Booklists

Adult Booklist
Young Adult (YA) Booklist
Children’s Booklist
Spanish Children’s Booklist

Grant Opportunity Offered in Partnership By:
READ

DEMOCRACY

Our Declaration
A Reading of the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE in Defense of Equality
Danielle Allen

ONE PERSON,
How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy
Carol Anderson

NO VOTE
Foreword by Senator Dick Durbin

THE SOURCE OF SELF-REGARD
Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations
Toni Morrison
Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

PBS BOOKS LIST

LIFE, LIBERTY + LIBRARIES

Florida Humanities

2020

READ

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Florida Humanities

2020
U.S. DEMOCRACY: 2020 marks an important year for U.S. democracy. This year, America will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, officially granting women the right to vote, and our nation will elect our 46th president. Throughout 2020, and in advance of America’s 250th anniversary in 2026 known as the “Semiquincentennial,” PBS will provide quality programming to highlight what it means to be an engaged citizen in a democratic nation. For a successful democracy, civic engagement is crucial; “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” depends upon it. We hope these books will inspire understanding, voting, and engaged citizenship.

The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For
<<David McCullough
Written by the most revered US historian of our time, McCullough (winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom) shares a collection of his insightful and inspirational speeches that remind us of the fundamental American principles. McCullough’s 1776 also offers an important narrative of America’s beginning, which is a perfect addition to this list.

Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality
<<Danielle S. Allen
A seminal work, this book reinterprets the promise of American democracy in the Declaration of Independence. The author reflects on her personal experiences and uses the text to empower Americans today to strive for political equality and individual liberty.

The Impeachers: The Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation.
<<Brenda Wineapple
This book details the tremendous struggle of the Union after the Civil War when Vice-President Johnson became the “Accidental President” following the assassination of Lincoln. The author portrays President Johnson’s 1868 Impeachment Trial, the events that led to trial, and the extraordinary figures that brought the idea forward. It provides insight into this country’s first impeachment proceedings and the importance of checks and balances.

How to Read the Constitution and Why
<<Kim Wehle
As a Law Professor and Expert for CBS News, Wehle explains the Constitution in common sense language, provides insights, and outlines how the three branches of government work. The book also examines the individual rights that the Constitution protects and ensures.

How Democracies Die
<<Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt
Harvard professors Levitsky and Ziblatt have studied democracies for the last 20 years. Based on their research, they explore historical breakdowns of democracies from 1930s in Europe to present day. The book discusses how democracies die and perspectives on how a democracy can be saved.

The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win
<<Elaine Weiss
This book chronicles one of the greatest political battles in US history—the ratification of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote. The author follows several remarkable women in their fight and chronicles how women won their freedom to vote.

One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy
<<Carol Anderson
This book explores the decline in African American voter participation since a 2013 Supreme Court ruling, which effaced the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Award-winning New York Times best-selling author, Anderson recounts the narrative of the racial discrimination that various states adopted, which led to voter suppression.

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The Truths: A History of the United States.
<<Jill Lepore
Centering on our nation’s history, this New York Times bestseller uses facts and evidence to explore the truths as described by Thomas Jefferson: political equality, natural rights, and sovereignty of the people.

The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations
<<Toni Morrison
One of the most revered authors of our time, Morrison offers a compilation of her most significant essays and speeches in this book, spanning four decades. As a Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize in Literature winner, Morrison uses her words and reflections to examine American culture, freedom, and human rights. This book provides a legacy of literary elegance, intellectual prowess and spiritual depth.

Become America: Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy
<<Eric Liu
In this collection, the author explores nearly 20 current and timeless topics about democracy, liberty, equal justice, and powerful citizenship, as he aims to activate citizenship. This inspiring book will energize its readers to get involved and rekindle a love for civic engagement.

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LIFE, LIBERTY+LIBRARIES
READ

HOPES NATION

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

WE ARE NOT YET EQUAL

STOLEN JUSTICE

EXPLOR

DEMOOCRACY

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

VOTE!

WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

HOPE NATION

A young adult list of books that evoke hope, heroism, and real life moments of inspiration.

We're committed to helping young people develop the skills they need to succeed in today's society.

HOPE NATION

Youth authors share personal moments of inspiration.

FLORIDA HUMANITIES

2020

YOUNG ADULT

LIFE, Liberty + LIBRARIES

PBS BOOKS

A young adult collection.

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Hope Nation: YA Authors Share Personal Stories of Inspiration << Rose Brock (Ed.)
This book is a compilation of inspiring reflections of struggle and hope by some of today’s most prolific YA authors including: Atia Abawi, Renee Ahdieh, Libba Bray, Howard Bryant, Ally Carter, Kate Hart, Ally Condie, Gayle Forman, Romina Garber, I.W. Gregario, Nicola Yoon, Christina Diaz Gonzalez, Bendan Kiely, David Levithan, Nic Stone, Alex London, Marie Lu, Julie Murphy, Jenny Torres Sanchez, and Jeff Zentner.

The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation
<<Jonathan Hennessey (Author) 
Aaron McConnell (Illustrator)
With vibrant and detailed illustrations, this book examines Abraham Lincoln’s most famous speech, the Civil War battle that prompted it, and how these events became a defining moment in US history.

We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide
<<Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden
New York Times bestselling book examines five historical US moments: the end of the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Jim Crow laws; the Great Migration; Brown v. Board of Education; The Civil Rights Act of 1964/Voting Rights Act of 1965; the War on Drugs; and President Obama’s election and events that followed.

Vote!: Women’s Fight for Access to the Ballot Box << Coral Celeste Frazer
This book celebrates August 18, 2020, which marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution and prohibited the US government from denying citizens the right to vote on the basis of sex. The author explores the 70 year long fight for women’s suffrage, and the role it played in the into the civil rights and feminist movements in the 20th century and Americans’ continued battle for equality in voting rights today.

Dead Feminists: Historic Heroines in Living Color
<<Chandler O’Leary and Jessica Spring
This national bestselling book combines feminist history and a vision for a better future, highlighting 27 women. With gorgeously illustrated pages and a letterpress-inspired design, this book celebrates trailblazing women that transformed the world.

Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African American Voting Rights
<< Lawrence Goldstone
This book examines the systematic suppression of the African-American vote throughout US history starting with the post-Reconstruction era. Using the perspectives of various individuals and analyzing acts and legal cases that impacted the Black vote, the author suggests threats to suffrage based on current policies today.

The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation
<<Jonathan Hennessey (Author) 
Aaron McConnell (Illustrator)
This book uses full color graphic art to illustrate the US Constitution and our critical democratic principles. Through the imagery and words, the reader is able to explore the Constitution’s seven articles and 27 amendments to understand its meaning, background, and impact today.

Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card
<< Sara Saedi
This humorous memoir tells the true story of an Iranian-American, who discovers that she is an undocumented immigrant as a teenager and the challenges that come with that—fear of deportation, journey toward getting her greencard, and possibly not having a date to the prom!

Watch Us Rise
<<Ellen Hagan & Renée Watson (author)
This YA Hagan & Renée Watson (author) novel features poet Chelsea and actress Jasmine, who are frustrated with their school’s lack of interest in social justice issues and started a blog to showcase their progressive writing. This novel demonstrated how artistry and activism can have an important impact.

This list was created in partnership with Florida Humanities as part of: LIFE, LIBERTY+LIBRARIES
You Are Mighty: A Guide To Changing the World
<<Caroline Paul (Author)
Lauren Tamaki (Illustrator)
Ages 9-12
This fun and inspiring book provides a kids’ guide to activism and empowers the reader to be a good citizen by offering change-maker tips, tons of DIY activities, and stories about the kids who have ignited social change like Malala Yousafzai and Claudette Colvin.

What’s the Big Deal About Elections?
<<Ruby Shamir (Author)
Mark Faulkner (Illustrator)
Ages 5-10
This captivating book provides interesting historical facts and trivia about voting in the United States. Designed with captivating illustrations, this book clearly define democracy, the importance of voting, and why America is called a government body of, by, and for the people. Check out What’s the Big Deal About Freedom? too!

Fight of the Century: Alice Paul battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote
<< Ba Rosenstock (Author)
Sarah Green (Illustrator)
Ages 7-10
This clever picture book portrays the fight for women’s suffrage between leader Alice Paul and President Woodrow Wilson as a four-round boxing match. With detailed illustrations, this book tells about the suffrage movement, highlighting the determination required to win the women’s vote from peaceful protests to women going to jail.

Friends For Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass
<<Suzanne Slade (Author)
Nicole Tadgell (Illustrator)
Ages 6-10
This story recounts the important friendship of Susan Anthony and Frederick Douglass, who fought for equality and the right to vote. In the gorgeous illustrations and eloquent verse, the book brings their challenges and victories alive.

When You Grow Up to Vote: How Our Government Works for You.
<<Eleanor Roosevelt & Michelle Markel (Author)
Grace Lin (Illustrator)
Ages 7-12
First published by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1932, this book has been revised by Michelle Markel to offer a 21st Century perspective on citizenship for future voters. This book has bright illustrations and explains how government and civic society operate in the United States.

Say Something! <<Peter Reynolds
Age 4-9
A New York Times Bestseller, this book empowers the reader to find their voice and to use it to make the world a better place, encouraging words and actions.

The President of the Jungle
<<Andre Rodrigues & others (Author) & Larissa Ribeiro (Illustrator)
Ages 6-10
This humorous book introduces the democratic process in a fun way using lively illustrations, providing a glossary of election vocabulary and engaging the reader in the election process.

Sofia Valdez, Future Prez <<Andrea Beatty
Ages 4-10
A New York Times bestseller, this book depicts a girl Sofia, who stands up for what she believes in. When her Abuelo hurts his ankle at a local landfill, she is determined to clean it up and transform it into a park. With fun illustrations, this book introduces the importance of community activism, passion and persistence to activate social change.

<< Deborah Diesen (Author)
Magdelena Mora (Illustrator)
Ages 6-10
This New York Times best-selling author traces the history of voting rights in the US from our country’s founding in the late 18th Century to Present Day. This beautiful picture book highlights the inspiring work of activists who worked to secure the voting rights.

This list was created in partnership with Florida Humanities as part of:
Lista de Libros en Español para Niños 2020
America’s Charters of Freedom in English & Spanish: Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, the Gettysburg Address. <<Carlos Vega (Translator) All Ages
This is the first time that these four important documents have been printed in Spanish and English in one book. This book helps readers to understand the US democratic republic.

Descubre Tu Papel En Las Elecciones (Guía Para Jóvenes Sobre El Gobierno) <<Jessica Gunderson (Author) Ages 6-10
In the US when the election season begins, the race starts. This book clearly explains the Electoral College, political parties, candidates, campaigns, and polls. A must read in 2020, this book utilizes colorful photos and graphics to introduce complex concepts to children about the US democratic process.

Be Bold! Be Brave! 11 Latinas who made US History | Sé Audaz! Sé Valiente!: 11 Latinas que hicieron historia en los Estados Unidos <<Naíbe Reynoso (Author) Jone Leal (Illustrator) Ages 6-12
This engaging bilingual book with rhyming verse highlights trailblazing US Latina women who made substantial contributions to a variety of fields including medicine, science, sports, art and politics. The following women are included: Antonia Novello (1st female US Surgeon General), Ellen Ochoa (1st Latina to go to space), Sonia Sotomayor (1st Latina Supreme Court Justice), Rita Moreno (1st Latina Oscar winner), and Pura Belpre (1st Latina to promote bilingual literacy in Public Libraries).

Soñadores | The Dreamers <<Yuyi Morales (Author). Ages 4-9
Winner of the 2019 Pura Belpre Illustrator Award, this gorgeous book describes the author’s journey to the US with her son Kelly from Mexico. The author brilliantly captures the story of her family and the American dream, while celebrating the gifts that each person brings.

Yo Prometo Lealtad | I Pledge Allegiance <<Pat Mora & Libby Martinez (Authors) Patrice Barton (Illustrator) Ages 3-7
This book illustrates the story of Libby and her Mexican great aunt Lobo as they prepare to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Lobo will say the Pledge at a special citizenship ceremony. Libby is also learning the Pledge because she will lead her class in saying the Pledge. It is a heart-warming American story.

Di Algo! | Say Something! <<Peter Reynolds Ages 4-9
A New York Times Bestseller, this book empowers the reader to find their voice and to use it to make the world a better place, encouraging words and actions.

¿Cuáles Son Las Ramas De La Democracia?: What Are the Branches of Democracy? << Ann H. Matzke (Author) Ages 6-12
This book discusses democracy, its core principles, and how our country was founded. While the main focus is on the three branches of government, the book also highlights the Constitution and the rights and freedoms that it protects.

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