

Multicultural Literature Text Set

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Text Set: People of Peace

The purpose of this text set is to show a variety of true stories about individuals and groups of people who helped make the world better. The associated activities would include: research into the history of the time, identification of a challenge faced by the individual, and a peaceful way that the individual was able to proceed. What was accomplished by their effort? And how long did it take?

Title/Author	Rdg. Level	Genre	Plot	Cultural Perspectives	Value to Set / Response
<i>Peaceful heroes</i> /Jonah Winter; Sean Addy, illus. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic 2009?	Gr.5-8	Biography; Race; Gender; History	Series of short biographies about people who have served others in their strife for peace. They have exhibited elements of kindness, courage, insight, beyond the politics and habits of the day.	Biographees are men, women, and children from countries throughout the world, who belong to different religious groups. Illustrations and selections demonstrate a variety of races and dress.	The title provides short biographies of recent people like Meena Keshwar Kamal, Marla Ruzicka, and William Feehan who may have little written about them. Simple text may appeal to the reluctant or second language reader.
<i>Rachel: the Story of Rachel Carson</i> / Amy Ehrlich; illustrated by Wendell Minor 2008	Gr.4-8	Biography; Gender; Environment	Story of Rachel Carson, her interest in writing and science, her responsible care for her family, and her work to describe the dangers of ddt pesticide. Includes a bibliography for more information about her life and her writings.	Rachel struggled as a woman to be successful in the science field; more than that she struggled with major companies to share her message about pesticides and the environment.	The book shows how Rachel Carson ignores those who disagree to continue her efforts for an environment without harmful ddt. Simple text and pictures with dates provide a nice introduction into this scientist's life and work.

<p><i>Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the spirit of New Orleans</i>/ Phil Bildner; illustrated by John Parra 2015</p>	<p>Gr.2-4</p>	<p>Biography; race; environment; career; responsibility; natural disasters</p>	<p>Story based on a modern day sanitation worker who demonstrated the importance of cleaning up, before and after Hurricane Katrina. Includes a publisher's link for more information about Cornelius Washington.</p>	<p>Cornelius took his job seriously; shows that whatever the job, one should do it with commitment.</p>	<p>The story contains a publisher site for more information; there may be information online about this person as well. His character reflects qualities of a person of peace. Though a simple read, its visuals and short text encourage reticent readers to read this book.</p>
<p><i>Sequoyah: the Cherokee man who gave his people writing</i>/James Rumford; translated by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby 2004</p>	<p>Gr.3-6</p>	<p>Native American; Cherokee; language; literacy; biography</p>	<p>Sequoyah born in the 1760s lived the first part of his life as a metalworker in Tennessee. He did not want the Cherokee language to disappear so he began to invent a type of writing for the oral language. Text in English and Cherokee.</p>	<p>The story is about an average man who sees a need and finds a way to preserve his native language. Despite lack of support from friends, he perseveres.</p>	<p>This is a biography which gives examples of the important work of Sequoyah who worked to develop a syllabary of 84 signs, one for each syllable in the Cherokee language (book jacket)</p>
<p><i>Carver: a life in poems</i>/Marilyn Nelson 2001</p>	<p>Gr.6-8</p>	<p>Poetry; Race; reconstruction history; early education; agriculture; share-cropping; socioeconomic issues</p>	<p>Poetry details the life of George Washington Carver from his beginnings when he struggled for an education to his scientific studies and his altruism.</p>	<p>Carver is an example of genius overcoming restraints from mainstream culture. His contributions to agriculture, science, and humanity are great.</p>	<p>The biography is told in poetry. It provides a different glimpse into the genre for the young adult reader.</p>

<p><i>Etched in clay: the life of Dave, enslaved potter and poet</i>/Andrea Cheng, author and illustrator 2013</p>	<p>Gr.5-8</p>	<p>Race; slavery; socioeconomic issues; injustice</p>	<p>Andrea Cheng has crafted a biography in verse as beautiful as one of Dave’s jars. In simple, powerful words, including some of Dave’s original writings, we learn his extraordinary story of courage, creative inspiration, and triumph. Today Dave is considered to be a master craftsman whose jars are among the most sought-after pieces of Edgefield pottery.</p>	<p>Dave is taught how to make pots and he is so good, that he is uplifted by those who enslave him to a craftsman. He signs his work Dave so he can write a bit. This is in 1818.</p>	<p>Biography provides a story about someone who lived as a slave but whose accomplishments and memory still give him credit today. There is also a picture book that can be used in this text set: <i>Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave</i> by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier.</p>
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<p><i>Mama Miti</i>/Donna Jo Napoli; illustrated by Kadir Nelson 2010</p>	<p>Gr.k-5</p>	<p>Biography, Gender, other cultures, Kenya</p>	<p>Wangari Maathai watched her village won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. She has been responsible for the recovery of her village environment and the economic conditions because of her Green Belt movement in Kenya.</p>	<p>Women in economy, environment, education and empowerment</p>	<p>This books shows how commitment to your home can make a big difference; Maathai worked with government and local community to improve the environment. Another title is: <i>Planting the trees of Kenya: the story of Wangari Maathai</i> by Claire A Nivola (gr.2-5)</p>
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<p><i>Harvesting Hope: the story of Cesar Chavez/ Kathleen Krull; illustrated by Yuyi Morales</i> 2003</p>	<p>Gr. 3-6</p>	<p>Biography; migrant workers; socioeconomic conditions; agriculture</p>	<p>Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers.</p>	<p>Immigration and Latin American experience are a part of Chavez's story.</p>	<p>Shows an example of an activist who brought the issues of migrant workers to light and improved working conditions; students who are from Mexico or who have relatives in the agriculture will be interested</p>
<p><i>Created Equal: women campaign for the right to vote 1840-1920/National Geographic</i> 2005</p>	<p>Gr.4-6</p>	<p>Nonfiction; biography</p>	<p>Describes the history of the women who pushed the government to pass the 19th Amendment that would give women the right to vote.</p>	<p>Suffrage; Gender; socioeconomic factors; history</p>	<p>This book provides a general overview of a time in history when women strove for the right to vote and includes small biographies, lots of historical tidbits, and many illustrations.</p>
<p><i>Rosa/Nikki Giovanni; illustrated by Bryan Collier</i> 2006</p>	<p>Gr.2-5</p>	<p>Historical nonfiction; biography;</p>	<p>Award-winning poet, writer, and activist Nikki Giovanni's evocative text combines with Bryan Collier's striking cut-paper images to retell the story of Rosa Park's bravery from an original perspective.</p>	<p>Segregation; Gender; Race</p>	<p>This book provides another version of the story of Rosa Parks whose small courageous act made a big change.</p>
<p><i>Sit-In: How four friends stood up by sitting down/by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Brian Pinkney</i> 2010</p>	<p>Gr.2-8</p>	<p>Historical nonfiction; collective biography</p>	<p>Collective biography of 4 young men who sat at a Woolworth lunch counter to change a policy of not serving black people.</p>	<p>Segregation; Race; provides basis for further research on these brave young people and others who helped to change the policies allowing segregation.</p>	<p>Creates connections with history, nonviolent protests, how one person can make a difference</p>

<i>What are you figuring now: a story about Benjamin Banneker</i> /by Jeri Ferris; illustrated by Amy Johnson 1998	Gr.3-6	Biography; local genius;	Chapter book about the life of Maryland scientist, astronomer, and surveyor.	Maryland native; empowerment; race	Banneker was a free man who lived in Maryland in 1700s. And in 1791 he helped map out the plans for Washington, D.C.
<i>Picture book of Helen Keller</i> /David Adler; illustrated by John & Alexandra Wallner 1990	Gr.K-3	Biography picture book; exceptional; friendship	Helen Keller was left deaf and blind after an illness. She was able to overcome these exceptionalities and work to encourage others.	Empowerment; Gender; education	Keller and her teacher are excellent examples of how education can enable great improvement and how persistence can lead to success; her resilience improved the lives of others as well.
<i>Paths to Peace: people who changed the world</i> /Jane Breskin Zalben 2006	Gr.4-8	Biography; gender; race	Short biographies of 16 people who have made significant inroads to peace including Eleanor Roosevelt, Elie Wiesel, and Aung San Suu Kyi.	Race; religion; global politics; environment	Short biographies which provide glimpses into the lives of historical figures and a beginning for further research
<i>When the slave Esperanca Garcia wrote a letter</i> /Sonia Rose; pictures by Luciana Justiniani Hees 2012	Gr. 2-6	Biography; race; slavery; bad laws	The story of a woman who wrote to the Governor in a part of Brazil called Maranhao about her condition in slavery.	Race; Gender	Contains a description of the conditions of one woman's life as a slave on a farm in Brazil.
<i>Thank you, Sarah: the woman who saved Thanksgiving</i> /Laurie Halse Anderson; illustrated by Matt Faulkner 2002	Gr.2-5	Biography; picture book; history; holidays	Sarah Hale wrote letters to asking to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.	Women; letter writing for change	Links to a holiday; shows how letter writing can bring change.