The Booklist Project

Focus: Equal Rights/Civil Rights
Developed by: Elizabeth Toney
SU I 2014
This booklist is designed to support learners in understanding influential people in the equal rights/civil rights movement in America. Links to lesson plans contain a wealth of resources available to educators. This list is not meant to be exhaustive. There are many more picture books available on this topic in a variety of formats for a variety of reading levels.

The story of Marian Anderson and how she became the first African American to record spirituals for a major American recording company (Victor) and the first African American soloist to perform with the Philadelphia Philharmonic Society. Beautifully illustrated by Brian Selznick, the pictures help tell the story. Words and pictures engage readers of all levels.

**Interest Level:** Grades 3-7  
**Reading Level:** Grade 5.2; GRL=R  
**Lexile:** 780L  
**WIDA Level:** High Developing-Expanding  
**Formats(s) available:** Hardcover; soft cover; Audio CD

**ISBN**  
0439269679 (ISBN13: 9780439269674)

**Edition language**  
English

**Literary Awards**  
Sibert Honor (2003)

**Lesson Plans:**


This is the story of Rosa Parks and the role she played in the equal rights movement in refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The story is told in a personal way and includes details such as the march on Washington and the ruling in November of 1956 that ruled segregation illegal. Beautiful illustrations accompany the rich text. This book is accessible to ELLs, with teacher support and guidance.

Interest Level: Grades 3-7  
Reading Level: Grade 4.9; GRL=T  
Lexile: 900L  
WIDA Level: Expanding  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover; Audio CD; kindle; ebook.

**ISBN**  
0805071067 (ISBN13: 9780805071061)

**Edition language**  
English

**Literary Awards**  
Caldecott Honor (2006); Coretta Scott King Award for Illustrator (2006)

**Lesson Plans:**  

   In this story, complete with actual photographs, Ruby Bridges tells her story. It is a story of how she, as a six year old girl, became the center of the civil rights movement as she crossed the boundaries of school segregation. Vivid photos and rich text make this story engaging to all readers.

   Interest Level: Grades 3-7
   Reading Level: Grade 5.9; GRL=W
   Lexile: 860L
   WIDA Level: Expanding
   Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover;

   ISBN
   0590189239 (ISBN13: 9780590189231)

   Edition language
   English

   Literary Awards
   Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Book Award Nominee (2003), The Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children’s Literature Honor (2000)

   Lesson Plans:
   http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=Through+My+eyes
   http://betterlesson.com/unit/3053/ruby-bridges-through-my-eyes?from=search

The story of Cesar Chavez and the struggles of his early life is told through this wonderfully illustrated story. Through non-violent protests, Chavez fought for equal rights for farm workers in America. Many ELLs will relate to the story told.

Interest Level: Grades 2-7  
Reading Level: Grade 5.6  
Lexile: AD800L (Adult Guidance needed)  
WIDA Level: High Developing-Expanding  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover; audio; Spanish

**ISBN**
0152014373 (ISBN13: 9780152014377)

**Edition language**
English; Spanish

**Literary Awards**
The Pura Belpré Award Nominee for Illustration (2004)

**Lesson Plans:**


During the 1800s, several women stood up for all women in the name of equal rights. Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were among those women. This book includes many of the details of the women’s movement. The book contains primary sources, artifacts and photographs as well as other artwork from this pivotal time in the history of the United States. The glossary and resources in the back of the book alone are valuable resources in learning about this period in history. These features of the book make the history of women’s rights in America come alive for ELLs.

Interest Level: Grades 3-7
Reading Level: Grade 7; GRL=V
Lexile: 900L
WIDA Level: Varies- from Developing to Expanding
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover

**ISBN**
0531188337 (ISBN13: 9780531188330)

**Edition language**
English

**Lesson Plans:**
[http://betterlesson.com/search?keyword=women%27s+right+to+vote](http://betterlesson.com/search?keyword=women%27s+right+to+vote)

   The biographies of several influential leaders are contained in this book. From well-known names such as Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, to lesser-known people like Ralph Abernathy and James Meredith, Adler covers key people and events of the civil rights movement in America. The illustrations are captivating for all levels of learners. The chronology and resources in the back of book are a great resource to help ELLs understand the civil rights movement.

   Interest Level: Grades 4-8  
   Reading Level: Grade 6.6; GRL=S  
   Lexile: 970L  
   WIDA Level: Expanding-Bridging  
   Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover

**ISBN**  
0823420086 (ISBN13: 9780823420087)

**Edition language**  
English

**Lesson Plans:**  

In this easy to read, early elementary level biography (from the Rookie Biography series), students learn about the life and accomplishments of Thurgood Marshall. His most famous case in the civil rights movement, Brown vs. the Board of Education, among other relevant details of his early struggles and his fight for equal rights for all are covered in this text.

Interest Level: Grades 2-5  
Reading Level: Grades 4.3; GRL=N; DRA =18  
Lexile: 480L  
WIDA Level: High Emerging- Developing  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover

**ISBN**  
0516270990 (ISBN13: 9780516270999)

**Edition language**  
English

**Lesson Plans:**  
[http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=37647#AboutAuthor](http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=37647#AboutAuthor)

The story of equal rights in baseball is told in the book through photographs and other primary source materials. The challenging text is supported with large print, photos and captions. This book would capture the attention of sports lovers and those interested in the history of equal rights for all baseball players. In addition to being a good introduction to baseball, it would benefit ELLs learning about text features.

Interest Level: Grades 5-9  
Reading Level: Grades 4.2; GRL=R; DRA=40  
Lexile: 1020L  
WIDA Level: Expanding  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover; audio book; iTunes

**ISBN**  
1590780914 (ISBN13: 9781590780916)

**Edition language**  
English

**Lesson Plans:**  
http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=Negro+League  
http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?keyword_type1=title&keywords1=A%20Negro&go=1

This is the story of how Jesse Owens overcame great obstacles to get to the Olympics. He became a four times over gold medal winner in the 1936 Olympics. The story is told through beautiful artwork and rich text.

Interest Level: Grades 2-6  
Reading Level: Grades 5.0; GRL=N  
Lexile: 930L  
WIDA Level: Developing-Expanding  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover;

**ISBN**  
0590494392 (ISBN13: 9780823410668)

**Edition language**  
English

**Lesson Plans:**

http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&keywords=Jesse+Owens%2C+david+Adler%2C+Holiday+House

http://betterlesson.com/search?keyword=Jesse+Owens

http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=5380&a=1


Written in story format, this book tells the story of how Booker T Washington learned to read. It is an inspiring tale of not giving up when you want something badly enough. The story gives a glimpse into what life was like for former slaves as they struggled for equality in an unfair world. This simple book makes the content accessible for ELLs in the Emerging stage.

Interest Level: Grades 2-6  
Reading Level: Grades 2.0; GRL=L; DRA=20  
Lexile: 420L  
WIDA Level: Emerging-Developing  
Formats(s) available: Hardcover; soft cover;

**ISBN**  
1575050943 (ISBN13: 9781575050942)

**Edition language**  
English

**Lesson Plans:**

http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?keywords=booker+t+washington

The Booklist Project
A Project of the
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