

7. ***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: 8-14

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.

8. ***O, Say Can You See? America's Symbols, Landmarks, and Inspiring Words***
Written by Sheila Keenan; illustrated by Ann 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 Liberty. 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.

9. ***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.

10. ***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.



Young Readers Recommended Reading List