed.D., associate professor, Department of Teacher Education, Rowan University, Glassboro, New Jersey.



Joseph was chief of the Nez Perce, a Native American tribe of the Wallowa Valley in Northwest Oregon. In 1877, the Nez Perce were ordered to a reservation, but the tribe refused to go. Instead, Chief Joseph tried to lead 800 of his people to Canada. Fighting the U.S. Army all along their 1100-mile journey, they crossed Idaho and Montana. They were trapped

just 40 miles from Canada. After a five-day fight, the remaining 431 Nez Perce were defeated. In his last years, Joseph spoke eloquently against the injustice of United States policy toward his people and held out the hope that America’s promise of freedom and equality might one day be fulfilled for Native Americans. Many illustrations and photographs augment the author’s clear text. *With One Sky Above Us* is an excellent addition to the upper elementary and middle school social studies classroom library.

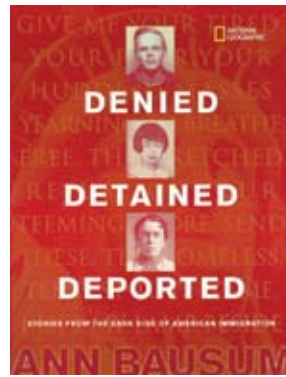
Themes: ❶ CULTURE; ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ❹ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE.

### Secondary Winner

*Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*, by Ann Bausum. National Geographic.

Reviewed by Marilyn J. Ward, professor, Department of Education, Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Opening with Emma Lazarus’s poem, “Give me your tired, your poor,” and a forceful poetic response by Naomi Shihab Nye, Bausum writes a fascinating analysis of the dark reality of U.S. immigration policy. Chapter One, “Excluded: Unguarded Stand Our Gates,” deals with Chinese immigration during the late nineteenth century. Three clearly written, meticulously researched accounts make up the core of the book. Twelve-year-old German-Jew Herb Karliner was denied entry into the United States in 1939 while escaping Nazi Germany.



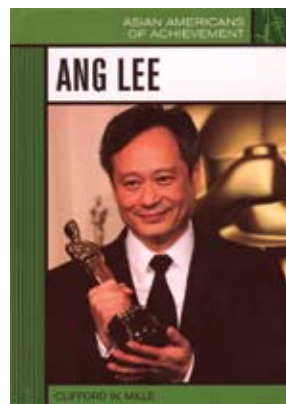
Sixteen-year-old Japanese American Mary Matsuda was detained with her family during World War II in a relocation camp in California. Russian immigrants and labor-activists Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman were deported for their “un-American” views following World War I. The dramatic narratives and themes of these accounts will

draw readers to parallels with current immigration issues. The final chapter, “Exploited: When We Want You, We’ll Call You,” examines the history of Mexican immigration across the southern border of the United States. Several pages of resource notes and acknowledgments, a comprehensive bibliography, a resource guide, a detailed six-page timeline, and an index, provide useful information. ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ❹ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ❺ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE.

### Secondary Honor

*Ang Lee*, by Clifford W. Mills. Chelsea House Publishers.

Reviewed by Dean Cristol, academic coordinator of educational programs in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University.



*Ang Lee* is part of the Asian Americans of Achievement Series by Chelsea House Publishers. The series’ goal is to present positive images of successful Asian Americans. The people represented are renowned athletes, entertainers, politicians and artists.

The book begins with an overview of Ang Lee’s success as a filmmaker. The subsequent chapters recount his life in chronological order, beginning with his life in Taiwan, his journey to the United States to study film making, and eventually his success as an internationally acclaimed director of innovative English, Taiwanese and Mandarin Chinese movies. The book does not glamorize Lee’s life as a successful artist, but describes the hurdles he had to overcome both professionally and personally in his quest to become a recognized film director. To capture the richness and meaning of Lee’s work, it is recommended to interconnect text passages with excerpts of his films. ❹ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ❺ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS. 🌐