**Recommended Books**

1. ***M is for Majestic: A National Parks Alphabet***

Written by David Domeniconi; illustrated by Pam Carroll

Reading age: 6-9 years Grade level: 1st – 4th

After revealing a large map of America, this beautiful picture book introduces young people to our state parks in alphabetical order. The text highlights the main features of the parks, and the wonderful illustrations invite us to visit each and every one of them.

1. ***A is for America: An American Alphabet***

Written by Devin Scillian; illustrated by Pam Carroll

Reading age: 8-10 Grade level: 5th

Using wonderful rhythmic alliteration, this book moves through the alphabet highlighting important people, authors, places, historical events, and even cultural icons such as Tootsie Rolls and Holiday Inns. The book includes native American Indian tribes and influential Black leaders. It concludes with a reminder of the importance of voting to preserve our democratic republic.

1. ***The Log of Christopher Columbus***

Written by Christopher Columbus; Selections by Stephen Lowe; illustrated by Robert Sabuda

Reading age: 7-8 Grade level: 2nd – 3rd

Although Christopher Columbus’ daily log is no longer available, copies of it were made in the 16th century. Stephen Lowe chose passages to create this book, giving the reader a sense of the difficulty and essence of the journey. Beautifully illustrated, this book could be enjoyed by children of many ages.

1. ***A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American***

Written by Lynne Cheney; Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

Reading age: 4-8 Grade level: P – 3rd

A beautiful picture book that takes the reader through the alphabet highlighting important women in history, education, medicine, science, literature, journalism, politics, aviation, philanthropy, entertainment, math, and sports. The footnotes tell additional information about the women.

1. ***Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times***

 Written by David Rubel

Reading age: 9-14 Grade level: 4th – 7th

What a wonderful book! It covers every president up to Barrack Obama with detailed information about their campaigns, their Presidency, and their wives. Also included is great information about the social and cultural issues of their day, including the Great Chicago Fire, fashion trends, the Seneca Falls Convention, and the P.T. Barnum and Bailey Circus. The book highlights all kinds of people including Mark Twain, Al Capone, and the Marx Brothers. Every home and library needs this book!

1. ***The WingFeather Saga***

 Written by Andrew Peterson
Reading age: 8-12 Grade level: 3rd – 7th

 At this point, four books have been written in this series. They are not political nor historical, but they are magical. The author writes, “So this is a story about light and goodness and Truth with a capital T. It's about beauty, and resurrection, and redemption. But for those things to ring true in a child's heart, the storyteller has to be honest. He has to acknowledge that sometimes when the hall light goes out and the bedroom goes dark, the world is a scary place. He has to nod his head to the presence of all the sadness in the world; children know it's there from a very young age, and I wonder sometimes if that's why babies cry. He has to admit that sometimes characters make bad choices, because every child has seen their parent angry or irritable or deceitful--even the best people in our lives are capable of evil.

But of course the storyteller can't stop there. He has to show in the end there is a Great Good in the world (and beyond it). Sometimes it is necessary to paint the sky black in order to show how beautiful is the prick of light. Gather all the wickedness in the universe into its loudest shriek and God hears it as a squeak at best. And that is a comforting thought. When a child reads the last sentence of my stories, I hope he or she drifts to sleep with a glow in their hearts and a warmth in their bones, believing that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”
 These books portray the fact that good and evil do exist, and evil sometimes wins temporarily. Younger children may be frightened by the battles and outcomes, but older children will revel in the wonder of family and the courage that is displayed.

1. ***What Would the Founding Fathers Think?: A Young American’s Guide to
 Understanding What Makes our Nation Great and How We’ve Strayed***Written by David Bowman

Reading age: 4.4 Grade level: 3rd – 8th

A book with wonderful illustrations, the author’s passion is to teach young people. He explains the problems America faces today and then discusses the Constitution and ways to solve those problems. Bowman proves that history doesn’t have to be boring.

1. ***Camilla Can Vote***
Written by our very own Marsha Blackburn and her daughter Mary Morgan Ketchel

Reading age: 4-8 Grade level: 1st -2nd

The main character goes on a class trip to the history museum where she learns about those important women who fought to give women the right to vote. She learns about Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul. She is transported back in time to witness The War of the Roses and to see Harry T. Burn reading his mother’s letter and then voting for the women’s suffrage. A wonderful retelling of the history that allowed women to vote.

1. ***O, Say Can You See? America’s Symbols, Landmarks, and Inspiring Words***

Written by Sheila Keenan; illustrated by An Boyajian

Reading age: 4-8 Grade level: 4th- 6th

This beautiful, informative book provides in-depth information about our famous buildings, such as Independence Hall, the White House, and the Capitol Building. It gives information about the Washington and Lincoln Monuments and the Statue of LibertyI It shares the history of our flag, our national bird, and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It covers our major holidays and concludes with a wonderful glossary of terms.

1. ***The Story of the Vietnam Memorial*** (Cornerstone of Freedom)

Written by David K. Wright

Reading age: 4-8 Grade level: 4th – 6th

This book contains actual photos for each historical fact presented. Wright begins with a brief introduction of the Vietnam War, then traces the history of how the memorial was created. Interesting fact: the design for the wall was done by a female college student of Chinese descent.