**Book List by School Level and Social Studies Area of Interest**

**Recommended for 7th & 8th Graders (high school students are also very welcome to read)**

* *A Cartoon History of the United States* by Larry Gonick
* *Soldier’s Secret: The Story of Deborah Sampson* by Sheila Solomon Klaas--the story of a woman disguised herself as a man and fought in the American Revolution
* *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson--an enslaved girl during the American Revolution
* *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes--a young boy in Boston just prior to the American Revolution
* *Esperanza Rising* by Pamela Munoz--Novel about migrant farm workers in California in the 1920s
* *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor--an African American family living in the American South during the 1930s
* *Education of Little Big Tree* by Asa Earl Carter -- a young Native American boy lives through the depression
* *Witness* by Karen Hesse--What happens when the KKK comes to a small town in Vermont in the 1920s?
* *The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages--a girl whose father worked on the Manhattan Project, designing the atomic bomb
* *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac--Navajo Code Talkers during WWII
* *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez--Novel about migrant farm workers in Vermont
* *The Boy’s War* by Jim Murphy- A young boy tells about his experiences from the American Civil War
* *Freedom Walkers* by Russell Freedman - The account of the Montgomery bus boycott and the civil rights movement of the 1950s
* *The Rock & The River* by Kekla Magoon--a boy growing up as the son of a Civil Rights Leader
* *Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Budhos--Can the daughter of undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants live the life of a ‘normal’ American teen?
* *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys--about the displacement of Lithuanians to Siberia in WWII--very sad.
* *Diary of Anne Frank* - a young Jewish girl hides in an attic during WWII
* *Out of Bounds* or *No Turning Back* by Beverly Naidoo--What was it like to grow up in Apartheid South Africa? Stories of several young people in South Africa
* *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai--the memoir of a girl who advocated for girls’ education in Afghanistan and survived an attack on her life
* *My Name is Not Angelica* by Scott O’Dell--the life and revolt of African slaves in the Caribbean
* *Before we were free* by Julia Alvarez--a young girl and her family living under a dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in the 1950s
* *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-Li Jiang--the memoir of a Chinese girl living through China’s Cultural Revolution in the 1950s
* *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick--a graphic/non graphic novel about the origin of movies in France
* *Inside Out, and Back Again* by Thanha Lai--a book in verse from the perspective of a Vietnamese refugee

**World History & Cultures (also see 7th/8th grade books)**

* *Rolling Blackouts: Dispatches From Turkey, Syria, and Iraq* by Sarah Glidden--graphic novel about life in the Middle East in the 2000s.
* *The History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage focuses on six distinct drinks (Coca-Cola, Coffee, Beer, etc.) and how they represent scientific and cultural changes throughout history.
* *Salt: A World History* by Mark Kurlansky: A close-up look at salt and its role in growing civilizations from the first parts of history
* *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi--graphic novel a girl growing up in Iran in the 1970s/1980s
* *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez--a family of sisters who resisted the Trujillo regime in Dominican Republic in the 1950s
* *1984* by George Orwell--a dystopian novel of what happens when the world becomes one big dictatorship
* *Animal Farm* by George Orwell - A fable reflecting the Russian Revolution of 1917
* Larry Gonick, *A Cartoon History of the Universe* and *A Cartoon History of the World* (all 7 volumes).

**Society & Geography**

* *Fast Food Nation* by Erich Schlosser: Nonfiction book on the social, cultural, and economic effects of American consumption of fast food
* *Confucius Lives Next Door: What Living in the East Teaches Us About Living in the West* by T.R. Reid--nonfiction--the name probably says it all
* *Guns, Germs, & Steel* by Jared Diamond--rise and collapse of societies as tied to geography--why do Europeans have guns & steel?
* *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* by Jared Diamond
* *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some are So RIch and Some So Poor* by David S. Landes
* *My Own Story* by Ryan White--memoir of a teen boy diagnosed with AIDS in the 1980s
* Alfred Crosby*, Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity’s Unappeasable Appetite for Energy:* focuses on how humans have harnessed different energy forms to become more advanced in the way we live our lives.
* *The Writing on the Wall: Social Media - The First 2000 Years* by Tom Standage: Papyrus rolls and Twitter have much in common, as each was their generation's signature means of “instant” communication. This books dives into the similarities and differences of connecting people throughout history.
* *How to Lie with Maps* by Mark Monmonier--How do the choices mapmakers make influence the story we see?
* *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey--Treatment of mental institute patients in the 1950s/1960s

**US History (Also look above with the 7th/8th grade books)**

* *A Lesson Before Dying* or *A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest Gaines--set in Louisiana, deal with race relations in the 1940s & 1970s
* *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson: the book that alerted the world to the dangers of pesticides and inspired the creation of Clean Air & Clean Water Acts of the 1960s & 1970s
* *Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan: the book that started the modern women’s liberation movement
* *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow: A biography of one of the US’s most significant founders
* *Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson--nonfiction about the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair and the serial killer H.H. Holmes. Warning, contains gore.
* *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson: The sinking of the Lusitania during WWI
* *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin* by Erik Larson
* *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jean Wakatsutki Houston--Memoir about Japanese Internment camps during WWII
* *March* by John Lewis & Andrew Aydin: a graphic novel of John Lewis and Martin Luther King, Jr in the Civil Rights Movement

**Politics & Economics**

* *Gunfight* by Adam Winkler: How have we arrived at the current understanding (and debate) of the second amendment and the role of guns in our communities?
* *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson: How does our criminal justice system and government fail the people they should be serving?
* *The United States Constitution*: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey
* *Our Undemocratic Constitution* by Sanford Levinson: Lessons from the US Constitution and the areas where it may fall short.
* *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner: short articles with an economic and statistical bent, answers questions like: “What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common?” & “How much do parents really matter?”