



A LIVING BOOK LIST
FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN



READ YOUR WAY THROUGH THE *USA*

Nearly 150 children's books
bringing USA history to life.



Highlighting the stories of
African Americans, Native
Americans and Immigrants



LIVING BOOKS FOR ALL 50 STATES



WWW.MYNAMEISMOTHER.COM



Dear Families,

Thank you so much for downloading your copy of "Read Your Way Through the USA". We spent all Summer reading through hundreds of books and we finally settled on this list of nearly 150 living, children's books.

The book list includes stories featuring African Americans, Native Americans and Immigrants. I recommend pre-reading any books before reading with your children, as some of these books may express complex emotions and situations. These books are not suitable for all age groups, some are geared towards older elementary or children that have been exposed to the complexities of race relations in the USA. You will need to determine your comfort level when it comes to topics such as slavery, sharecropping, indentured servitude, forced removal of tribal nations, Indian Reserves, boycotting, assassinations, Segregation, integration and other topics.

I've done my best to include stories with firsthand accounts and factual perspectives. Many of the authors belong to the people group that they are writing about, which I believe is important for cultural accuracy. Several of the books include essential information on the book jackets or back pages which give the context of the story or the author's intention when writing or retelling a narrative.

The list is grouped by region and/or state, starting with the East Coast and moving westward. These books can easily be paired with geography studies, the National Parks System and science units.

We hope that you use this list as a resource in your homeschool or classroom. Please send me an email when you've found a book that you think should be included.

hello@mynameismother.com

-Courtney S.

Direct all question and concerns to Courtney Sanders
email:
montessori@preparedbeginnings.com

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-Courtney S.

East Coast

Maine

Andre the Famous Harbor Seal by Fran Hodgkins

Louis Sockalexis Native American Baseball Pioneer by Bill Wise

Many Hands a Penobscot Indian Story by Angeli Perrow

New Hampshire

The Bear That Heard Crying by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock and Helen Kinsey

New York

Brave Girl Clara and the Shirtwaist Maker's Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel

Lizzie Demands a Seat Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights by Beth Anderson

Bring on That Beat by Rachel Isadora

Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story by Lesléa Newman

The Memory Coat by Elvira Woodruff

Massachusetts

Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving by Joseph Bruchac

Pennsylvania

Luke Goes to Bat by Rachel Isadora

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine

Virginia

Under the Freedom Tree by Susan Vantlecke

She Sang Promise The Story of Betty Mae Jumper Seminole Tribal Leader by Jan Godown Annino

Pocahontas Princess of the River Tribes by Elaine Raphael and Dan Bolognese

Box Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford

Delaware

Red Bird by Barbara Mitchell

Maryland

Dear Benjamin Banneker by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Young Frederick Douglass Fight for Freedom by Laurence Santrey

TickTock Banneker's Clock by Shana Keller

Aunt Flossie's Hats and Crab Cakes Later by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

Keep On! The Story of Matthew Henson Co-discover of the North Pole by Deborah Hopkinson

A Ride to Remember a Civil Rights Story by Sharon Langley and Amy Nathan

Ketzel the Cat who Composed by Lesléa Newman

East Coast

New Jersey

She Loved Baseball The Effa Manley Story by Audrey Vernick

Connecticut

When the Shadbush Blooms by Carla Messinger and Susan Katz (PA, NY, NJ, MD, DE, CT)

Rhode Island

The Bravest Woman in America by Marissa Moss

Vermont

Daisy and the Doll by Michael Medearis

Alec's Primer by Mildred Pitts Walter ([listen at Vermont Folklife Center](#))

Malian's Song by Marge Bruchac

North Carolina

Freedom on the Menu the Greensboro Sit-ins by Carole Boston Weatherford

Sit-In How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney

South Carolina

Circle Unbroken by Margot Theis Raven

Carolina Shout by Alan Schroeder

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill

Let them Play by Margot Theis Raven

Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation by Pat Sherman

Georgia

Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Florida

Everglades by Jean Craighead George

The Seminole Patchworkers of the Everglades by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack

West Virginia

A Piece of Home by Jeri Watts

More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby

Washington D.C.

The Great Migration Journey to the North by Eloise Greenfield

Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith Jr.

Central

Ohio

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter

Flying Free Corey's Underground Railroad Diary Book 2 by Sharon Dennis Wyeth (chapter book)

The Legend of Ohio by Dandi Daley Mackall

Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum by Robert Andrew Parker

Twice as Good: The Story of William Powell and Clearview, the Only Golf Course Designed, Built, and Owned by an African American by Richard Michelson

Indiana

A Place Called Freedom by Scott Russell Sanders

Kentucky

Freedom's Wings Corey's Underground Railroad Diary Book 1 by Sharon Dennis Wyeth (chapter book)

Lift Your Light a Little Higher the Story of Stephen Bishop Slave-Explorer by Heather Henson

The Unstoppable Garret Morgan Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero by Joan DiCicco

The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby: The Story of Jimmy Winkfield by Crystal Hubbard

Tennessee

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read by Rita L. Hubbard

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville by Pat Zietlow Miller

Goin' Someplace Special by Patricia C. McKissack

Hammering for Freedom by Rita Lorraine Hubbard

Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas by Gwendolyn Hooks

Missouri

Poetry of Young People Langston Hughes Edited by David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad

Steamboat School by Deborah Hopkinson

The Journey of York The Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Hasan Davis (MO & other states)

A Picture Book of Lewis and Clark by David A. Adler (MO & other states)

Fairy Floss: The Sweet Story of Cotton Candy by Ann Ingalls

Ragtime Tumpie by Alan Schroeder

Minnesota

A Different Pond by Bao Phi

Alan and His Perfectly Pointy Impossibly Perpendicular Pinky by Alan Page and Kamie Page

Central

Kansas

Gordon Parks How the Photographer Captured Black and White America by Carole Boston Weatherford

Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka

The Buffalo are Back by Jean Craighead George (plains states)

At the Mountain's Base by Traci Sorell

Wisconsin

The Legend of Old Abe: A Civil War Eagle by Katy-jo Wargin

North Dakota

Greet the Dawn the Lakota Way by S. D. Nelson (ND, SD)

South Dakota

Buffalo Bird Girl a Hidatsa Story by S. D. Nelson

Sitting Bull Remembers by Ann Turner

The Range Eternal by Louise Erdrich

Red Bird Sings the Story of Zitkala-Sa Native American Author, Musician and Activist by Gina Capaldi & Q.L. Pearce

A Boy Called Slow: The true story of Sitting Bull by Joseph Bruchac

Nebraska

Saving Strawberry Farm by Deborah Hopkinson (not specific to Nebraska, general Midwest)

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz

In the New World: A Family in Two Centuries by Gerda Raidt

Arkansas

Treemonisha by Angela Shelf Medearis from the opera by Scott Joplin

Cracking the Wall: the Struggles of the Little Rock Nine by Eileen Lucas

Iowa

Kate Shelley Bound for Legend by Robert D. San Souci

Tomás and the Library Lady by Pat Mora

Illinois

Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks by Suzanne Slade

Sweet Dreams, Sarah by Vivian Kirkfield

Priscilla and the Hollyhocks by Anne Broyles

Michigan

The Real McCoy The life of an African American Inventor by Wendy Towle

Southeast, Southwest

Louisiana

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford

Alabama

Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey

Back of the Bus by Aaron Reynolds

Mississippi

Crossing Bok Chitto a Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom by Tim Tingle

Granddaddy's Gift by Margaree King Mitchell

Freedom School, Yes! by Amy Littlesugar

Sweethearts of Rhythm The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World by Marilyn Nelson

Texas

All Different Now: Juneteenth the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson

The Journal of Joshua Loper a Black Cowboy by Walter Dean Meyers

Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light by Tim Tingle

Oklahoma

Unstoppable How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army by Art Coulson

Bad News for Outlaws The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves Deputy US Marshal by Vaundra Micheaux Nelson

We are grateful by Traci Sorell

Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Tallchief America's Prima Ballerina by Maria Tallchief and Rosemary Wells

Arizona

The Navajo Maiden and Stone Cutter by Vee Browne

Big Moon Tortilla by Joy Cowley

Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story by Joseph Bruchac

Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind by Cynthia Grady

A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero by Gina Capaldi

New Mexico

The Buffalo Solider by Sherry Garland (TX, NM, AZ)

Puma Dreams by Tony Johnston (UT, AZ, NM)

Hawaii

Hawaii

The Island Below the Star by James Rumford

The Legend of Kukui Nut by Robert Brandon Henderson

A is for Aloha: A Hawaii Alphabet by U'ilani Goldsberry

Sun & Rain Exploring Seasons in Hawaii by Stephanie Feeney

Georgia in Hawaii When Georgia O'Keefe Painted What She Pleased by Amy Novesky

'Ohana Means Family by Ilima Loomis

Alaska

Alaska

Whale Snow by Dahl Edwardson

Charlie and the Blanket Toss by Tricia Brown

Rocky Mountains, West Coast

Wyoming

I Could Do That: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda Arms White

What Was It Like, Grandma? Grandma Maxine Remembers: A Native American Family Story by Ann Morris

Montana

Fearless Mary: Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver by Tami Charles

Idaho

A Picture Book of Sacagawea by David A. Adler

Sacagawea by Lise Erdrich

The Skydiving Beavers a True Tale by Susan Wood

Colorado

High as Hawk a Brave Girls Historic Climb by T. A. Barron

California

Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco

Kiki's Journey by Kristy Orona-Ramirez

So Far From the Sea by Eve Bunting

Squirrel and John Muir by Emily Arnold McCully

Patricia's Vision the Doctor who Saved Sight by Michelle Lord

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

Home to Medicine Mountain by Chiori Santiago

Harvesting Hope: The story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull

Oregon

Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story by Marc Tyler Nobleman

Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story by Judy Young

Washington

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Susan Jeffers

Utah

A Place Where Sunflowers Grow by Amy Lee-Tai

The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation by Alice D. McGinty (UT, AZ, NM)

Cheyenne Again by Eve Bunting

Ten Mile Day: And the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad by Mary Ann Fraser

Nevada

Paiute Princess The Story of Sarah Winnemucca by Deborah Kogan Ray