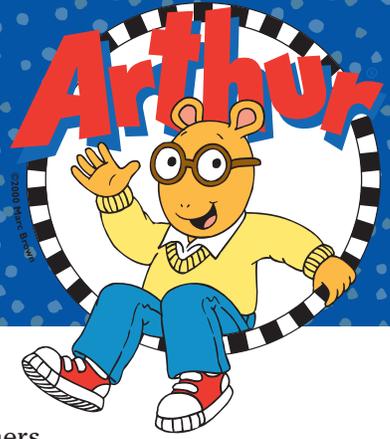


Civics for Young Learners: Recommended Books



There are many wonderful children’s books about various aspects of civics and civic engagement, including kindness, understanding others, friendship, conflict resolution, diversity, equity, and how to be an active citizen. Try these recommended titles. Ask your school and public librarian for additional suggestions.

Taking Action

Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller. Illustrated by Jen Hill. A little girl tries to understand what it means to be kind in this thought-provoking story.

Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins by Michelle Meadows. Illustrated by Ebony Glenn. Janet pursues her passion to be a dancer despite facing discrimination and disrespect.

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markel. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Young Clara Lemlich organizes the women she works with to strike for better working conditions.

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Even small acts of kindness can help change the world.

Emmanuel’s Dream by Laurie Anne Thompson. Illustrated by Sean Qualls. Born in Ghana with a deformed leg, Emmanuel overcomes adversity and becomes an advocate for the differently abled.

Energy Island by Allan Drummond. Ordinary people on the Danish island of Samsø harness the power of wind to make their homes energy efficient.

Follow the Moon Home by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson. Illustrated by Meilo So. A class comes together to save loggerhead sea turtles and shows that kids can make a difference.

Giant Steps to Change the World by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee. Illustrated by Sean Qualls. This poetic celebration of those who took “giant steps to make the world a better place” invites young people to decide what their next step will be.

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. When Grace learns that there has never been a woman president of the United States, she becomes determined to be the first.



I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascöet. A wordless picture book shows how one person's act of kindness can influence an entire community.

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. This is a stirring account of the 1963 children's protest for civil rights in Birmingham, AL.

Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai. Illustrated by Kerascöet. This picture book autobiography describes Malala's determination to make the world better.

One Love by Cedella Marley. Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Based on a Bob Marley song, this is a story of how love can transform a community.

Say Something! by Peter R. Reynolds. If you encounter a problem in the world, you can use your voice to create change.

What Can a Citizen Do? by Dave Eggars. Illustrated by Shawn Harris. Children will feel empowered by this lively exploration of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Diverse Voices

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold. Illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman. A class made up of all kinds of kids enjoys daily activities and learning from one another.

The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates and Juniper Bates. There's room for everyone, no matter how different, under one big umbrella.

Bitter and Sweet by Sandra V. Feder. Illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker. When Hannah has to move, she learns about her grandmother's experience in leaving the old country.

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by Rafael López. When we reach out to others and share our stories, we find connection and friendship.

First Laugh: Welcome Baby! by Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood. Illustrated by Jonathan Nelson. In Navajo culture, it's an honor to be the first person to make a new baby laugh and host the First Laugh Ceremony.

Hey, Little Ant by Phillip M. Hoose and Hannah Hoose. Illustrated by Debbie Tilley. Just as a boy is about to squish an ant, he learns about a different point of view.

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. CJ's grandma helps him see that though they don't have much, they can still appreciate the beauty in the world around them.

This is My Dream! by Langston Hughes. Illustrated by Daniel Miyares. A young boy imagines a more just world in this adaptation of the famous "Dream Variation" poem.

What Riley Wore by Elana K. Arnold. Illustrated by Linda Davick. Riley wears whatever feels right, from a superhero cape to a ball gown.

When the Cousins Came by Katie Yamasaki. Lila is excited for her cousins from the city to visit, but at first it seems hard to connect.

Friendship

Birdsong by Julie Flett. When a young girl moves to a new place, she finds friendship with an elderly artist.

Duck & Goose: Goose Needs a Hug by Tad Hills. Only a hug from a good friend will help Goose cheer up.

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson. Illustrated by Tara Calahan King. Dad's secret recipe for getting rid of enemies teaches a little boy how to make friends.

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel. Whatever happens, Frog and Toad will always be there for each other.

George and Martha by James Marshall. They don't always get along, but George and Martha are true friends for one another.

How to Be a Friend by Laurie Krasny Brown. Illustrated by Marc Brown. This book offers advice on a range of friendship dilemmas.

Jamaica and Brianna by Juanita Havill. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. What do you do when your best friend teases you about your hand-me-down boots? Two friends figure it out.

Life Without Nico by Andrea Maturana. Illustrated by Francisco Javier Olea. Maia is sad when Nico moves away. She gradually finds comfort and a new friend. Now Nico is coming back—can they be friends again?

Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle. Illustrated by Jill McElmurry. When Blue gets stuck in the mud, his animal friends come together to help him get back on the road.

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts. Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones. Jeremy will do just about anything to wear the latest shoe fashion until he realizes that appreciating what he has and helping others feel even better.

Virgil & Owen Stick Together by Paulette Bogan. A polar bear and a penguin are best friends, but sometimes their differences get in the way.



Coming to America

All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel by Dan Yaccarino. The story of how four generations pass on their traditions after coming to America.

Carmela: Full of Wishes by Matt de la Peña. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. Carmela's wishes for a better life reflect the dreams of many immigrant families.

A Different Pond by Bao Phi. Illustrated by Thi Bui. A little boy and his father fish for food—not recreation—in America, as the father remembers fishing in Vietnam long ago.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales. Coming to the United States from Mexico is not easy, but the public library in America offers unexpected help in making the transition.

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty by Linda Glaser. Illustrated by Claire Nivola. Emma Lazarus's sonnet, "The New Colossus," is a passionate plea for America to welcome those "yearning to breathe free."

Good-Bye, 382 Shin Dang Dong by Frances Park. Jangmi is sad to leave Korea and her best friend but eventually finds her place and a new friend in America.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggars. Illustrated by Shawn Harris. Why does the Statue of Liberty look like she is on the move? Find out in this exploration of the meaning behind the icon. (For older readers)

Here I Am by Patricia Hee Kim. Illustrated by Sonia Sánchez. In this wordless picture book, a young boy faces the challenges of moving from far away to a busy American city.

I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Three new classmates—from Guatemala, South Korea, and Somalia—find different ways to become part of a classroom community. (See also *Someone New* by the same author.)

Mariama: Different But Just the Same by Jerónimo Cornelles. Illustrated by Nívola Uyá. Despite finding differences when she comes to America from Africa, Mariama sees many similarities, too.

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi. Unhei is hesitant about sharing her Korean name with her classmates, but in the end, it's the one that fits best.

We Came to America by Faith Ringgold. Some were already here, others came in chains or seeking a better life, yet all have contributed to America's rich heritage.

Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez. Illustrated by Jaime Kim. The answer to this question isn't always simple, as a young girl learns from her abuelo (grandfather).



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