

DEMOCRACY & CITIZENSHIP

ELEMENTARY FICTION READING LIST

Bannatyne-Cugent, Jo. (2008). *The day I became a Canadian: A citizenship scrapbook*. Toronto, ON: Tundra Books.
ISBN: 9780887768927

“Xiao Ling Li and her family are about to take part in a ceremony, one that will make them Canadian citizens. To record the day for her new brother and sister she decides to keep a scrapbook to treasure the day.” (From the publisher.) Interest level, age 7 – 9.

Bannatyne-Cugent, Jo. (2000). *From far and wide: A Canadian citizenship scrapbook*. Toronto, ON: Tundra Books.
ISBN: 0887764436

“Xiao Ling Li and her family are about to become Canadian citizens. *From Far and Wide* is her way of preserving all the moments of the day and a way of sharing them with readers everywhere.” (From the publisher.) Interest level, age 7 – 9.

Cherry, Lynne. (1990, 2000) *The Great Kapok Tree*. Houghton Mifflin.
ISBN 9780152026141

“If a tree falls in the forest... someone or something will always be there to hear it. Many, many creatures will feel the effects when their source of sustenance and shelter falls to the earth. So when a man is sent into the Amazon rain forest one day, under instructions to chop down a great kapok tree, many eyes watch him nervously. It's not long before he grows tired, though, and the "heat and hum" of the rain forest lulls him to sleep. One by one, snakes, bees, monkeys, birds, frogs, and even a jaguar emerge from the jungle canopy to plead with the sleeping axe-man to spare their home. (From the publisher)

“In this breathtakingly beautiful picture book, Cherry combines illustrations that reveal a naturalist’s reverence for beauty with a myth-like story that explains the ecological importance of saving the rain forests. The text is not a didactic treatise, but a simply told story about a man who falls asleep while chopping down a kapok tree. The forest’s inhabitants – snakes, butterflies, a jaguar and finally a child – each whisper in his ear about the terrible consequences of living in ‘a world without trees’ or beauty, about the interconnectedness of all living things. A map shows the earth’s endangered forests and the creatures that dwell within ends the book, like the rain forests themselves, is “wondrous and rare.” (Publishers Weekly, 1990). Interest level, age 4 -8.

Jones, Kari (2014). *So Much for Democracy*. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers.
ISBN: 9781459804814

"Twelve-year-old Astrid has come to Ghana with her family in 1979 so that her father can help oversee Ghana's first democratic election. Astrid and her brother, Gordo, were told it would be a great family adventure, but they soon find out that everything about Ghana is difficult—the heat, the food, the threat of disease, the soldiers on the roads, the schools. Gordo fits in more easily than Astrid, who is often left to look after her baby sister, Piper, as their mother begins to fall apart under the strain of living in Ghana. When the government is overthrown, Gordo comes down with malaria and a soldier threatens her family, Astrid is surprised to discover how protective she has become of her new home." (From the publisher). Interest level, Ages 9-12

"Astrid is a strong and courageous female character who takes on the role of being a responsible and caring older sibling to Gordo and Piper...Jones' story provides readers with an emotionally captivating look into a family's anxieties as the unit transitions to life in a new country... [and] richly depicts Astrid's strength and commitment to her family as they endure stress and battle sickness and fear...The book educates readers about a family's emotional situation and social conditions surrounding life in 1979 in Ghana...[and] provides educators the opportunity to have active discussions with their students about the integral role which government, elections, democracy, and freedom play in society. Highly Recommended." CM Magazine - April 4, 2014

Madonna. (2009). *English roses #10 ready; set; vote!* Penguin Young Reader Group.
ISBN: 0142411272
ISBN: 9780142411278

"Hampstead school is getting political. When school elections roll around, Nicole decides to run for class president and Grace volunteers to be her campaign manager. The only problem is, Grace starts treating the election like one of her football matches, and instead of focusing on Nicole, Grace starts making the election all about beating opponents. Can the English Roses help draw Grace in before the final ballots are cast? (From the publisher). Interest level, age 7 – 9.

Peet, Bill (1981). *The Wump World*. Houghton Mifflin.
ISBN: 978-0395311295

The Pollutians invade the Wump World and turn the green meadows into a concrete jungle.
(From the publisher). Interest Level, age 5 – 8.

Schimmel, Schim. (1994). *Dear children of the earth: A letter from home*. Cooper Square Publishing.
ISBN: 9781559712255

“Dear Children of the Earth begins a remarkable letter from Mother Earth asking for help from children everywhere. She writes to express her love for each and every child and asks for their love and appreciation in return. In her own words, and with all of her heart, Mother Earth enfolds children with love and entrusts them with her protection.” (From the publisher). Interest level, ages 4 – 12.

Smith, David (author) Armstrong, Shelagh (illustrator) (2002, 2011). *If the World Were a Village*. Kids Can Press. 978-1-55453-595-8

“First published in 2002, this eye opening book has become a classic, promoting world mindedness, by imagining the world’s population – all 6.8 billion of us – as a village. Newly revised with updated statistics, several new activities and completely new material on food security, energy and health are included. *If the World Were a Village* is part of *Citizen Kid: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens*. (From the publisher). Award winning publication. Interest level, ages 8 – 12.

Suen, Anastasia. (2008). *Vote for Isaiah!: A citizenship story*. ABDO/Magic Wagon.
ISBN: 9781602702745

“Suen answers questions about the electoral process and good choices through a series of conversations between the title character, who is running for student council and a friend. The two talk a lot about what to put on campaign posters and how to deal with an opponent, but not much about what it means to serve” (Lisa Lehmuller, *School Library Journal*, Jan. 2009, Vol. 55, Issue 1) Interest level, Preschool to Grade 4.

References

The following databases were consulted to compile this list.

Library and Archives Canada – AMICUS – Canadian National Catalogue
Library of Congress Online Catalog
Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)
Arts and Humanities Citation Index (CSA)
British Humanities Index (CSA)
Canadian Literary Centre (EBSCO)
CBCA Fulltext Education (PQ)
Education: SAGE Full-Text Collection

ERIC (EBSCO)
Humanities Index (Wilson)
IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (CSA)
JSTOR
Literature Online (LION)
Military and Government Collection (EBSCO)
MLA International Bibliography (EBSCO)
PAIS International with Archive (CSA)
Periodicals Index Online (PQ)
Philosopher's Index (CSA)
Project Muse
Social Sciences Index (Wilson)
Teacher Reference (EBSCO)
Web of Science (ISI)
WorldCat (OCLC)
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts-WPSA (CSA)

Subject Headings that were used include:

Democracy
Political Fiction
Canada-Politics and Government
Canadian Fiction (English) Themes, motives
Canadian Fiction and Politics
British Columbia-Politics and Government
Canadian Fiction and Politics
Politics and Literature
Citizenship-Canada
Citizenship, Study and teaching
Citizenship education
Civic literacy
Civics, Canadian
Political science education
Political campaigns-Canada
Political campaigns-British Columbia
Law-Canada
Elections-Canada
Elections-British Columbia
Prime ministers
Premiers
Governors General
Lieutenant Governors
Politicians

Where appropriate the following sub-headings were attached to the subject headings listed above.

Fiction

Literature

Juvenile Fiction

Juvenile Literature

Study and teaching