

## ***We the Civics Kids Basic Book List***

***I Am America*** by Charles Smith - This is an absolutely beautiful book in which a diverse group of children celebrate their uniqueness as Americans. There is an activity that we created for this piece that I am hoping can become a virtual quilt that connects children from all over the country in a visual celebration of being an American! *I Am America* ties to the theme in the ***We the Civics Kids*** materials: American Flavor - A Cultural Salad of Diversity

***A More Perfect Union*** by Betsy Maestro - This piece provides the building blocks for understanding our Constitution and supports the lesson on the Constitution that is based on an interview with Judge Rendell.

***Library Lion*** by Michelle Knudsen - This is a charming book about rules and the fact that there are often times to make exceptions to the rules. It goes with the narrative that describes the Bill of Rights and the magazine that focuses on student rights, wrongs, and responsibilities.

***Carl the Complainer*** by Michelle Knudsen - In ***Carl the Complainer***, Carl is always complaining about things he does not like...but he is not taking any action to correct these things. Finally, Carl is convinced to take action about the limited hours the park is open. His action makes him a ***change agent*** rather than a ***complainer***!

***Stone Fox*** by John Reynolds Gardiner - This is a classic piece of children's literature set in Alaska. It is the story of a young boy, Little Willie, who enters his dog into a race in order to win the first prize and save his grandfather's farm. In the race, Little Willie faces Stone Fox, the racer who has always won the race in the past. ***Stone Fox*** provides the basis for a mock trial connected with the lesson on principles of justice and the role of the judiciary.

***Hey, Little Ant*** by Phillip Hoose - This story that highlights the theme of point of view. In the story ***Hey, Little Ant***, a boy is about to step on an ant when the little ant begins to talk and asks the boy not to step on him. The boy's friends encourage him to step on the ant. The book ends with a question that has the reader decide what the boy should do.

***Should We Have Pets?*** By Sylvia Lollis - In this book a group of elementary students share their opinions about whether or not to have pets. The book provides another look at the importance of listening to different points of view

***The Ballot Box Battle*** by Emily Arnold McCully - ***We the Civics Kids*** is a collection of materials that are designed to promote both student voice and student action. In the ***Ballot Box Battle*** a young girl, inspired by her neighbor and activist Elizabeth Cody Stanton, undertakes an act of remarkable courage. This book provides a background of information for the magazine on Historical Figures and Activists and highlights the fact that being an activist has no age limit!

***Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand*** by Jay and Liz Scott - If young students wonder whether they are old enough to act on their ideas for change, they need to look no further for a role model than young Alex Scott. Her now-famous lemonade stands to raise money for juvenile cancer have shined a spotlight on the disease and helped to raise millions of dollars. This book is Alex's story!

***If You Made a Million*** by David M. Schwartz - After reading *If You Made a Million*, students might think about how - as change agents - they might use some of their money to make their world a better place. This book supports the magazine that has the theme ***Making a Difference: Kid Power...Yes, You Can!!!***

The final required piece is the DVD ***America Schoolhouse Rock***. This is a wonderful collection of short videos that helps to explain the complex issues connected to our government, rights, responsibilities and the Constitution.