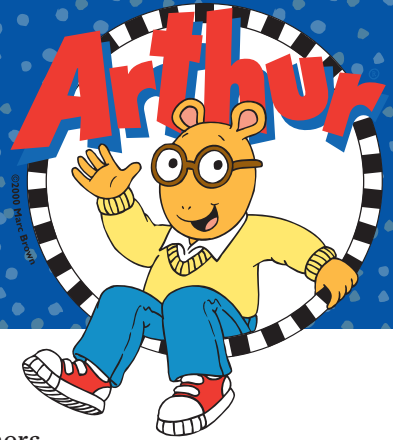


Civics for Young Learners: Recommended Books



There are many wonderful children's books about various aspects of civics and civic engagement, including kindness, understanding others, friendship, conflict resolution, diversity, equity, and how to be an active citizen. Try these recommended titles. Ask your school and public librarians for additional suggestions.

Taking Action

Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins by Michelle Meadows. Illustrated by Ebony Glenn. Janet pursues her passion to be a dancer despite facing discrimination and disrespect.

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Young Clara Lemlich organizes the women she works with to strike for better working conditions.

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers by Sarah Warren. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Dolores Huerta led the Delano grape strike of 1965 to fight for better working conditions and pay for farm workers.

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Even small acts of kindness can help change the world.

Emmanuel's Dream by Laurie Anne Thompson. Illustrated by Sean Qualls. Born in Ghana with a deformed leg, Emmanuel overcomes adversity and becomes an advocate for the differently abled.

Energy Island by Allan Drummond. Ordinary people on the Danish island of Samsø harness the power of wind to make their homes energy efficient.



Follow the Moon Home by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson. Illustrated by Meilo So. A class comes together to save loggerhead sea turtles and shows that kids can make a difference.

Giant Steps to Change the World by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee. Illustrated by Sean Qualls. This poetic celebration of those who took "giant steps to make the world a better place" invites young people to decide what their next step will be.

I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoët. A wordless picture book shows how one person's act of kindness can influence an entire community.

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. This is a stirring account of the 1963 children’s protest for civil rights in Birmingham, Alabama.

Malala’s Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai. Illustrated by Kerascoët. This picture-book autobiography describes Malala’s determination to make the world better.

New Shoes by Susan Lynn Meyer. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Ella Mae is excited to buy new shoes at a shoe store, until she discovers that Black people aren’t allowed to try them on. She decides to create a neighborhood shoe store where everyone can try on shoes.

Say Something! by Peter R. Reynolds. If you encounter a problem in the world, you can use your voice to create change.

¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can! by Diana Cohn. Illustrated by Francisco Delgado. Carlitos finds a way to support his mother when she fights for better wages and joins the janitor strike of Los Angeles.

We March by Shane W. Evans. A young boy tells the story of his participation in the 1963 March on Washington.

Citizenship and Civic Responsibility

Democracy for Dinosaurs: A Guide for Young Citizens by Laurie Krasny Brown. Illustrated by Marc Brown. Introduce young citizens to the principles of democracy, such as fairness, truth, equal rights, and free speech.

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone. Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon. Elizabeth Stanton changed America forever—she organized the Seneca Falls Convention and led the women’s suffrage movement.

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. When Grace learns that there has never been a woman president of the United States, she becomes determined to be the first.

Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein. Illustrated by James E. Ransome. Based on a true story, young Michael accompanies his grandfather to the polls in the civil-rights-era South, only to face voter suppression.

I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference by Mark Shulman. Illustrated by Serge Bloch. Using a relevant and child-friendly example, the book explains the voting process, ways to influence the vote, and accepting outcomes.

If Everybody Did by Jo Ann Stover. It’s tempting to break the rules, but rules are in place for good reasons. Explore what the world would look like if everyone broke the rules when they felt like it.

If I Ran for President by Catherine Stier. Illustrated by Lynne Avril. A multicultural cast of children tell in detail what their lives would be like if they ran a campaign for the presidency.

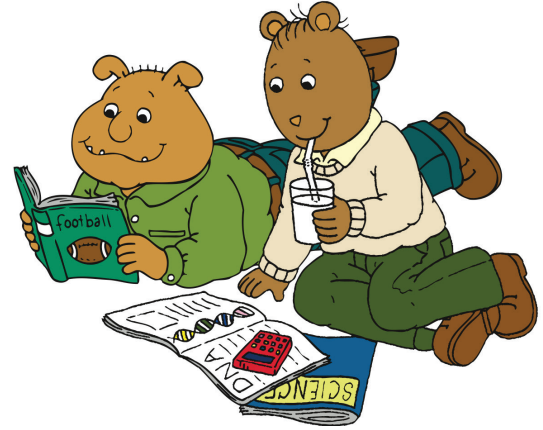
Lillian’s Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter. Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. As Lillian slowly walks up a hill to the polls to cast her vote, she relives the past 100 years of Black civil rights and suffrage.

Look Where We Live! by Scot Ritchie. A group of friends travel through their neighborhood while raising money to donate to the library. Along the way, they learn about the value of their community.

A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution by Betsy and Giulio Maestro. This book provides details about the Founding Fathers and the convention in Philadelphia to create the U.S. Constitution.

Vote for Our Future! by Margaret McNamara. Illustrated by Micah Player. Stanton Elementary transforms into a polling station, and its students explain to people in the community why it's important to vote.

What Can a Citizen Do? by Dave Eggers. Illustrated by Shawn Harris. Children will feel empowered by this lively exploration of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.



Diverse Voices

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold. Illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman. A class made up of all kinds of kids enjoys daily activities and learning from one another.

The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates and Juniper Bates. There's room for everyone, no matter how different, under one big umbrella.

Bitter and Sweet by Sandra V. Feder. Illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker. When Hannah has to move, she learns about her grandmother's experience in leaving the old country.

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by Rafael López. When we reach out to others and share our stories, we find connection and friendship.

First Laugh: Welcome Baby! by Rose Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood. Illustrated by Jonathan Nelson. In Navajo culture, it's an honor to be the first person to make a new baby laugh and host the First Laugh Ceremony.

Hey, Little Ant by Phillip M. Hoose and Hannah Hoose. Illustrated by Debbie Tilley. Just as a boy is about to squish an ant, he learns about a different point of view.

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. CJ's grandma helps him see that though they don't have much, they can still appreciate the beauty in the world around them.

That Is My Dream! by Langston Hughes. Illustrated by Daniel Miyares. A young boy imagines a more just world, in this adaptation of the famous "Dream Variation" poem.

What Riley Wore by Elana K. Arnold. Illustrated by Linda Davick. Riley wears whatever feels right, from a superhero cape to a ball gown.

When the Cousins Came by Katie Yamasaki. Lila is excited for her cousins from the city to visit, but at first it seems hard to connect.

Friendship

Birdsong by Julie Flett. When a young girl moves to a new place, she finds friendship with an elderly artist.

Duck & Goose: Goose Needs a Hug by Tad Hills. Only a hug from a good friend will help Goose cheer up.

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson. Illustrated by Tara Calahan King. Dad's secret recipe for getting rid of enemies teaches a little boy how to make friends.

A Friendship Yarn by Lisa Moser. Illustrated by Olga Demidova. When they find yarn in the woods, both Porcupine and Badger have the same great idea—to knit each other a gift! What will happen when they discover they're both using the same long piece of yarn?

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel. Whatever happens, Frog and Toad will always be there for each other.

George and Martha by James Marshall. They don't always get along, but George and Martha are true friends to one another.

How to Be a Friend by Laurie Krasny Brown. Illustrated by Marc Brown. This book offers advice on a range of friendship dilemmas.

Jamaica and Brianna by Juanita Havill. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. What do you do when your best friend teases you about your hand-me-down boots? Two friends figure it out.

Life Without Nico by Andrea Maturana. Illustrated by Francisco Javier Olea. Maia is sad when Nico moves away. She gradually finds comfort and a new friend. Now Nico is coming back—can they be friends again?

Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle. Illustrated by Jill McElmurry. When Blue gets stuck in the mud, his animal friends come together to help him get back on the road.

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts. Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones. Jeremy will do just about anything to wear the latest shoe fashion, until he realizes that appreciating what he has and helping others feel even better.

Virgil & Owen Stick Together by Paulette Bogan. A polar bear and a penguin are best friends, but sometimes their differences get in the way.

Coming to America

All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel by Dan Yaccarino. Four generations of family pass along their traditions after coming to America.

Carmela: Full of Wishes by Matt de la Peña. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. Carmela's wishes for a better life reflect the dreams of many immigrant families.

A Different Pond by Bao Phi. Illustrated by Thi Bui. A little boy and his father fish for food—not recreation—in America, as the father remembers fishing in Vietnam long ago.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales. Coming to the United States from Mexico is not easy, but the public library in America offers unexpected help in making the transition.

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty by Linda Glaser. Illustrated by Claire A. Nivola. Emma Lazarus's sonnet, "The New Colossus," is a passionate plea for America to welcome those "yearning to breathe free."

Good-Bye, 382 Shin Dang Dong by Frances Park and Ginger Park. Illustrated by Yangsook Choi. Jangmi is sad to leave Korea and her best friend but eventually finds her place and a new friend in America.

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say. This book captures a young man's story of immigration from Japan to the United States and the love he feels for both countries at the same time.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers. Illustrated by Shawn Harris. Why does the Statue of Liberty look like she is on the move? Find out in this exploration of the meaning behind the icon. (For older readers.)

Here I Am by Patti Kim. Illustrated by Sonia Sánchez. In this wordless picture book, a young boy faces the challenges of moving from far away to a busy American city.

I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Three new classmates—from Guatemala, South Korea, and Somalia—find different ways to become part of a classroom community. (See also *Someone New* by the same author.)

Mariama: Different but Just the Same by Jerónimo Cornelles. Illustrated by Nívola Uyá. Despite finding differences when she comes to America from Africa, Mariama sees many similarities too.

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi. Unhei is hesitant about sharing her Korean name with her classmates, but in the end, it's the one that fits best.

We Came to America by Faith Ringgold. Some were already here, others came in chains or seeking a better life, yet all have contributed to America's rich heritage.

Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez. Illustrated by Jaime Kim. The answer to this question isn't always simple, as a young girl learns from her *abuelo* (grandfather).



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