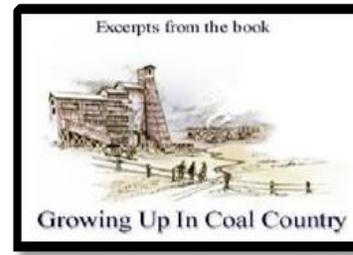
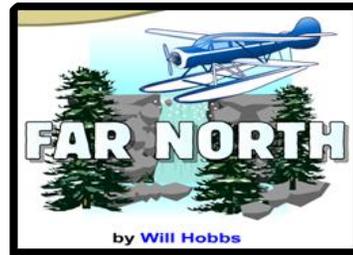


# Suggested Literature in Pathblazer®

Use the Search icon on your student launch pad. Then type in the activity code for the activity you want to work on.

Q

Explore the novels below. Be sure to view all of the activities to obtain the full experience.



67260 Background  
 67261 Vocabulary  
 67262 Literature 67263  
 Comprehension 1  
 67264  
 Comprehension 2

67270 Background  
 67271 Vocabulary  
 67272 Literature p1  
 67273 Literature p2  
 67274  
 Comprehension 1  
 67275  
 Comprehension 2

67281 Background  
 67282 Vocabulary  
 67283 Literature p1  
 67284 Literature p2  
 67285  
 Comprehension 1  
 67286  
 Comprehension 2

67292 Background  
 67293 Vocabulary  
 67294 Literature p1  
 67295 Literature p2  
 67296  
 Comprehension 1  
 67297  
 Comprehension 2

Level 6

## Suggested Literature – 6

Did you enjoy *My Brooklyn Grandmother*?

### Launch a Study of Chinese Americans

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord

(Ages 9–12) This is the story of a girl who leaves China to join her father in Brooklyn, New York, in 1947. She becomes Americanized in her apartment building, at school, and through her love of baseball.

*Chinese New Year* by Tricia Brown

(Ages 8–11) This book describes the celebration of a very old Chinese holiday. It provides color photographs and text to show the Chinese New Year being celebrated by Chinese Americans in San Francisco's Chinatown.

*The Chinese Americans* by William Daley

(Ages 11–14) This book gives the history and explains the culture and religion of immigrants from China. It also discusses their adjustment to life in America and their acceptance as an ethnic group.

*The City by the Bay: A Magical Journey Around San Francisco* by Patricia Haddock

(Ages 10–14) This book explains the main attractions of San Francisco, beginning with Chinatown. It includes a time line of the city's history; fun facts about the city; and colorful, vivid illustrations that show several popular places to visit.

### Launch a Study of Grandmothers

*The Lucky Stone* by Lucille Clifton

(Ages 8–11) The power of a stone links several stories in the life of Tee's great-grandmother. The lucky, shiny black stone had provided good fortune for its various owners for over a hundred years. First it had helped a runaway slave win her freedom. It had also helped Tee's great-grandmother to meet her husband. Can the stone help Tee?

*The Night Journey* by Kathryn Lasky

(Ages 9–13) This book tells the story of Rachel's great-grandmother's terrifying escape from Czarist Russia. The book compares the life of Rachel, who is thirteen years old, to the life of her great-grandmother when she was young.

*The Remembering Box* by Eth Clifford

(Ages 9–12) Joshua's grandmother shares with him memories of her childhood. She has a "remembering box" filled with items that she has saved, and she can tell a story about each one. She puts a picture of herself inside the box, and gives it to Joshua so that he will remember her after her death.

## Did you enjoy *Far North*?

### **Launch a Study of Wild Animals**

*How Animals Behave: A New Look at Wildlife* by Donald J. Crump

(Ages 10–13) This National Geographic book explains how animals find food and protect themselves.

*Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George  
(Ages 10–14) Julie is a 13-year-old Eskimo girl who runs away from home and walks all alone across the arctic tundra. She is saved by a pack of wolves. This book teaches aspects of the Eskimo culture, the habits of animals, and the pains of growing up.

*Moose* by Jack Denton Scott  
(Ages 9–12) This informative book introduces the moose family.

*Sketching Outdoors in Winter* by Jim Arnosky  
(Ages 9–13) This book gives detailed instructions for how to draw animal tracks and other natural signs of winter. It requires an interest in art and careful observation.

*White Fang* by Jack London  
(Ages 10–14) A wolf cub finds himself alone in the frozen wilderness of northwest Canada. He is thrown into a savage world where each day is a struggle to survive.

### **Launch a Study of American Indians**

*American Indian Music and Musical Instruments* by George S. Fichter

(Ages 9–14) This book gives information about American Indian music and instructions for making your own musical instruments.

*Science of the Early American Indians* by Beulah and Harold E. Tannenbaum

(Ages 10–13) This book gives an account of the discoveries and contributions of Native Americans in fields such as astronomy, agriculture, architecture, and art.

*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare  
(Ages 11–14) Matt is twelve years old in 1768 when his dad leaves him in the cabin in Maine to get the rest of his family. When bees attack Matt, he is rescued by Indians. He makes friends with the chief's grandson and is invited to move north with the Beaver tribe. This book gives the reader a comparison of cultures.

*Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner

(Ages 8–12) This is the story of a young boy who competes in a dog sled race against great odds. Stone Fox is a large Indian who is taking part in the race, and he has never lost. The boy wants to win the prize so he can pay taxes on his grandfather's farm. Readers learn, along with the boy, about determination and integrity.

## Did you enjoy Growing Up in Coal Country?

### **Launch a Study of Inventions**

*Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions*  
by Women by Catherine

Thimmesh

(Ages 10–14) This is a collection of biographies of women and girls who used hard work and creative ideas to change the world. It tells how the inventions were converted from unique ideas into realities that made people's lives simpler and better.

*Nature Invented It First* by Ross E. Hutchins

(Ages 9–10) This book shows how many inventions have been copied from nature itself.

*The Story of Thomas Alva Edison (Landmark Books)* by Margaret Cousins

(Ages 9–12) This is the biography of the great inventor who contributed to the convenience and comfort of people all over the world. The reader learns about his life and how his great inventions, such as the light bulb, phonograph, and motion pictures, changed the way people communicate.

*The Thomas Edison Book of Easy and Incredible Experiments* by James G. Cook

(Ages 9–14) This book offers a collection of science experiments and projects. It provides a wide range of

activities, from easy to difficult, in the fields of chemistry, physics, and environmental studies. The projects are inexpensive and practical.

### **Launch a Study of One-Room Schools**

*One-Room School* by Raymond Bial

(Ages 8–13) This book uses many pictures to tell the history of the one-room schoolhouse. The author explains how the demands of farming had a big impact on the functioning of schools.

*A One-Room School (Historic Communities)* by Bobbie Kalman

(Ages 9–12) This book describes the rural school building and then tells about the school rules, the routines, and the supplies.

*The One-Room School at Squabble Hollow* by Rosemarie Hausherr

(Ages 9–12) Over a hundred years ago, this one-room Vermont school had one teacher and the students learned to read and write from a blackboard and a few books. It had an outhouse, a wood stove, and no electricity. After a fire in 1929, the school was modernized with an indoor bathroom, electricity, a piano, and larger windows. One teacher still taught grades 1–8. This book includes many photographs and brings the story of the school to the present day.

## Did you enjoy *Lupita Mañana*?

### **Launch a Study of Mexican Culture**

*Fiesta! Mexico's Great Celebrations* by Elizabeth Silverthorne

(Ages 8–12) This book describes many fiestas and explains how history molded those celebrations. It also gives directions for crafts and some recipes for traditional foods.

*Focus on Mexico: Modern Life in an Ancient Land* by Louis B. Casagrande and Sylvia A. Johnson

(Ages 9–12) This book gives a history of Mexico and shows how the past and present have come together to create a variety of cultures. It focuses on four Mexican youth as examples of people trying to improve their lives and their employment opportunities.

*Mexico in Pictures* by Janice Hamilton

(Ages 9–13) This book gives many facts and shows photographs, maps, and drawings of Mexico's land, people, culture, economy, history, and government.

### **Launch a Study of Immigrants**

*Hector Lives in the United States Now: The Story of a Mexican–American Child* by Joan Hewett

(Ages 8–11) This book tells about the daily happenings in the life of a young Mexican boy whose family has immigrated to the United States.

*Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman

(Ages 8–13) This book shows many real-life photographs and tells the stories of immigrant children who lived in New York between 1880 and 1990. Students learn about immigration in the past and how it has changed.

*A Migrant Family* by Larry Brimmer

(Ages 8–12) This book tells about the daily life of twelve-year-old Juan Medina who lives with his family in a migrant camp in Southern California. It tells of some of the family's difficulties such as learning to speak English and having to change schools.

*Quilted Landscape: Conversations with Young Immigrants* by Yale Strom

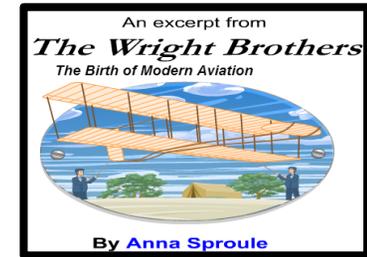
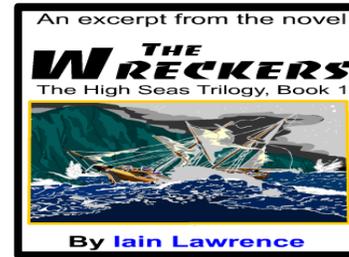
(Ages 9–15) The immigrants in this book are twenty-six children who range in age from 11 to 17. They tell how the United States compares to their homelands. Some like it here, but some would rather go back to their old country. Most of them feel the pain of prejudice because they are different.

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Q

Explore the novels below. Be sure to view all of the activities to obtain the full experience.



76388 Background  
76390 Vocabulary  
76391 Literature 1 76392  
Comprehension 1 76393  
Literature 2  
76394 Comprehension 2  
76395 Vocabulary  
Check 76397 Practice:  
Comprehension

76403 Background  
76405 Vocabulary  
76406 Literature p1  
76507 Comprehension 1  
76408 Literature p2  
76409 Comprehension 2  
76410 Vocabulary  
Check 76412  
Comprehension

76418 Background  
76420 Vocabulary  
76421 Literature p1  
76422 Comprehension 1  
76423 Literature p2  
76424 Comprehension 2  
76425 Vocabulary  
Check 76427  
Comprehension

76448 Background  
76450 Vocabulary  
76451 Literature p1  
76452 Comprehension 1  
76453 Literature p2  
76454 Comprehension 2  
76455 Vocabulary  
Check 76457  
Comprehension  
QZRLA7068 Quiz

Level 7

## Suggested Literature – 7

Did you enjoy *The Scarlet Pimpernel*?

*Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi

An action-filled page-turner set in fourteenth-century England. “Asta’s son” is the only name the thirteen-year-old title character has ever known when he is suddenly orphaned and stripped of home and possessions. Accused of murder and wanted dead or alive, Crispin flees his village and falls in with a juggler, Bear, who becomes his protector and teacher. Relentlessly pursued by Crispin’s enemies, the pair flees to solve the mystery of his identity and fight the injustices of feudalism. The 2003 Newbery Medal Book and An ALA Notable Book

*The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler* by James Cross Giblin  
Giblin poses and answers three questions in this compelling, accessible account of Hitler, his world, and his legacy. What sort of man could plan and carry out such horrendous schemes, how did he win support for his deadly ventures, and why did no one stop him until it was almost too late? The 2003 Robert F. Sibert Medal Book and An ALA Notable Book

*When My Name Was Keoko: A Novel of Korea in World War II* by Linda Sue Park

In alternating chapters, a young girl and her brother share details of their difficult life in occupied Korea. A strong sense of optimism pervades the text as they

gain pride in themselves and their country. An ALA Notable Book

*I Pledge Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance with Commentary* by Bill Martin, Jr. and Michael Sampson, illustrated by Chris Raschka  
The words of the Pledge of Allegiance are broken down and explained for children and adults. Raschka’s paper collages are respectful of the subject and accessible to children. An ALA Notable Book

*Thanks to My Mother* by Schoschana Rabinovici, translated by James Skofield  
This haunting memoir, originally written in Hebrew and translated first into German and then English, is as much about maternal love as the horrors of the Holocaust. The 1999 winner of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award and An ALA Notable Book

*Holes* by Louis Sachar  
Stanley Yelnats (his name is a palindrome) finds himself digging holes at a Texas detention camp for wayward boys in this stunningly circular novel about bad luck, justice, friendship, and fate. The 1999 Newbery Award Book and An ALA Notable Book

## Did you enjoy *HUSH*?

*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli

This dramatic and moving book depicts the graphic suffering of a boy attempting to survive in a Jewish ghetto in Poland during the Holocaust. He miraculously is able to retain his hopeful and positive outlook in the midst of the horrors of the Holocaust. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

*Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher

This is a story of prejudice, nonconformity, and personal courage about an ethnically diverse boy named T. J. Jones—who is part black, white, and Japanese—whose courage in fighting injustice leads him to defend a brain-damaged boy named Chris being cruelly bullied by the school football star for wearing his dead brother's letter jacket. T. J. organizes a swim team made up of the school's misfits and outsiders who are determined to win their own cherished letter jackets. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

*145th Street: Short Stories* by Walter Dean Myers

This collection of short stories, set on a single block in Harlem in New York City, tells the individual tales of the various residents—their struggles and triumphs in the face of racism, urban suffering, poverty, and family

challenges. The stories weave back and forth in the points of view of their narrators, from child to adult and back again, creating a book filled with drama, humor, and compassion. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

*I, Too, Sing America: Three Centuries of African American Poetry* by Catherine Clinton

This is a powerful and emotional collection of African American poetry written by twenty-five African American poets. Such prominent authors as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Maya Angelou, W. E. B. Dubois, and Alice Walker are included, as well as many lesser-known writers whose strong words deserve to be read. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

*The Dark Light* by Mette Newth

After contracting the disease of leprosy, young Tora becomes an outcast in her small village in Norway when her fellow townspeople's fears and prejudices outweigh their humanity. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

*I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust* by Livia Bitton-Jackson.

Only thirteen years old when she and her family were sent to the concentration camp Auschwitz, the author powerfully describes the horrors they faced at the death camp. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

## Did you enjoy The Wreckers?

*Senioritis* by Tate Thompson

A group of high school students must attend an after school program for bad behavior and end up working through their feelings with the help of an understanding mentor.

*The Usual Rules* by Joyce Maynard

Wendy's mother is killed in an accident, so she is sent to live with her estranged father in California. She discovers hidden strength within and a capacity for survival she was previously unaware of.

*Pirates!* by Celia Rees

A wealthy merchant's daughter and a slave form an unlikely friendship in order to escape unhappy circumstances. Along the way they discover love, adventure, and the pirates' way of life.

*Overboard* by Elizabeth Fama

A young girl survives a ferry accident but is adrift in the ocean with two young boys, who together work to find a way to safety.

*The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech

The open sea calls to thirteen-year-old Sophie who embarks on a journey across the Atlantic as the sole female among her male relatives. Sophie proves her competency and finds an ally in her cousin Cody. A Newbery Honor Book

*The City of Ember* by Jeanne Duprau

This futuristic story is about a city that is built underground as a last refuge for the human race. The lights of the city begin to go out so two brave teenagers set out to find a way to bring light to the rest of the population.

*The Art of Keeping Cool* by Janet Taylor Lisle

Set during World War II, two cousins face family secrets and community violence aimed at a refugee from Nazi Germany, raising questions about creativity and survival. An ALA Notable Book

*Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke

This fantasy tale is about a brave dragon on a quest to return to his true home. A number of exotic characters accompany him on his journey and help him stay strong and defeat his enemies.

*The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her brother struggle to survive as exiles in London, hoping to reunite with their father. A powerful testament to the resilience of childhood. An ALA Notable Book

## Did you enjoy The Wright Brothers?

*Women Explorers of the Air: Jacqueline Cochran, Bessie Coleman, Beryl Markham, Harriet Quimby, Amelia Earhart* by Margo McLoone and Jacquelyn L. Beyer

This collection of short biographies gives an overview of the courageous and pathdefining women who conquered the air when flying was still in its beginning stages.

*Isaac Newton: Discovering Laws That Govern the Universe (Giants of Science)* by Michael White

At the age of only twenty-six, British scientist, astronomer, and mathematician Sir Isaac Newton became the youngest mathematics professor to teach at Cambridge University, and was the first scientist ever to be knighted. His discovery of the laws of gravity and motion had a profound and world-altering effect on the field of science.

*Clara Barton: Founder of the American Red Cross (Spirit of America, Our People)* by Cynthia Klingel and Robert B. Noyed

This biography of Clara Barton chronicles the life, accomplishments, and impact on history of the heroic relief worker and nurse who served on the battlefields of the Civil War and later founded the American Red Cross.

*Guglielmo Marconi and Radio Waves (Uncharted, Unexplored, and Unexplained)* by Susan Zannos

As a young man growing up in late nineteenth century Italy, Marconi was fascinated with the phenomenon of electricity. Although telegraph wires were used to send messages via electromagnetic waves, he envisioned sending messages without wires—and eventually became the inventor of wireless technology.

*Rosa Parks: My Story* by Rosa Parks and James Haskins  
Seamstress and NAACP activist Rosa Parks shares her experiences of growing up as a black person in the South. She never imagined that her simple act of defiance and civil disobedience in 1955—refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white man—would result in the over one-year-long Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott, the beginning of desegregation, and the birth of the Civil Rights movement.

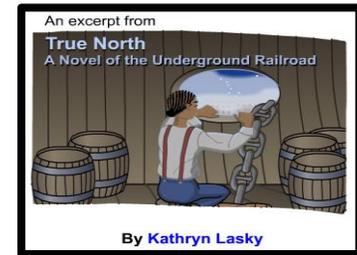
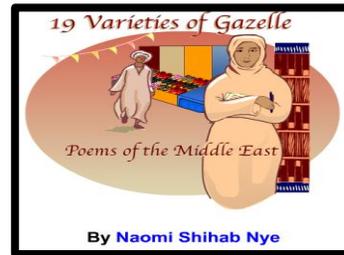
*Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia* by Margaret Cousins  
This is the powerful story of American Revolution leader Benjamin Franklin—arguably one of the most important and creative Americans in history, and his remarkable achievements as an inventor, printer, editor, statesman, and ambassador in the late eighteenth century.

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8268 Background  
8270 Vocabulary  
8271 Literature 1  
8272  
Comprehension1  
8273 Literature 2  
8274  
Comprehension2

8313 Background  
8315 Vocabulary  
8316 Literature 1  
8317  
Comprehension1  
8318 Literature 2  
8319 Comprehension  
2

8298 Background  
8300 Vocabulary  
8301 Literature 1  
8302  
Comprehension1  
8303 Literature 2  
8304  
Comprehension2

8328 Background  
8330 Vocabulary  
8331 Literature 1  
8332  
Comprehension1  
8333 Literature 2  
8334  
Comprehension2

Level 8

## Suggested Literature – 8

Did you enjoy *Surviving the Applewhites*?

*Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine

Ella is cursed by an ill-advised fairy and, as a result, is bound to obey any request asked of her. Ella sets out to undo the curse and ends up meeting her prince in this modern day Cinderella story. A Newbery Honor Book

*Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer L. Holm

The only girl in a family of seven boys tries to retain her identity while becoming the proper young woman everyone expects of her. A Newbery Honor Book

*Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer

Hope is an independent sixteen-year-old waitress who moves to Wisconsin with her aunt to run a diner for a dying man and ends up bringing light and optimism into the lives of the people she meets. A Newbery Honor Book

*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

A young orphan who longs to be a potter is accepted as an apprentice but must persevere to prove he has what it takes to succeed. A Newbery Medal Winner

*Senioritis* by Tate Thompson

A group of high school students must attend an after school program for bad behavior. They end up

working through their feelings with the help of an understanding mentor.

*Fat Kid Rules the World* by K.L. Going

This is the story of an unlikely friendship between two boys from different worlds, who end up helping each other find their place in the world.

*Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos

Jack was an aspiring writer looking for a way to pay for college when he made a decision that landed him in prison, yet ultimately led to his dream of becoming a published writer.

*The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

Matt is a clone living in a world where clones are disposable, but through perseverance and courage, he finds the strength to rise above his circumstances and transform his world. A Newbery Honor Book.

*The Kite Rider* by Geraldine McCaughrean

Haoyou must overcome tragedy and adversity in order to make a new life for himself in a new land.

*Straw Into Gold* by Gary D. Schmidt

Two boys set out to enlist the aid of a banished queen in order to solve a riddle and save their lives and, in the process, discover that one of them might be royalty.

## Did you enjoy *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*?

*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

In this classic novel for young adult readers, three young brothers struggle to stick together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity amidst the conflicting values of a divided society. Together with their friends, they are known as the "Outsiders" because of their lack of social status.

*Nelson Mandela: No Easy Walk to Freedom* by Barry Denenberg

This biography of South Africa's great leader and human rights activist, Nelson Mandela, also serves as an in-depth look at South African life through his eyes. It covers significant historical events under the racist system of apartheid, what events led to the unjust imprisonment of Mandela, and ultimately what led to his release after twenty-seven years.

*The Man Behind the Magic: The Story of Walt Disney* by Katherine and Richard Greene

Walt Disney possessed extraordinary vision but his monumental success only came after years of disappointment and hard work. He was responsible for creating the animated character Mickey Mouse, and he founded Disneyland and Disney World theme parks. His perseverance and belief in his dreams assured the fulfillment of his ambitious goals.

*Helen Keller* by Margaret Davidson

Helen Keller was an accomplished writer, world lecturer, and activist, despite losing her sight and hearing to meningitis as a toddler. She learned how to communicate and read because of the commitment of her teacher Anne Sullivan—another remarkable woman who recognized the hidden potential in Helen.

*Eragon* by Christopher Paolini

In this engrossing fantasy novel, fifteen-year-old Eragon thinks he is a poor farm boy, until the fateful day he discovers a dragon's egg and he is revealed as the successor in a long line of Dragon Riders. He must choose whether to fight for good or evil—a choice that will ultimately decide the future of the kingdom.

*Voyage on the Great Titanic: The Diary of Margaret Ann Brady (Dear America)* by Ellen

Emerson White

Thirteen-year-old Margaret Ann is hired to be a companion to a wealthy American sailing on the Titanic's maiden voyage from England to New York. She experiences firsthand the horror of one of the worst luxury ship liner disasters of all time.

## *Did you enjoy 19 Varieties of Gazelles?*

*Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes

A teenage boy writes a poem for his high-school English class and unwittingly sets off a chain reaction by students using this new medium to express themselves.

*Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez

Twelve-year-old Anita has never questioned her freedom until the secret police start terrorizing her family and people start disappearing. Her love for her family helps Anita overcome her fears and leave everything behind to start a new life in a new country.

*Left for Dead* by Peter Nelson

This is the true account of the worst naval disaster in American history, and how a young boy from Florida helped uncover the truth regarding who was truly responsible for this tragedy.

*No-No Boy* by John Okada

Ichiro is held in an internment camp for two years for refusing to fight for the Americans in the war against

the Japanese. This story chronicles Ichiro's struggle to remain loyal to his roots while living in a new country.

*Children of the River* by Linda Crew

Thirteen-year-old Sundara has to flee her country and leave her family behind. Four years later, she struggles to fit into her American high school while retaining her old school traditions and acting like a good Cambodian girl.

*Us and Them: A History of Intolerance in America* by Jim Carnes, Herbert Tauss, and Harry A. Blackmun

This book follows the United States' ongoing efforts to promote equality and justice. It gives historical accounts of racism and intolerance throughout the ages and shows how far, as a nation, the United States has evolved.

*Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Hispanic in the United States* by Lori Marie Carlson

This is a collection of poems about the experiences of Latino teenagers and what it's like for them growing up in America and living a double life with one foot in each culture..

## *Did you enjoy True North?*

*Stand Tall* by Joan Bauer

A six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old searches for his place in a world where he towers above his peers, and along the way discovers gifts he never knew he had.

*Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer L. Holm

The only girl in a family of seven boys tries to retain her identity while becoming the proper young woman everyone expects of her. A Newbery Honor Book

*The Kite Rider* by Geraldine McCaughrean

Haoyou must overcome tragedy and adversity in order to make a new life for himself in a new land.

*Freedom River* by Doreen Rappaport

John Parker, an ex-slave and successful businessman from Ohio is also a conductor on the Underground Railroad. On one of his trips Parker must convince John and his family to leave the plantation for freedom. A King Illustrator Honor Book and An ALA Notable Book

*Samir and Yonatan* by Daniella Carmi, translated from Hebrew by Yael Lotan

Samir, a Palestinian boy, enters an Israeli hospital for surgery. The initial fear and antagonism that he feels is mitigated by his bond with Yonatan, an Israeli. The relationship of the children in the ward grows as they face their own physical and emotional trials. A Batchelder Medal Winner and An ALA Notable Book

*No More Strangers Now: Young Voices from a New South Africa* by Tim McKee

Twelve teenagers, representing many ethnic and economic groups, share their own powerful stories of life under apartheid and their hopes for the future. An ALA Notable Book

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

It is the summer of 1963 and the Watson family takes a road trip to visit their grandmother in the South. This coincides with a chilling moment in history—the racist burning of a Baptist church with four little girls inside. A Newbery Honor Book

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

A young African American girl begins to understand what it means to be black in the 1930s South. Her family must deal with segregation and bigotry and fight to keep what is rightfully theirs. A Newbery Medal Winner

*Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

This story is about an unusual boy who soothes racial tensions and brings the town's rival groups together. In the process he ends up becoming a legend in his hometown. A Newbery Medal Winner