

Carter G. Woodson Awards, 2017

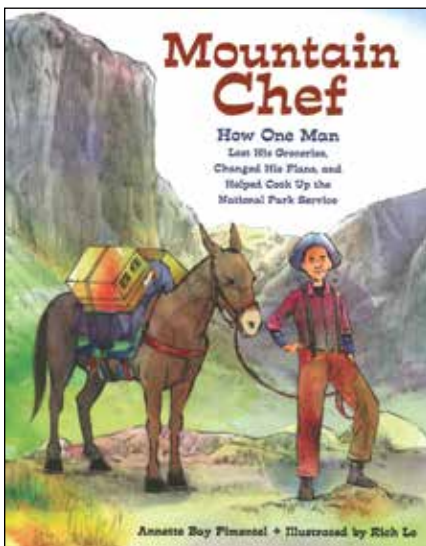
Carter Godwin Woodson, often referred to as the “father of Black History,” is considered one of the first scholars to study African American history. The National Council for the Social Studies created the Carter G. Woodson Book Awards in 1974 in his name to highlight texts that focus on real experiences of ethnic and racial minority groups in the United States. By honoring and publicizing these texts, the hope was that more authors would produce quality children’s literature addressing the lives of people of color and their experiences and that more children would then have the opportunity to read such stories.

Publishers send books matching the criteria (non-fiction, set in the United States, a focus on ethnic/racial minority groups, written for young people) to committee members to review. The number of books received has varied in years past. However, the last two years the committee has been pleasantly overwhelmed by the volume of quality literature being produced each year that qualifies for the Carter G. Woodson book award. The winners below were chosen among tough competition. It is great to see the legacy of Carter G. Woodson here on the pages of *Social Education* and hopefully soon in the hands of young people.

—Lara Willox, Chair, Carter G. Woodson Book Awards Committee

Elementary Winner

Mountain Chef: How One Man Lost His Groceries, Changed His Plans, and Helped Cook Up the National Park Service, by Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Rich Lo. Charlesbridge Publishing. Reviewed by Kimberly P. Clayton-Code, professor, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky.



Mountain Chef tells the unique story of Tie Sing, a Chinese American chef, who hiked the Sierra mountains with mapmakers and fed them gourmet meals. Tie Sing’s culinary genius earned him the title of best trail cook in California. When millionaire Stephen Mather gathered a group of writers, tycoons, and lawmakers to explore and camp in the Sierra mountains in the hopes of encouraging them to help protect the country’s natural resources, he hired Tie Sing to keep everyone well fed, with meals worthy of any San Francisco restaurant.

The group’s travels were not without challenges. When faced with disaster on two occasions, Tie Sing demonstrated his adaptability and creativity as a chef. Through his perseverance and culinary creativity, Tie Sing helped the influential men see the importance of protecting the national parks. His influence continues today as visitors to Yosemite National Park are able to hike to Sing Peak named in his honor. This picture-

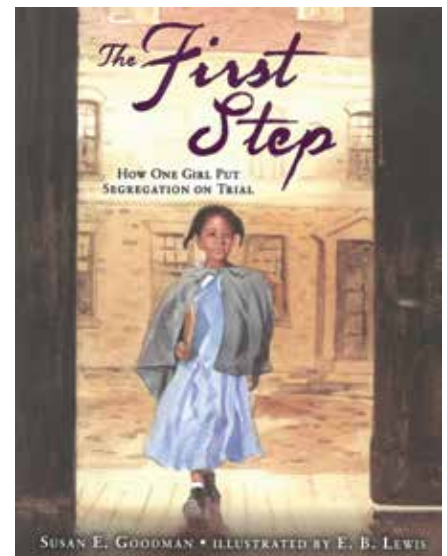
book biography demonstrates how everyday people can make big things happen.

Mountain Chef features a detailed prologue with primary resources, detailed biographical information, and a source list. Social Studies Themes: ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ❹ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ❺ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

Elementary Honor

The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial, by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Bloomsbury, USA Children’s Books.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Sturm, assistant professor, Department of Special Education, College of Education at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois.

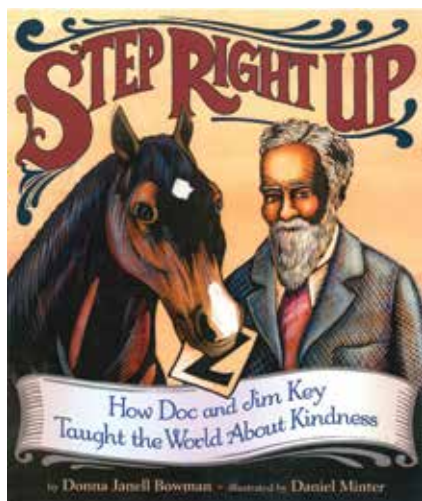


Susan Goodman brings to life the pre-Civil War struggle of the Roberts family as they fought against school segregation in their quest to provide the best education for their daughter Sarah. In 1847, rather than send four-year-old Sarah to the one Boston school for African

American children, an impoverished school far from their home, Sarah's parents enrolled her in their neighborhood school. After a brief time, Sarah was removed from the whites-only school by a police officer, and her parents were told she would only be able to attend the African American school. The Roberts did not accept this injustice, and instead, took their case to court to fight for "equality before the law." In her well-written book, Goodman continues the story past the court decision, illustrating how the *Roberts v. City of Boston* case and local ones that followed ultimately paved the way, 100 years later, for the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that finally provided national "equality before the law." The author also includes engaging back matter written in a way that encourages students to think more deeply, not only about segregation and civil rights, but also about the choices a writer makes when writing nonfiction. Social Studies Themes: ❶ CULTURE; ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ INDIVIDUAL, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ❹ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ❺ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES.

Elementary Honor

Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness, by Donna Janell Bowman, illustrated by Daniel Minter. Lee and Low Books, Inc. Reviewed by Ann Adkins, Education Department, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa.



It is not every day an audience witnesses a horse who is able to add, recognize letters, read, and write. How did a horse named Jim Key come to be able to do all this? *Step Right Up* tells the story of how William "Doc" Key used kindness and patience—rather than cruelty—to teach his horse these amazing skills. Both Doc and Jim had inauspicious beginnings. Doc was born enslaved, but had achieved great success in business before he spent seven years teaching his horse. Jim Key was a frail colt who gained strength and thrived under Doc's care and attention. Together, they toured and shared Jim's talents with audiences all over. Doc Key was responsible for showing that kindness was the best way to treat animals. Jim Key was even chosen to represent humane societies in their fight to end the widespread animal cruelty of the time. While the experiences of Doc and Jim are the primary storyline, the author also shares Doc's encounters with prejudice and his fight for equality. The accompanying illustrations are colorful linoleum block prints evocative of the era. At the end of the book, the reader is treated to additional information about Mr. Key and Jim along with photographs and a resource list. Social Studies Themes: ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ❹ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS.

Secondary Winner

March (Trilogy), by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. Top Shelf. Reviewed by Sarah Segal, 6th grade Teacher, Hood River Middle School, Hood River, Oregon.

Civil rights leader and Georgia Congressman John Lewis recounts his personal story in a three-book, graphic novel trilogy. *March: Book One* chronicles Lewis's evolution from a child chicken farmer in rural Alabama to his early experiences with social activism. *March* vividly depicts his early activism, including the 1958–1960 Nashville sit-ins to desegregate department store lunch counters, along with the activities that set the foundation for his non-violent

resistance. *March: Book Two* follows Lewis's commitment to integrating the American South with his participation in the 1961 Freedom Rides and the organizing, collaboration, and advocacy that led to his speech at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. As *Book Two* comes to a close, voter rights remain without protection in the Deep South and the African American struggle for equal justice continues. In *March: Book Three*, Lewis exposes conflicts within groups leading the civil rights movement and expands upon national politics to provide the reader a broader context. The story culminates in 1965 with the attempted marches to protect voter rights, during which John Lewis nearly died on Bloody Sunday, but rose from his hospital bed weeks later to complete the historic four-day march from Selma to Montgomery.



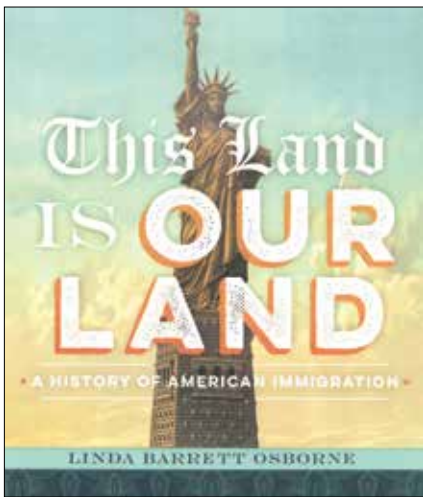
Throughout the *March* trilogy, co-authors John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, with graphic novel artist Nate Powell, weave Lewis's memories of President Obama's 2009 inauguration day with historic civil rights movement events and significant abolitionists who helped shape Lewis's moral philosophy and inspired his dedication to the plight of the oppressed.

March's poignant illustrations and first-person narrative provide educators with opportunities to engage readers and inspire deeper research of individuals and events while illuminating that powerful change can result from First Amendment activism. Social Studies Themes: ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE;

7 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; 5 INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; 6 POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; 10 CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES.

Secondary Honor

This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration, by Linda Barrett Osborne. Abrams Books for Young Readers. Reviewed by Kathleen Barker, director, Center for the Teaching of History, Massachusetts Historical Society.

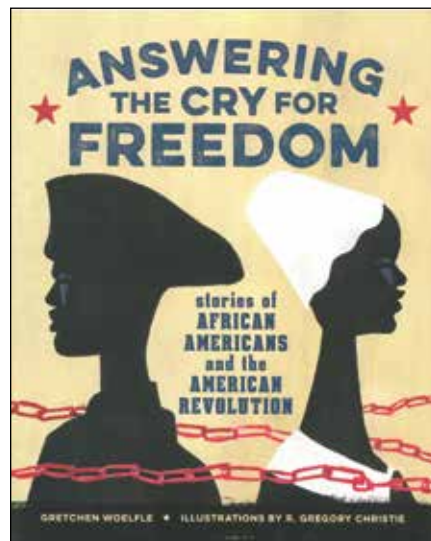


In this survey of American immigration from early colonization to the present, Osborne challenges the “melting pot” myth to offer a more nuanced and complicated portrait of the immigrant experience. Organized chronologically, each chapter traces particular national or ethnic groups, including Germans and Irish; Eastern Europeans and Jews; Asians; Latin Americans; and recent refugees. While each generation of immigrants faced challenges unique to their moment in time, Osborne clearly demonstrates that most arrivals were subjected to similar forms of hostility and discrimination no matter when they arrived in the United States. Stories of prejudice and racism abound, but so too do stories of immigrants who came together to create vibrant, productive communities. The author also examines the consequences of government policies such as anti-immigration laws and quotas, contemporary debates over the rights

of undocumented immigrants, and the fate of refugees. Quotes and anecdotes, especially those of children, lend a personal aspect to this history, and put faces to the government policies and social and cultural practices under discussion. In addition to the clear and engaging prose, the narrative is beautifully illustrated with archival photos, political cartoons, and other primary sources. This is a very timely publication that will spark discussion and encourage students to think critically about how American citizens and politicians define “our land” and determine who can inhabit it. The book includes excellent research tools, including a timeline of key moments in American immigration history, source notes, and a bibliography. **SOCIAL STUDIES THEMES:** 7 CULTURE; 5 PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; 5 INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; 10 GLOBAL CONNECTIONS.

Secondary Honor

Answering the Cry for Freedom: Stories of African Americans and the American Revolution, by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Calkins Creek, Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Reviewed by Kristy A. Brugar, assistant professor, Social Studies Education, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.



Answering the Cry for Freedom is a collection of 13 biographies of African

Americans during the American Revolution. Within this nonfiction text, Woelfle contextualizes the American fight for independence from British rule alongside the struggle and oppression of African Americans (free and enslaved) in the North American colonies. Woelfle presents the powerful stories of women and men, writers and preachers who responded to the cry for freedom. Individual biographies include Richard Allen, Paul Cuffe, Elizabeth “Mumbet” Freeman, Prince Hall, Sally Hemings, Agrippa Hull, Ona Judge, Boston King, John Kizell, James Armistead Lafayette, Jarena Lee, Mary Perth, and Phillis Wheatley. Woelfle shares aspects of each individual’s family and personal history and offers a rich description of the ways each fought for freedom. Each person is further described in an author’s note, timeline, bibliography, and source notes. An Educator’s Guide is available at www.gretchenwoelfle.com/files/ANSWERING_THE_CRY_ED_GUIDE.pdf. Social Studies Themes: 2 TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; 5 INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; 6 POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE. 10