



Week 1: American Dreams! Booklist

This week we are exploring “American Dreams!” and are reading about the people, ideas, and events that shaped the history and future of the United States of America. The history of America is full of dreamers who worked towards liberty and justice for all and wanted to create a country where people could live a life of freedom.

The following list is divided by grade level and includes Braille, Large Print, and Digital Books. Some of the Digital Books are only available via download through the BARD download system (<http://nlsbard.loc.gov/>). If you would like additional titles or suggestions, please contact Mandy Gonnsen, Youth Services Librarian at 206-615-1253 or at mandy.gonnsen@sos.wa.gov

Grades PreK – 3

BR019093 *The First Independence Day* by Kathy Allen

Talks about the first Independence Day in 1776, when the declaration signed by the thirteen colonies meant war with Great Britain. Discusses ways the celebration changed after the colonists' victory in 1781 and compares it to our modern Fourth of July with parades, picnics, and fireworks. For grades K-3. 2010. Braille.

BR009907 *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say

A Japanese American tells of his grandfather's journey to America. Grandfather loves California, but he also loves Japan and later returns there to live. In Japan, however, he is homesick for America. The narrator, born in Japan, moves to California as a young man. Yet he often returns to visit his birthplace. When in one country, he feels homesick for the other--just like his grandfather. For grades K-3 and older readers. Caldecott Medal. PRINT/BRAILLE.

BR014023 *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport

An introductory biography of the American civil rights leader using his own words to portray his ideals and message to United States citizens and people

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all over the world. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. Coretta Scott King Honor Book. 2001.

BR014356 / DB054851 *Revolutionary War on Wednesday: Magic Tree House Series #22* by Mary Pope Osborne

Using their magic tree house, Jack and Annie travel back to the time of the American Revolution and help General George Washington during his famous crossing of the Delaware River. For grades 2-4. 2000. Braille and Digital Download only

DB061848 *Hats Off for the Fourth of July!* by Harriet Ziefert

Celebrates a town's Fourth of July parade as it passes the spectators. In rhyme. For preschool-grade 2. 2000. Digital Download only.

LP023664 *The National Anthem* by Patricia Quiri

Discusses Francis Scott Key composing the National Anthem, the changing American Flag, and some of the causes and events of the War of 1812. Grade 2 and up. 1998. Large Print.

LP014469 *Compassion: The Story of Clara Barton* by Deborah Woodworth

Narrates the life of a small, shy nurse whose compassion for others led her to fight for the establishment of the American Red Cross. Large Print with color illustrations. 1998.

BR012031 *This Land is Your Land* by Woody Guthrie

Complete lyrics of the American folk song written by Guthrie in the 1940s. Accompanied by a tribute from folksinger and friend Pete Seeger and a biographical scrapbook of the main facts about Woody Guthrie's life. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 2-4 and older readers.

BR017028 *John, Paul, George, and Ben* by Lane Smith

Describes five little lads before they became founding fathers--John Hancock, Paul Revere, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Were their special personality traits annoying, even mischievous--or were they

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valuable in American history? A true-or-false section sets the record straight. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 2-4. 2006.

BR016009 *Fourth of July Mice!* by Bethany Roberts

Four energetic mice enjoy a parade, swimming, fireworks, and other festive activities on Independence Day. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2004.

Grades 4 – 12

LP025018 *The Story of George Washington* by Joyce Milton

Intermediate biography of George Washington including his later boyhood years in Virginia, his participation in the French and Indian War, his marriage, his part in the American Revolution, and his work as the first President of the United States. Includes timeline. Grades 4-7. Large Print.

LP025017 *The Story of Benjamin Franklin* by Margaret Davidson

Biography of the famous colonial American who was a businessman, a printer, a writer, an inventor, and a statesman who helped in the effort to create a new country free of British rule. Grades 4-7. Large Print.

BRW00735 / LP021935 *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

In 1963, the Watsons, a Michigan African American family, drive to Alabama to visit Grandma Sands. The kids have never experienced segregation and racism before, and while the family's sense of humor helps, the problems are serious. Newberry Honor Book. Grades 5-8. Braille and Large Print.

LP008746 *Cesar Chavez y La Causa* by Naurice Roberts (Spanish Language; English Version: LP008239)

Picture-story biographies series. Presents an account of the life of the Mexican American who helped organize farm workers into a powerful union. Main text in large print. Picture captions and chronology at end in regular print. Grades 3-6. Large Print.

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DB072191 *Lafayette and the American Revolution* by Russell Freedman

Biography of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), who as a teenager defied orders from the King of France and joined the American Revolution. Describes the military skills Lafayette gained in battle, his lifelong friendship with George Washington, and his fight for democracy during the French Revolution. For grades 5-8. 2010. Digital.

DB071797 *The Cowgirl Way: Hats Off to America's Women of the West* by Holly George-Warren

Explains women's roles in the nineteenth-century American westward expansion. Describes women homesteaders who rode horses, roped cows, shot guns, and wore divided skirts or pants. Discusses cowgirls who were outlaws, Wild West show performers, rodeo stars, and Hollywood actresses and their twenty-first-century counterparts. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2010. Digital.

DB054504 *We Were There, Too! Young People In U.S. History* by Phillip M. Hoose

Biographies of dozens of young people who made a mark in American history between 1492 and the 1990s. Includes explorers, planters, sailors, spies, cowpunchers, soldiers, sweatshop workers, and civil rights activists. For grades 6-9 and older readers. National Book Award Finalist. Digital download only.

BR012562 *Dear Austin: Letters From The Underground Railroad* by Elvira Woodruff.

In 1853, Levi writes letters to his older brother about his adventures in Pennsylvania. Then Darcy--the sister of Levi's African American friend Jupiter--disappears, so Levi and Jupiter head south to search the slave markets for her. (Levi recounts his subsequent experiences with the Underground Railroad in BR 10365.) For grades 4-7. 1998. Braille.

BR010152 *It Happened In America: True Stories From The Fifty States* by Lila Perl

Beginning with the Alabama bus boycott sparked by Rosa Parks and continuing state-by-state in alphabetical order, the author presents a selection of fifty true

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accounts from American history. A history that she describes as "crammed with tales of quiet courage and dashing bravado, feats of accomplishment, and magnificent failures." For grades 5-8 and older readers. Braille.

BR007406 *Remember Betsy Floss and Other Colonial American Riddles* by David Adler

A collection of funny riddles about the American Revolution and life in colonial America. For grades 3-6 and older readers. Braille.

DB069493 *Flygirl* by Sherri Smith

Ida Mae Jones dreams about flying. After World War II begins, the Army initiates a new program--Women Airforce Service Pilots. Light-skinned, Ida Mae signs up for the mission, but realizes she must keep her African American heritage a secret in order to fly. For junior and senior high readers. 2008. Digital.

DB068482 *The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez* by Alan Lawrence Sitomer
American-born teenager Sonia struggles to finish high school while keeping house for her family of seven. Sonia resents her heritage, but a crisis and a trip to her grandmother's house in Mexico enable Sonia to pursue her dreams. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high readers. Digital.

DB068234 *Gay America: Struggle for Equality* by Linas Alsenas

History of homosexuality in America focuses primarily on the twentieth century. Uses first-person accounts to illustrate the social and political milieu of several time periods and chronicles the milestone events affecting this population. For senior high readers. 2008. Digital.