

Running Head: Instructional-Level Social Studies Trade Books

***Integrating Instructional-Level Social Studies Trade Books  
for Struggling Readers in Upper Elementary Grades***

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### **Abstract**

This article examines (1) the importance of placing upper-elementary students in instructional-level trade books, and (2) lists quality children’s literature, written at various difficulty levels, that can be integrated easily with social studies content. Four lists of quality trade books are included—they are categorized by social studies topic or time period (*Middle Ages*, *Colonial America and The American Revolution*, *Slavery and The Civil War*, and *World War II and The Holocaust*). Within these categories, the books are organized by grade level, genre, and alphabetized title. These lists should assist classroom teachers, special education teachers, and reading teachers as they place students in instructional-level social studies trade books.

## **Integrating Instructional-Level Social Studies Trade Books for Struggling Readers in Upper Elementary Grades**

Given the nature of whole-group classroom instruction, many low-achieving readers in grades 4-6 (upper elementary) and above are asked to read texts that are too difficult. That is, they lack the requisite print-processing skills to be successful in reading grade-level narrative and informational texts (Chall, Jacobs & Baldwin, 1990; Chall & Conrad, 1991; Chall & Curtis, 2003). The following scenario highlights problems that these readers often face:

All fifth-grade students in Ms. Green’s class are reading from the same novel, *Sign of the Beaver*, by Elizabeth George Speare. This novel has been selected because it is part of the reading series and also integrates with the fifth-grade social studies curriculum strand— Time, Continuity and Change (Colonial America). In a typical lesson, Ms. Green calls on different students to read aloud a paragraph or two. She believes that this practice encourages all of her students to pay attention and remain on-task.

On occasion, Ms. Green selects one of her struggling readers to take a reading turn. Jon begins reading aloud his two paragraphs but frequently stumbles over words. Ms. Green provides assistance as needed. Jon continues reading haltingly, word by word, with little or no expression. After a labored and frustrating reading of just one paragraph, he catches Ms. Green’s eye as if to ask, “Do I have to continue? Am I through now? Don’t you want someone else to read?” His wish is granted and now it is someone else’s turn to read.

Perhaps even more disturbing is what happens during silent reading. Jon reads fifth-grade material at a silent rate of 75 words per minute, less than half the rate of an average fifth-grade reader (Morris, 2008), and he reads fifth-grade material orally with only 85% accuracy. However, in Ms. Green's class, Jon is attempting to read the same fifth-grade book (*Sign of the Beaver*) as the rest of his classmates. The teacher may choose to assign 25 pages of reading and a follow-up writing assignment for the 90-minute period. If so, the average fifth grader, at a silent rate of 170 wpm, will read the 25 pages (7500 words) in about 45 minutes. But it will take Jon, who reads at a silent rate of 75 wpm, around 100 minutes to complete the reading—more time than he actually has. With 85% accuracy, he will also misread over 1000 of the 7500 words. In other words, he will finish neither the reading nor the writing assignment.

Given material that is too difficult to read, few students are able to sustain interest and motivation (Cunningham & Stanovich, 1997; Ivey, 1999; Strickland, Ganske & Monroe, 2001). It is almost painful for Jon to read for extended periods of time. Moreover, he faces a choice when asked to read silently in class. Should he continue reading after the other students are finished, thereby letting them know how slow he is? Or, should he pretend to have read the material and begin the writing assignment even though this will obviously demonstrate his lack of comprehension of the unread text? Some choice...

Not only is Jon developing a negative attitude toward reading but, with each passing month, he is falling further behind in reading skills. Because he reads slowly and inaccurately at the fifth-grade level, he reads fewer pages than his classmates each day.

Over time, this restricted reading practice contributes to deficits in sight vocabulary, fluency, and content knowledge (Stanovich, 1986; Nathan & Stanovich, 1991).

Most upper-elementary and middle-grades teachers will recognize Jon. Typical school practice dictates his unfortunate scenario; that is, teach reading at grade-level and integrate it with a content area. However, I believe that most classroom teachers sympathize with low readers like Jon and would like to find a way to help him. And, there is a way.

What if Ms. Green could locate social studies trade books that better matched her struggling students' true reading levels? Instead of assigning *The Sign of the Beaver* (reading level 5.6) what about assigning a thematically-related novel at a lower difficulty level? For example, Native American Author, Joseph Bruchac, wrote *The Arrow Over the Door* (RL 4) from an insider's perspective, more accurately portraying this historical aspect of the Native American experience. Or consider Clyde Robert Bulla's *A Lion To Guard Us* (RL 3). These books portray history, life and culture in Colonial America and connect to the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Curriculum Standards.

This article (a) explains the importance of placing upper-elementary readers in instructional-level material, and (b) lists quality children's literature, written at various difficulty levels, which can be integrated easily with social studies content. The focus is on the NCSS Thematic Strand II—*Time, Continuity and Change*. These lists should be useful for classroom teachers, special education teachers, reading teachers, and teacher educators alike.

### **The Importance of Reading Instructional-Level Text**

More than a half century ago, Betts (1946) developed informal assessment tasks

(word recognition and passage reading inventories) that have served clinicians and teachers well. The assessments are used to determine a reader's instructional level, with the hope of matching appropriate texts to the reader's skill.

Betts often referred to the numerous factors teachers must take into consideration when determining a reading instructional level. This complexity led him to coin the term *probable instructional level*, which he described as "...the level where instruction can be given to satisfy learner needs" (Betts, 1946, p. 447). He wrote:

...maximum development is not likely to accrue when the learner is given a diet of reading materials dealing with facts and expressed in a language that does not challenge his best intellectual endeavors. In short, it is imperative that a teacher or a clinician should have some systematic means of appraising a learner's general level of achievement. Maximum development may be expected when the learner is challenged but not frustrated. (pp. 447-448)

Chall, Jacobs and Baldwin (1990) pointed out that a strong factor influencing low-income children's reading achievement is the level of difficulty of the materials used for instruction. Chall recommended that, for guided reading instruction, students read at a "challenging level"—not too hard and not too easy. Chall et al.'s findings indicated that students who read material at a "challenging level" made gains in word recognition, comprehension, and word meanings. Her "challenging level" seems to be consistent with Betts's instructional reading level.

More recently, educators have begun addressing differentiated instruction in mixed-ability classrooms through learning **tasks**. Tomlinson (2001) recommends that teachers incorporate a variety of appropriately challenging learning experiences (tasks) to

ensure that they match content, process and product to students' readiness, interests and talents. Tomlinson describes readiness as a **task** that is matched to a student's skills and understanding of a topic. In addition to matching students to appropriately leveled tasks, it is imperative that we consider the appropriate level of **text**. Allington (2001) has stressed the need to match text to students' reading abilities:

Kids not only need to read a lot but they also need lots of books they **can** read right at their fingertips. They also need access to books that entice them, attract them to reading...Schools without rich supplies of engaging, accessible, appropriate books are not schools that are likely to teach many children to read at all, much less develop thoughtful literacy in most students. (pp. 68-69 emphasis added)

In matching students to instructional-level texts, the teacher aims to increase students' word recognition automaticity and comprehension (including literary analysis), as well as improving their motivations for reading and academic self-esteem. The impact of motivation on the reading process is well documented; (Guthrie, Wigfield, Metsala & Cox, 1999), and we know the effects are reciprocal. Spear-Swerling and Sternberg (1998) maintain that lowered expectations, lowered levels of reading practice, and lowered motivation are three negative factors affecting children with reading disabilities. As educators, we need to challenge these negative factors by appropriately pacing low readers through instructional-level material of high literary quality. These students with reading difficulties need instruction matched to their level of reading development (Curtis & Longo, 1998).

O'Connor, Bell, Harty, Larkin, Sackor, and Zigmond (2002) found that teaching struggling readers in the intermediate grades with reading-level matched texts (i.e. at the correct instructional level) produced substantial growth in reading fluency. Conversely, these researchers reported that students taught with classroom-level-matched texts (or grade-level materials) did *not* improve their reading fluency. Furthermore, the struggling readers who were taught with grade-level texts did *not* make stronger comprehension gains. In accordance, Mathes, Denton, Fletcher, Anthony, Francis, and Schatsneider (2005) reported that when “high-quality classroom-level” reading instruction was conducted in tandem with intense, supplemental small-group interventions, struggling readers made gains in reading.

In summary, research has demonstrated the need to teach students at the correct reading instructional level. Why, then, do low readers continue to struggle, year after year? Allington (2007) recently argued that struggling readers do not make appropriate gains in reading because they are taught with texts that are too hard, texts they cannot read. He stated, “Struggling readers need books they can read—accurately, fluently, and with strong comprehension—in their hands all day long in order to exhibit maximum educational growth” (p. 8).

### **The Search for Social Studies Trade Books**

Because of the time constraints and mandates teachers face, using children’s literature to enhance content area subjects is common practice; by integrating language arts and social studies curricula teachers are more efficient with their instruction (Olness, 2007). Trade books used in content areas (e.g., social studies) can provide more in-depth coverage of topics than a textbook, while accommodating various reading levels (Olness,



2007; Vacca & Vacca, 1996). Moss (2005) suggested complementing content area textbooks with other sources like informational trade books to motivate students' reading and improve content area learning. Finally, research has shown and teachers understand that, whenever possible, we should select reading materials that connect to the grade-level curriculum goals and standards (Gelzheiser, 2005).

Teachers often ask me, “Do you know a good book about the Civil War that my struggling readers can handle? My fifth-grade students are reading *Shades of Gray*, but I need books for my lower-level readers.” For many teachers, locating the appropriate books connected to social studies content proves to be a daunting task. First, finding quality children's trade books that are appealing to upper-elementary students, but written on a lower-readability level, can be difficult and time-consuming. Quality children's literature, written at or above the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level, is in plentiful supply. This is why it is commonplace to see struggling upper-elementary students trying to read these wonderful books. However, in order to locate *good books written at a lower difficulty level* (e.g. second- or third-grade levels), a teacher must dig deeper. Even more difficult is finding lower-level books that can be appropriately integrated with social studies content.

With the abundance of published children's books, where does one begin searching for *quality* trade books *that are interesting, that are not condescending, and that are easily integrated with social studies?* This article features “starter lists” that will support teachers in their search for such books.

### **What Is a Good Children's Book?**

Temple, Martinez, and Yokota (2006) suggest the following criteria for a “good children's book” (pp. 8-10):

- ❖ *Good books expand awareness.* They broaden children’s conceptions and understandings of the world as well as their capacity for empathy.
- ❖ *Good books provide an enjoyable read that doesn’t overtly teach or moralize.* Themes are often implicit, and the books are not didactic.
- ❖ *Good books tell the truth.* Telling the truth describes real human experiences.
- ❖ *Good books embody quality.* This refers to the literary merit of the book. The language is precise, carefully crafted, and often evokes imagery; the plot is interesting, descriptive, and convincing; and finally, the characters are believable.
- ❖ *Good books have integrity.* The entire book comes together: the genre, plot, language, characters, style, theme, and illustrations (if any), all come together to create a gratifying read.
- ❖ *Good books show originality.* Good children’s books introduce children to unique characters, settings, and situations. Readers experience the world from a different perspective. Good books stretch your mind and take you to new places.

### **Literary Units and Instructional Approaches**

Martinez and Roser (2003) recommend thematic studies, genre studies and author studies as three unit approaches that encourage and facilitate students’ responses to literature. The use of literary units can build a community of learners within a classroom. Although students may be reading different books (written at different readability levels), they share a common reading context; the theme, the genre, or the author binds the texts together.

For example, if a fifth-grade class is studying the **theme** of *Slavery and the Civil War*, the teacher (and any resource teachers) may read *Shades of Gray* with the grade-

level readers. However, the students reading on fourth-grade level may read *Dear Austin: Letters from the Underground Railroad* and *Pink and Say*. And for those students reading on the third-grade level, *The Drinking Gourd: A Story of the Underground Railroad*, *Billy and the Rebel: Based on a True Civil War Story*, and *My Brother's Keeper: Virginia's Civil War Diary* (See Table 3).

Through **genre** studies, students are encouraged to explore the distinctive features of a genre that sets it apart from other genres (e.g. historical fiction vs. fantasy). As students develop genre schemata, they approach texts differently. These genre-based schemata are critical in assisting students as they construct meaning from the text. For example, when studying historical fiction, students enter the book knowing they will encounter people and places from a time period in the past.

In a similar fashion, as students engage in **author** studies, they learn what sets a particular author apart from other writers, as well as making connections across the various works of the author. Author studies are particularly beneficial for struggling readers because many authors consistently work in the same genre, explore related themes (e.g., adventure, immigration, courage, slavery, social injustice, etc.) and write in a consistent style. As students discover an author's characteristics, the cognitive demands of the text may be reduced. For example when studying Clyde Robert Bulla, students become familiar with his simple, yet elegant writing style. They can expect Bulla to develop detailed settings through memorable language. In addition, authors like Bulla often work within a personal lexicon. This can also aid struggling readers as they often encounter multiple exposures to certain vocabulary words.

Struggling readers need materials they can successfully read in order to practice the skills and strategies they have been taught (Strickland, Ganske & Monroe, 2001), so instructional frameworks should be considered carefully when implementing literary units. Guided silent reading (Whitehead, 1994) includes opportunities for students to read, write, and discuss materials that are appropriate for their developmental levels and interests. Students read silently, take notes, and then reconvene in small groups where teachers guide discussions and model effective strategies.

Frye and Trathen (2002) found success adapting Daniels (1994) Literature Circles: Fourth- and fifth-grade students were matched to appropriate instructional-level trade books (connected through a genre, theme, or author), completed written “jobs,” and participated in peer-led discussions. These students spoke candidly about successfully reading instructional-level books and learning to read better; they described being actively engaged in reading, spoke specifically of literary analysis and strategies they used, said they enjoyed participating in student-led discussions, and felt the discussions helped them to better comprehend what they had read.

In most classrooms, there are ample opportunities for students to practice “coping” with more challenging texts. Struggling readers need opportunities to read quality children’s literature written at their instructional levels where teacher guidance and teaching, as well as peer collaboration, are essential components. Whether implementing guided silent reading or literature circles, *ALL* students could be given the opportunity to stay connected to the literary unit of study (e.g. *Slavery and the Civil War*) and read instructional-level social studies trade books.

Thematic, genre and author studies (units) can increase student interest and engagement, foster a community of learners, and offer an effective approach to integrate social studies and language arts. In addition, classroom teachers, special education teachers and Title I teachers can effectively co-teach if they have the appropriate materials. The lists below provide examples of these types of units.

### The Lists

For many years I taught fifth grade, and some of my students with reading disabilities read on second- and third-grade reading levels. The resource teachers and I spent countless hours searching for quality books that these students not only *could* read, but also *wanted* to read. Additionally, I felt the responsibility to effectively integrate my reading instruction with the content areas, specifically social studies, to ensure that content subjects received enough attention in my classroom. The following leveled lists are organized to encourage a unit approach to literary study in the classroom. At the same time, teachers can use the lists to *guide* their efforts in matching students to appropriate, instructional-level texts.

The following tables (1-4) contain lists of social studies books that are written on a 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade-reading level with interest levels ranging from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For a complete list of Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, please visit: <http://www.ncss.org/resources/notable/>. Readability was determined by consulting various **texts** (e.g., Fountas & Pinnell, 2006), **formulas** (e.g., Dale-Chall, Frye, Spache), **leveling systems** (e.g., Accelerated Reader Levels, Lexile Levels, publisher's levels) and **web sites** that provide searchable databases (e.g., <http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/>, <http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do>). For the most part, the various

sources agreed on the reading level. Where there was discrepancy, I selected the level that was the most consistently represented.

Teachers are encouraged to use these reading levels as guidelines for providing a rough estimate of text difficulty (Allington, 2001). In the end, matching a student to instructional-level text involves more than matching a student to a “reading level.” The combination of teacher judgment with the student’s background knowledge, motivation, and interests must be considered, along with the purpose of the instructional task (Kasten, Kristo, McClure, & Garthwait 2005). Ultimately, the best test is for the student to read the text aloud to the teacher and, together, decide if the text is appropriate; eventually, the goal is for the student to self-select appropriate texts.

Each listed book meets one or more of the following criteria:

- ❖ Exhibits characteristics of a good book (Temple, et al. 2006).
- ❖ Is written by a notable or award-winning author of children’s literature.
- ❖ Is a notable or award-winning title.
- ❖ Is a book that I have used successfully with struggling readers.

The books (Tables 1-4) are categorized by social studies topic or time period (*Middle Ages, Colonial America and The American Revolution, Slavery and The Civil War, and World War II and The Holocaust*). Within these categories, the books are organized by grade level, genre, and alphabetized title.

[Insert Table 1 here.]

[Insert Table 2 here.]

[Insert Table 3 here.]

[Insert Table 4 here.]

## Conclusion

Betts (1946) very beautifully recounted his conception of teaching and the importance of seeing differences in children:

Teaching is the practical recognition of differences. Until differences among the pupils of a given class are recognized, instruction cannot be on a sound, effective, systematic basis. A significant part of the dilemma in modern education has been brought about by a failure to admit *differences*—by the treating of all children alike.

A “class” or “grade” is an abstraction; it exists in the teacher’s mind or nervous system...No one has ever *seen* a “first-grade class,” or a “fifth-grade class.” What a teacher should “see” is a group of *individuals*, unique unto themselves. Not until differences are “seen” is the teacher ready to teach, because *learning* the child must precede *teaching* him...Differentiated instruction is a way of *evaluating* and *living* with a group of *individuals* in a classroom that results in a maximum of development of each individual in terms of his interests, needs, and capacities. (p. 3)

Betts’s perspective demonstrates a sharp contrast to the unwarranted assumption of the NCLB Act that all children can or will be on grade level on a given day in a given year, regardless of their differences. This failure to acknowledge differences in learning rates can lead to serious difficulties in reading instruction, because children are easily frustrated when they are placed in material that is too difficult. It is my hope that when teachers have the resources to locate good social studies trade books that their children

*can read*, teachers will begin matching these books to their students' instructional reading levels.

With more and more pressure to teach tested subjects like reading and math, many content area subjects are “losing out.” Research shows us that there is limited time spent on content area subjects like social studies in United States elementary classrooms (Manzo, 2005). By reading instructional-level social studies trade books in elementary classrooms, teachers can ensure social studies instruction for **all** children—including struggling readers. More lists of books like these need to be created and shared among classroom teachers, special education teachers and reading teachers. Although finding these trade books is time-consuming, reading instructional-level social studies trade books with struggling readers may result in Betts's words, “maximum development,” for these individuals.

If we provide individual students with good books they can read, then maybe, they will choose to read, in and outside of school. After all, teaching children to read counts for little unless they want to read, gain the habit of reading, and do read (Temple, et al., 2006). I hope that this article can be a first step in providing teachers with the necessary resources to locate quality social studies trade books that their students can read.



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**Table 1. Middle Ages**

\*Genre

B=Biography, F=Fantasy, HF=Historical Fiction, I=Informational, PB=Picture Book

Reading Level	*Genre	Title	Author	Publisher	Year
2 <sup>nd</sup>	F	<i>The Knight at Dawn (Magic Tree House)</i>	Mary Pope Osborne	Random House	1993
2 <sup>nd</sup>	F	<i>The Sword in the Tree</i>	Clyde Robert Bulla	Harper Trophy	2000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Kids in the Middle Ages</i>	Lisa Wroble	PowerKids Press	1998
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Knights and Castles: A Nonfiction Companion to the Knight at Dawn</i>	Will Osborne	Random House	2000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	F	<i>Knights of the Kitchen Table (Time Warp Trio)</i>	Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith	Puffin	2004
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Minstrel in the Tower</i>	Gloria Skurzynski	Random House	2004
4 <sup>th</sup>	F	<i>The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic</i>	AVI	Hyperion	2005
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess</i>	Richard Platt	Candlewick Press	2003
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/I	<i>A Medieval Feast</i>	Aliki	Harper Trophy	1986
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Whipping Boy</i>	Sid Fleischman and Peter Sis	Harper Trophy	2003
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i>	AVI	Hyperion	2002
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Crispin: At the Edge of the World</i>	AVI	Hyperion	2008
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village</i>	Laura Amy Schlitz and Robert Byrd	Candlewick Press	2007
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Puppeteer's Apprentice</i>	D. Anne Love	Aladdin	2003

**Table 2. Colonial America and the American Revolution**

\*Genre

B=Biography, F=Fantasy, HF=Historical Fiction, I=Informational, PB=Picture Book

Reading Level	*Genre	Title	Author	Publisher	Year
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>The Boston Coffee Party</i>	Doreen Rappaport	Harper Trophy	1990
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>Buttons for General Washington</i>	Peter and Connie Roop	Carolrhoda Books	1987
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>The 18 Penny Goose</i>	Sally Walker	Harper Trophy	1999
2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	<i>Finding Providence: The Story of Roger Williams</i>	AVI	Harper Trophy	1997
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>George the Drummer Boy</i>	Nathaniel Benchly	Harper Trophy	1987
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>Sam the Minuteman</i>	Nathaniel Benchly	Harper Trophy	1987
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Attack of the Turtle</i>	Drew Carlson	Eardman's Books for Young Readers	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>The Boy Who Loved To Draw: Benjamin West</i>	Barbara Brenner	Houghton Mifflin	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Daughter of Liberty: A True Story of the American Revolution</i>	Robert Quackenbush	Scholastic	1999
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Five Smooth Stones: Hope's Revolutionary War Diary</i>	Christiana Gregory	Scholastic	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Katie's Trunk</i>	Ann Turner	Macmillan	1992
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Kids in Colonial Times</i>	Lisa Wroble	Power Kids Press	1998
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>A Lion to Guard Us</i>	Clyde Robert Bulla	Harper Trophy	1983
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>Nathan Hale: Patriot Spy</i>	Shannon Knudsen	Carolrhoda Books	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	F	<i>Oh Say, I Can't See (Time Warp Trio)</i>	Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith	Puffin	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary</i>	Patricia Hermes	Scholastic	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	F	<i>Revolutionary War on Wednesday: (Magic Tree House)</i>	Mary Pope Osborne	Random House	2000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Saving the Liberty Bell</i>	Marty Rhodes Figley and Kevin Lepp	Carolrhoda Books	2004
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>The Starving Time: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, 2</i>	Patricia Hermes	Scholastic	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride</i>	Marsha Amstel	Carolrhoda Books	2000
4 <sup>th</sup>	I	<i>American Revolution: A Companion to the Revolutionary War on Wednesday (Magic Tree House Research Guide)</i>	Mary Pope Osborne, Natalie Pope Boyce, and Sal Murdocca	Random House	2004
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Arrow Over the Door</i>	Joseph Bruchac	Puffin	2002

4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Emma's Journal</i>	Marissa Moss	Scholastic	1999
4 <sup>th</sup>	I	<i>The First American Colonies</i>	Yannick Oney	Scholastic	2004
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Sleds on Boston Common: A Story from the American Revolution</i>	Louise Borden and Robert Andrew Parker	Margaret K. McElderry	2000
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Aladdin	2002
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Fighting Ground</i>	AVI	Harper Trophy	1994
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Riddle of Penncroft Farm</i>	Dorothea Jensen	Gulliver Books Paperbacks	2001



**Table 3. Slavery and The Civil War**

\*Genre

B=Biography, F=Fantasy, HF=Historical Fiction, I=Informational, PB=Picture Book

Reading Level	*Genre	Title	Author	Publisher	Year
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>Amistad: The Story of a Slave Ship</i>	Patricia McKissack and Sanna Stanley	Grosset and Dunlap	2005
2 <sup>nd</sup>	B	<i>Escape North: The Story of Harriet Tubman</i>	Monica Kulling and Teresa Flavin	Random House	2000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	<i>Thunder at Gettysburg</i>	Patricia Lee Gauch and Stephen Gammell	Boyd Mills Press	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad</i>	Marlene Targ Brill and Janice Lee Porter	First Avenue Editions	1993
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Billy and the Rebel: Based on a True Civil War Story</i>	Deborah Hopkinson and Brian Floca	Atheneum	2005
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Civil War Sub: The Mystery of the Hunley</i>	Kate Boehm Jerome and Bill Farnsworth and Frank Sofo	Grosset and Dunlap	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>The Daring Escape of Ellen Craft</i>	Cathy Moore and Mary O'Keefe Young	Carolrhoda Books	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>The Drinking Gourd: A Story of the Underground Railroad</i>	F.N. Monjo and Fred Brenner	Harper Trophy	1983
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Freedom's Wings: Corey's Underground Railroad Diary</i>	Sharon Dennis Wyeth	Scholastic	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>From Slave to Soldier: Based on a True Civil War Story</i>	Deborah Hopkinson and Brian Floca	Aladdin	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>Grace's Letter to Lincoln</i>	Peter and Connie Roop	Hyperion	1998
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB/B	<i>Henry's Freedom Box</i>	Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson	Scholastic	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Just a Few Words Mr. Lincoln</i>	Jean Fritz	Grosset and Dunlap	1993
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>Kids During the American Civil War</i>	Lisa Wroble	PowerKids Press	1998
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I	<i>The Monitor: The Iron Warship that Changed the World</i>	Gare Thompson and Larry Day	Grosset and Dunlap	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>My Brother's Keeper: Virginia's Civil War Diary</i>	Mary Pope Osborne	Scholastic	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB/HF	<i>The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map To Freedom</i>	Bettye Stroud and Erin Susanne Bennett	Candlewick	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys</i>	Elizabeth Howard	Simon and Schuster	2000

3 <sup>rd</sup>	B	<i>Willie McLean and the Civil War Surrender</i>	Candice Ransom	Carolrhoda Books	2004
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy</i>	Seymour Reit	Gulliver Books	2001
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Dear Austin: Letters from the Underground Railroad</i>	Elvira Woodruff	Dell Yearling	2000
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/I	<i>Freedom River</i>	Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier	Jump at the Sun	2000
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom</i>	Carole Boston Weatherford and Kadir Nelson	Jump at the Sun	2006
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Pink and Say</i>	Patricia Polacco	Philomel	1994
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Show Way</i>	Jacqueline Woodson and Hudson Talbott	Putnam	2005
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt</i>	Deborah Hopkinson and James Ransome	Knopf Books for Young Readers	2003
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/HF	<i>Under the Quilt of Night (Sequel to Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt)</i>	Deborah Hopkinson and James Ransome	Aladdin	2005
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB/B	<i>When Harriet Met Sojourner</i>	Catherine Clinton and Shane W. Evans	Amistad	2007
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Elijah of Buxton</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	Scholastic	2007
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>North By Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad</i>	Katherine Ayres	Dell Yearling	1998
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Shades of Gray</i>	Carolyn Reeder	Aladdin	1999
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Turn Homeward, Hannalee</i>	Patricia Beatty	Harper Trophy	1999

**Table 4. World War II and the Holocaust**

\*Genre

B=Biography, F=Fantasy, HF=Historical Fiction, I=Informational, PB=Picture Book

Reading Level	*Genre	Title	Author	Publisher	Year
2 <sup>nd</sup>	PB	<i>Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust</i>	Eve Bunting and Stephen Gammell	Jewish Publication Society of America	1989
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>Boxes for Katje</i>	Candace Fleming and Stacey Dressen-McQueen	Farrar, Straus, and Giroux	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>The Cats in Krasinski Square</i>	Karen Hesse and Wendy Watson	Scholastic	2004
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen</i>	Luba Tryszynska-Frederick, Ann Marshall, and Michelle Roehm McCann	Tricycle Press	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>Star of Fear, Star of Hope</i>	Jo Hoestlandt, Johanna Kang and Mark Polizzotti	Walker Books for Young Readers	1996
3 <sup>rd</sup>	HF	<i>When the Soldiers Were Gone</i>	Vera W. Propp	Putnam Juvenile	2001
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>Willy and Max: A Holocaust Story</i>	Amy Littlesugar and William Low	Philomel	2006
3 <sup>rd</sup>	PB	<i>The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark</i>	Carmen Agra Deedy and Henri Sorensen	Peachtree Publishers	2000
4 <sup>th</sup>	PB	<i>The Butterfly</i>	Patricia Polacco	Philomel	2000
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lois Lowry	Laurel Leaf	1998
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Snow Treasure</i>	Marie McSwigan	Scholastic	1995
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Twenty and Ten</i>	Claire Huchet Bishop and Janet Joly	Puffin	1978
4 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>The Upstairs Room</i>	Johanna Reiss	Harper Trophy	1990
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Island on Bird Street</i>	Uri Orlev	Houghton Mifflin	1992
5 <sup>th</sup>	HF	<i>Milkweed</i>	Jerry Spinelli	Laurel Leaf	2005

Dr. Elizabeth M. Frye is an assistant professor of reading/language arts in the Department of Language, Reading & Exceptionalities at Appalachian State University. Her years of experience as an elementary classroom and Title I reading teacher undergird her commitment to teacher education. Her interests include elementary students' generative writing and their engagement with poetry; teaching and learning through technology; and children's literature and the capacity of narrative, particularly in children's literature, to nurture empathy in children and teachers. In addition, she continues to explore interdisciplinary approaches to reading, writing about, and discussing children's literature in elementary classrooms, always mindful of accommodating struggling readers and writers. Recent publications appear in the *Journal of Teacher Education* and *Social Studies and the Young Learner*.

Integrating instructional-level social studies trade books for struggling readers in upper elementary grades. Illinois Reading Council Journal, 37(4), 3-12. Martinez, M. G., & Roser, N. L. (2003). How to differentiate instruction in mixed-ability classrooms. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall. Tomlinson, C., McTighe, J. (2006). Integrating differentiated instruction and understanding by design. Integrating Music and Reading Instruction : Teaching Strategies for Upper-Elementary Grades. Average rating: 0 out of 5 stars, based on 0 reviews. Write a review. Laura J Andrews. Walmart # 561395395. \$66.21 \$66.21 \$66.21 \$66.21. Book Format: Paperback. Paperback. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12. Addressing the important topic of the effects of music and reading integration on students' achievements and attitudes, this book presents twenty lessons for integrating selected music and reading concepts and skills. Designed for upper-elementary music and reading teachers, it provides specific materials and teaching techniques. Specifications. Publisher. R & L Education. Book Format. Paperback. Original Languages. I read the article, "Integrating Instructional-Level Social Studies Trade Books for Struggling Readers in the Upper Elementary Grades." I found myself very interested in this article because of the story that was told in the beginning. It is so very important to do the reading assessment, in order to assess a child's reading abilities and grade level. I could see how frustrating it would be for a child to "read" on 5th grade reading level with the rest of the class, while the child typically falls on a 3rd or 4th grade reading level. The child will be falling behind on all reading skills because they are at the frustrational level of reading. Assessing a child's reading level is the first and most important thing.