The Booklist Project

Focus: Influential People
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SPRING, 2014
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Book List Project Grades 6-8

Theme: Influential People

The theme for this book list project is based on influential people. Each book describes a person throughout history that has made an important impact in their life. It is important for middle level students to learn about these influential people in order to get a better understanding of what has happened in history over the years.

All of the books listed below are great for ELLs in the classroom because they are filled with pictures, content, and interesting facts. Each of these books leaves the reader with a small understanding of the person it is discussing. By using these books in English & Language Arts, the students will be able to conduct their own research. Research aligns with not only the curriculum for 7th grade, but it also aligns with the Common Core State Standards.

Standards Aligned:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.7
Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.9
Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of
key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.


Grade Level: Pre K-1
Proficiency Level: Entering/ Emerging
Scholastic Books
Lexile Measure: 670L
Paperback form & E-book form
Language: English
Number of Pages: 32

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man. His words changed the way people thought, and his actions spurred them on to change the world. With simple, lyrical text and bold, kid-friendly illustrations, this book introduces Dr. King to the youngest readers and inspires them to change the world.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
This book is good for ELLs because it gives the students a picture that is not overwhelming. Many of the students that come to the United States are unfamiliar to whom this wonderful man really is. The book itself gives a small description that the students can later do more research on in the library or the computer lab.

Resources:
President Abraham Lincoln thought slavery was wrong. He fought a war to hold the country together and to make it free for everyone. With simple, lyrical text and bold, kid-friendly illustrations, this book introduces Abraham Lincoln to the youngest readers and inspires them to stand up for what's right.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
Similar to the Martin Luther King Jr. book, This book on Abraham Lincoln is good for students in the ELL classroom because it does not overwhelm the students. Abraham Lincoln was a very important man in history. The students aren’t able to spend a large amount of time on the presidents in middle school because they have already learned about them in Elementary School. However, some of the students in my classroom have just entered the country and know very little about Abraham Lincoln. This book is not only user friendly, but it also have great images for the students.

Resources:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YN-1GYs1eSE
Amelia Earhart is one of the first of many National Geographic Readers that highlight important historical figures. This Level 1 Reader brings an understanding of Amelia Earhart's historical significance to a whole new audience. Young readers will learn about the fascinating life and legacy of this pioneering pilot and adventurer, whose disappearance over the Pacific in 1937 has intrigued audiences for decades (Level 1).

Why is this book good for ELLs?
This specific book is geared towards the Level 1 Reader. With this book being a specific leveled book it can be used for the lower level ELLs and the higher ELLs because of its context. National Geographic is specific enough to have vital information for all students at any level, however, this book is specific to lower leveled readers, which makes this a good read for ELLs.

Related Resources:
http://www.datesandevents.org/people-timelines/25-amelia-earhart-timeline.htm
Although the site above does not go with the book specifically, it would be good for students to see Amelia’s timeline and see if the book has the same events in line (sequence).
Amelia Earhart was a woman of many "firsts." In 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1935, she also became the first woman to fly across the Pacific. From her early years to her mysterious 1937 disappearance while attempting a flight around the world, readers will find Amelia Earhart's life a fascinating story.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
Similar to the Amelia Earhart book above, ELLs will love this book in order to help them with sequence of events. The fact that the book explains how Earhart was a woman to be the first to do many things. In many of the countries that ELLs come from, women are seen to run the house and that is it. This book gives many young girls the opportunity to dream bigger than what they have seen.

Resources:
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Who-was-Amelia-Earhart-by-Kate-Boehm-Jerome-120989
Growing up in rural Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright were fascinated by all kinds of vehicles -- a toy helicopter, bicycles, and the first motorized cars -- but what they dreamed of was flight. They were convinced they could build a machine that a man could pilot and they did. Read about their amazing story of trial, error, and success.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
This book is great for ELLs because of the detail that is included in the book. Specific details include what certain devices that the brothers invented themselves. The book also gives a great information about where the brothers started in their lives with pictures and complex sentences for high proficiency students.

Related Resources:
http://www.teacherfunzone.com/flight-on-the-beach-lesson-plan/
Rosa Parks dared to stand up for herself and other African Americans by staying seated, and as a result she helped end public bus segregation and launch the country’s Civil Rights Movement. This engaging series is the perfect way to bring American history to life for young children, providing them with the right role models, supplementing Common Core learning in the classroom, and best of all, inspiring them to strive and dream.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
This book is great for ELLs because it teaches them about who Rosa Parks is with the help of pictures and simple text. Although this book has not been printed, there have been many other individuals that have been featured in “I Am” series.
Everyone has heard of Albert Einstein—but what exactly did he do? How much do kids really know about Albert Einstein besides the funny hair and genius label? For instance, do they know that he was expelled from school as a kid? Finally, here's the story of Albert Einstein's life, told in a fun, engaging way that clearly explores the world he lived in and changed.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
This book is not only good for ELLs but also for students all around. There are many things that we assume we know about Albert Einstein, however, there are many things that we never knew happened. It’s good for the students to see that Albert Einstein is not perfect. It’s helpful for students to see that even the smartest person in the world had his ups and downs in school.

Resources:
http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/walking-classroom/7626

Grade Level: K-3
Proficiency Level: Beginning/ Developing
Random House Books for Readers
Lexile Measure: Not Available
Paperback form & Kindle Edition
Language: English
Number of pages: 48

This is the story of a skinny little boy with a funny name and how he became part of America’s history.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
In very clear and accessible language, newly independent readers can learn how the lessons and love of Obama’s mother and grandparents shaped him; how the places he lived influenced him; and how he turned his sadness from his childhood—the feeling he didn’t fit in anywhere—into a positive, driving force of finding a place in the world and in the history books.

Resources:
http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/teaching-resources-barack-obama

Grade Level: 4-8
Proficiency Level: Bridging
DK Children’s Books
Lexile Measure: 1010L
Paperback form
Language: English
Number of pages: 128

From his early life in Hawaii and Indonesia, to his work as a community organizer in Chicago, to his first months in the Oval Office, *DK Biography: Barack Obama* tells the story of the 44th president of the United States.

**Why is this book good for ELLs?**
The book is loaded with archival photographs and amazing facts, the DK Biography series introduces young readers to some of history's most interesting and influential characters. This is good for ELLs because it gives them the background about a character with real life pictures and information. The book also supports the Common Core State Standards.

**Related Resources:**
https://www.teachervision.com/us-history/presidents/59344.html

Grade Level: 2 and up
Proficiency Level: Developing/ Expanding
Perfect Learning
Lexile Measure: Not Available
Paperback form & Hardcover form
Language: English
Number of pages: 48

Illustrations in full color & full-color photos. "The story of Apollo II's historic flight, from lift-off, through 'The Eagle has landed,' to splashdown and quarantine. Donnelly does a good job of setting the stage with chapters on the history of the idea of flight to the moon, astronaut selection and training, and look at the flight's effect on people in general."--School Library Journal.

Why is this book good for ELLs?
Due to the illustrations and simple sentences, ELLs can follow this book and still gain the same context based on this topic. The first trip to the moon was a very interesting and complicated experience, which is good for the students to learn with the use of pictures and easy descriptions.

Resources:
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Moonwalk-The-First-Trip-to-the-Moon-CCG-263377
The Booklist Project
A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,

Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

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