

We the People "Picturing America" Bookshelf All titles available at the Mahomet Public Library

Kindergarten to Grade 3

- *Walt Whitman: Words for America* by Barbara Kerley – This biography of Whitman is also an introduction to his verse and to the historical events he witnessed: the hardships of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
- *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull – Insisting that truth is a better weapon than violence, Cesar Chavez organizes his fellow migrant farmworkers in California to protest their working conditions (in English and in Spanish translation)
- *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – This exceptional edition of Longfellow's classic poem contains illustrations by Christopher Bing, as well as maps, original documents, and images of period objects.
- *Sweet Music in Harlem* by Debbie Taylor – A famous photograph of 57 jazz musicians in Harlem, taken by Esquire photographer Art Kane in 1958, inspired this book.

Grades 4 to 6

- *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich – Omakayas is an Ojibwa girl who comes of age on a remote island in Lake Superior near the end of the nineteenth century.
- *American Tall Tales* by Mary Pope Osborne – Davy Crockett, Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill, and Paul Bunyan are among the larger-than-life heroes of America's past whose stories are recounted in this collection.
- *On the Wings of Heroes* by Richard Peck – Young Davy Bowman's heroes are his father and his brother Bill. When the U.S. enters World War II, Davy, along with many other citizens

- of his small Illinois town, step forward as heroes on the home front.
- *Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule* by Harriette Gillem Robinet – African Americans newly freed after the Civil War seek to stake out the “forty acres and maybe a mule” they were promised. Although success proves exasperatingly elusive, hope and determination never flag.
 - *The Captain’s Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe* by Roland Smith – Meriwether Lewis’s dog, Seaman, recalls his experiences on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Written by an expert in canine behavior, this story “through a dog’s eyes” is both credible and eye-opening.

Grades 7 to 8

- *The Life and Death of Crazy Horse* by Russell Freedman – Illustrated with ledger paintings begun in 1890 by Oglala Sioux artist Amos Bad Heart Bull, this biography of Crazy Horse portrays life for the Plains Indians in the years leading up to the Battle of Little Big Horn.
- *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving – Often mistaken for a “tall tale” spun by generations of anonymous storytellers, the story of Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman was written by one man who deliberately sought to create a distinctly American literature (in English and in Spanish translation) .
- *Across America on an Emigrant Train* by Jim Murphy – Robert Louis Stevenson recounted his 1879 travels from Scotland to California in his books *The Amateur Emigrant* and *Across the Plains*. The tale is retold and expanded to provide historical context and a wealth of archival images and documents.
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain – This edition features the authoritative text published by the Mark Twain Project, including all “200 rattling pictures” Mark Twain commissioned from one of his favorite illustrators, True W. Williams.

Grades 9 to 12

- *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis – Through vignettes featuring seven of the Founding Fathers, this book explores the roots of some of the most distinctive features of the American democratic experiment.
- *Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange* by Elizabeth Partridge – Tracing Lange’s life from her childhood polio through her fame as a documentary photographer, this biography introduces the artist who captured the face of the Depression.
- *Travels with Charley in Search of America* by John Steinbeck – This tale of cross-continental exploration takes place in 1960 along the highways and byways of America (in English and in Spanish translation).
- *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville – observations by a French traveler in America in the 1830’s contain insights into key features of republican representative democracy that are still worthy of consideration today.

Bonus books for readers of all ages:

- *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance – This anthology of original poetry, historical fiction, nonfiction, essays, and art created by 108 renowned writers and illustrators of children’s books uses the White House and the presidency as its unifying theme.
- *1776: The Illustrated Edition* by David McCullough – Excerpts of David McCullough’s best-selling account of “the most important year in the war that made America” are illuminated by eighteenth-century paintings, sketches, letters, maps, and documents.

(All summaries from the “We the People Bookshelf on ‘Picturing America’” poster)