The theme for this month’s newsletter is movements for social change. We selected two Jane Addams Children’s Book Award winners that feature politically savvy women who advocated for civil rights. In our democratic society, we have watched and participated in social protest movements to stand against social injustices and demand change. These books focus on two women who decided to lend their voices, skills, passion, and commitment to equality during a pivotal time in US history.

"Nothing could be worse than the fear that one had given up too soon, and left one unexpended effort that might have saved the world." - Jane Addams
Older Reader Book Review


Lynda Blackmon Lowery was jailed nine times before her fifteenth birthday, but refused to give up the fight for equal rights. She was the youngest marcher on the historic 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama where she was brutally beaten on Bloody Sunday, but overcame her terror to complete the march to the Statehouse in Montgomery. Told in Lynda’s own words, this story of courage pays tribute to Jimmie Lee Jackson, Reverend James Reed and Viola Luizzo, painting a powerful picture of courage and strength and commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy.

*Adapted from Jane Addams Peace Association book reviews*

Younger Reader Book Review


Dolores Huerta is many things: a teacher, a friend, an activist. In Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers author Sarah Warren and illustrator Roberto Casilla give context for Huerta’s work. Huerta asks caring questions of her students and their families, matching what they need with what she can do then she organizes folks in her community around making necessary demands. In this book, kids learn more about what it takes to make things right through Huerta’s advocacy for migrants’ workers. Huerta is seen confronting people who give unfair wages, collaborating with workers and their families, boycotting grapes at a grocery store, and continuing her work as a teacher. Readers will learn more about how movement work takes time, energy, and community.
Classroom Connections

The classroom connection for Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers features work from PS 142. This book gives a foundation to students’ big questions that lead to big actions. A classroom community could ask themselves, “Who is in my community?”, “What problems are we facing?”, “Who could I ask to learn more?”, “Who do I listen to and who do I need to listen to?”, or “What could I do to help?”. Dolores Huerta was a teacher who cared about her students and saw big problems affecting their lives and their families’ lives in big ways. She decided to learn more, take action, and collaborate. The author talks about the many roles Huerta has, and this gives an opportunity to kids to think about all the roles they play in their day-to-day lives, and what else they can be doing. Educators can have kids create thought maps about the jobs they have and how they can affect change. Below is an example of one student’s thought map.

To explore the impact civil rights leaders have on our society, students can use Flipgrid to create a video about their legacy. Students can brainstorm ideas of people who made a difference in the 1965 Civil Rights March and link their activism to current policies and practices we have in our society. Each 90 second video can give also include an image of the person or footage of them in action along with one recommended resource to learn more about their life.
Theme Resources & Connections

Resources for Children:
Selma to Montgomery March
Dolores Huerta Still at Work

Resources for Educators:
Foundation Document for Selma to Montgomery, Alabama National Trail
John Lewis: The Selma to Montgomery Marches
Teaching for Change: Teach about Selma
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Understanding Intersectionality: Dolores Lesson Plan
“Si Se Puede: Dolores Huerta’s 50 Years of Activism

In the News
Detroit Book City Detroit, MI. February 22, 2020

51st Georgia Conference on Children’s Literature. Athens, GA. March 27-28, 2020
Children’s Africana Book Awards Festival. Washington, DC. March 28, 2020


We would love to know how you are engaging students with these titles in your classrooms and schools. Please share artifacts using the hashtag #JACBA
March 2020: Submission Closed

April 2020: Promoting Pathway to Peace and Dialogue

Younger: The Composition written by Antonio Skârmeta and illustrated by Alfonso Ruano. Groundwood,


Submit your curriculum connections for one of the books in the upcoming themed issues. Send materials with brief 1 paragraph explanation to price-dennis@tc.edu

Contributing Editors

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