
Connections Reading List 2019-20

Connections is New Hampshire Humanities' book discussion program for life-long learners. We bring content-rich, beautifully illustrated children's, YA, and adult literature to adult literacy partners including Adult Basic Education, ESOL and Hi-set classes, Family Connections Center programs within the Department of Corrections and classes for developmentally disabled adults. Students read from one to four books over four meetings. Trained facilitators bring in creative activities and guide students through discussions on humanities themes such as History, Art as Power, The Right to Be, and Our Earth. Students connect to their own stories and ideas, learn from each other, and create a vibrant community of readers.

We organize the books around themes; readers experience deep satisfaction from recognizing patterns of thoughts and ideas in books that at first might seem unrelated. Finding connections among people's stories, whether it be around ideas of liberty or about what we want to eat, inspires discussion and figuring out who we are as individuals. **You can also mix and match the books to create new themes.** This list is always a work in progress as facilitators and teachers discover & recommend new books.

ESOL Reading levels are noted for the books. The levels include:

- **Literacy** – for students who are learning how to find objects on a page and are beginning to recognize letters and a few words.
- **Beginner** – for students who are building vocabulary, have a solid grasp of phonetics and can discuss the story and relate it to their own lives.
- **Intermediate** – for students who can read a picture book and often middle school level chapter book, understand the meaning of the text as they move forward without needing to identify every word and have discussions about themes and ideas.
- **High School - Advanced** – for students who can read newspapers, young adult-level materials, short chapter books and novels and some adult fiction and nonfiction, who are adept at using dictionaries and digital translators, and have higher level discussions about themes.

Many of the higher-level picture books on the list are made accessible to early readers by virtue of their detailed illustrations. Where the text may be out of reach for some of your students, the illustrations can tell the tale. Likewise, a more advanced class often benefits from reading an illustrated book, as it can enhance their understanding of the plot and theme. If you select a book for your class that is available only in hardback, we ask you to select a maximum of two other books that are available in paperback. ***For more information on these titles, please check your public library or go to the publisher's or bookseller's website where you can often look inside a book and get a better sense of the appropriateness of the match to your class.***

Table of Contents

1. JOY about family, food, and music: Literacy Level - Beginner
2. CULTURES SIDE BY SIDE: Literacy level - Beginner
3. DESCRIBING THE WORLD: Literacy level – Beginner
4. WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS: Literacy level +
5. THE POWER OF WORDS: Nobel Peace Prize Winners in Picture Book Biographies
6. ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN: Various levels
7. TELLING FAMILY STORIES: Various levels (many bilingual)

THEMES ABOUT HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP

8. OUR EARTH
9. COMING TO AMERICA
10. THE RIGHT TO BE
11. HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE
12. WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?
13. LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
14. U.S. HISTORY
15. WORK
16. NEW HAMPSHIRE STORIES

JOURNEYS

17. FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD
18. FOLKTALES
19. JOURNEYS
20. ART AS POWER

1. JOY in family, food, music

Beautifully illustrated books on relevant topics with brief text

All are Literacy Level +

Building a House by Byron Barton

Literacy – beginner

Skills of carpenters, painters, bricklayers and more are shown as they build a house in the U.S.

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho, illus. by Holly Meade.

Literacy – beginner

Read a Thai lullaby and perhaps share lullabies sung in participants’ families and cultures.

My People by Langston Hughes, photos by Charles R. Smith

Literacy – All people

Hughes’ poem is accompanied by portraits. The book invites discussion about family, community, culture, love. Single word or phrase on each page.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Literacy - Beginner

Ehlert's bold collages show bulbs, seeds, and seedlings, and a garden's growth.

Tomorrow's Alphabet by George Shannon

Literacy – All levels

A highly creative combination of letters and watercolor paintings that demonstrate where things come from.

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

Literacy - beginner

The joy of making music

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Literacy - beginner

The joy of company coming

2. CULTURES SIDE BY SIDE

All are Literacy level +

Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris, photos by Ken Heyman

Explores the many traditions of bread around the world

Houses and Homes by Ann Morris, photos by Ken Heyman

Photos and spare text about houses around the world.

Mirror by Jeannie Baker

Two cultures (Australia and Morocco) and two stories, with threads of the same story.

3. DESCRIBING THE WORLD

In letters, words, and hand signs

All are Literacy level +

Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson

An alphabet book about finding the shape of English letters in the world around us.

Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove, illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon

An alphabet book of African culture that is also a Caldecott Medal winner for picture book art

Calavera Abecedario: A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book by Jeanette Winter

An alphabet book about the Mexican tradition of the celebration of ancestors.

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert

An alphabet book of the harvest of the garden.

The Handmade Alphabet by Laura Rankin

An alphabet book in American sign language.

Jambo Means Hello by Muriel Feelings, illus. by Tom Feelings

An alphabet book in Swahili.

4. WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

Here are some examples of wordless picture books that might fit the theme you are exploring in your *Connections* program. They can support adults learning English to practice sequencing ideas, to imagine the story, and to write about what they see in the story. These selected wordless picture books and many others tell universal tales for many levels of readers.

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Literacy +

Combines the power of the storytelling with the sheer beauty of the drawings.

Mirror by Jeannie Baker

Literacy +

Two families living their daily lives are portrayed in pages side by side, one family from Morocco, one family from Australia.

The Only Child by Guojing

Intermediate – advanced

This story about growing up an only child in China is gripping and a complete short story in length. “Rare is the book containing great emotional depth that truly resonates across a span of ages: this is one such.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

The Red Book by Barbara Lehman

Beginner +

“Lehman’s story captures the magical possibility that exists every time readers open a book.” *School Library Journal*

Sidewalk Flowers By JonArno Lawson, illus. by Sydney Smith

Literacy +

“Bright spots of joy and comfort” in a walk in the city with its flowers.

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell

Literacy +

A story of kindness overcoming fear, a reversal of the classic Little Red Riding Hood.

5. THE POWER OF WORDS – Nobel Peace Prize Winners in Picture Book Biographies

All are Beginning - Intermediate

Malala Yousafzai, Warrior with Words by Karen Leggett Abouraya, illus. by L.C. Wheatley

The story of the Pakistani girl's fight for the right of girls to go to school is told in brief scenes and collage art.

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illus. by Bryan Collier
Biography of Martin Luther King illustrated with Collier's watercolor and collage art.

Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson

In spare language and dramatic portraits and landscapes, Kadir Nelson brings South Africa's first black head of state to life.

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeannette Winter*

A story of the Kenyan Nobel-Prize-winning environmental activist in an edition that is short and easy to read.

6. ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN

various levels

Big Blue Whale by Nicola Davies. Nonfiction.

Beginner to Intermediate

An award-winning nonfiction picture book about the largest known animal.

How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals by Sy Montgomery, illus. by Rebecca Green.

Memoir. Advanced

Short personal essays that can be read in the whole or by singling out individual pieces. "A truly beautiful book about life, family, loss, and love." Temple Grandin, author of *Animals Make Us Human*.

Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and a Service Dog by Luis Carlos Montalvan.

Picture book nonfiction - **Beginner**

A simply told picture-book version of this story of a military veteran and his service dog.

Red and Lulu by Matt Tavares.

Picture book – **Beginner**

A story of New York City in the holidays and two cardinals who are separated and search for each other. Commended for its visual storytelling.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery.

Biography. **Advanced**

The story of Temple Grandin and her experience of autism.

7. TELLING FAMILY STORIES – Various levels (many bilingual)

This collection offers many different styles and models for readers who want to read with pleasure or to explore ways to tell their own stories. We've included stories in which writers write in their mother tongue as well as English.

Artic Memories by Normee Ekoomiaka (bilingual Inuit and English)

Picture book – **Beginner – All readers**

The author describes the food, the clothes, the games, the language of his childhood in Alaska.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Memoir in verse – **Advanced**

Woodson, a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, writes a stunning biography in verse of growing up African American with dreams of being a writer.

Cool Salsa, edited by Lori M. Carlson (bilingual English and Spanish)

poetry collection – **Intermediate - advanced**

Bilingual poems on growing up Latino in the United States

Calling the Doves by Juan Felipe Herrera (bilingual English and Spanish)

Picture book memoir – **Beginner – All readers**

Juan Felipe's fond memories of his mother and father and his life on the road as the child of migrant parents.

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engle

Memoir in verse, **Advanced**

Margarita Engle tells of growing up as a child in two cultures, Cuba and the U.S., during the Cold War. It begins with "Four Years Before I Existed," which could lead to stories and writing with the prompt, "Imagine the day that your parents met."

How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina Freidman, Illus. by Allen Say

Picture book. **Beginner – intermediate**

In Japan, a Japanese woman and Anglo-American man meet and learn to understand each other, especially through culinary traditions. This is a humorous yet realistic picture of two people from different cultures getting to know each other and falling in love.

Knots on a Counting Rope, by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault, illus. by Ted Rand

Picture book. **Intermediate +**

A grandfather empowers his grandson with identity and memories, all in dialogue and pictures. Wonderful to read aloud in two voices.

The Story of a Pumpkin, by Hari Tiwari, illus. by Dal Rai (bilingual Nepali and English)

Beginner – advanced

The author remembered this tale told by her father when she was a young child. She told the story in her Ascentria ESOL classroom in Laconia in a New Hampshire Humanities folktale project. A childless couple become the parents of a young pumpkin and all goes well until the pumpkin goes in search of a wife. This folktale from Bhutan.

The Sun and Her Flowers by Rupi Kaur

Poetry collection – **Advanced**

A young Indian-Canadian woman’s very accessible poems about life, love, and identity.

Wild Berries - Pikaci-Minisa by Juliet Flett (bilingual English and Cree)

Picture book – **Literacy – All levels**

An elegant dual-language picture book. It features a child, a grandmother, and a memory. On each page one key noun is in both English and Cree. Beautiful use of the sound of English and a heritage language.

Teachers' resources are here - <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/wild-berries>

THEMES ABOUT HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP

8. OUR EARTH

These books explore passions to understand and protect the earth.

Buried Sunlight by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm

Nonfiction Picture Book – **Intermediate +**

Molly Bang, creator of many classic stories, has also created books to illustrate climate change. This book, in Bangs’ Sunlight series, illuminates how fossil fuels have changed the earth.

Flotsam by David Wiesner (wordless) *

Wordless picture book. **Literacy +**

A boy finds an underwater camera washed up on the beach, develops the film, and discovers worlds beyond worlds.

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

Beginner - Intermediate

Called by a reviewer, “an oasis of calm and beauty.” Themes include the natural world, wisdom, New England, and restoring our earth. Based on an actual “Lupine Lady” in Maine.

Once There Was a Tree by Natalia Romanova, illus. by Gennady Spirin

Beginner – intermediate

Celebrates the life of a tree and how it supports animals, insects, and humans.

One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul, illus. by Elizabeth Zunon

Picture book – **Beginner – Intermediate**

A tale of growing ecological awareness and grassroots environment activism led by a group of women.

9. THE RIGHT TO BE

Explores questions of rights: rights to make choices in our lives, rights granted by the United States Constitution, rights society grants or withholds, and ways people have advocated for rights.

If I Only Had a Horn, by Roxanne Orgill, illustrated by Leonard Jenkins.

Picture book biography – **Beginner +**

An illustrated biography of Louis Armstrong when he was a boy and longed to play music.

Georgia in Hawaii by Amy Novesky, illustrated by Yuyi Morales,

Picture book biography – **Beginner +**

An illustrated biography of Georgia O’Keeffe on assignment.

Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson,

Memoir in verse. **Advanced**

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi,

Advanced

A graphic memoir of growing up in Iran during the revolution.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

Nonfiction – **Advanced**

“In 1945, World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom...A tribute to the people of Lithuania, Poland, and East Prussia.” Publisher’s summary

Teammates by Peter Golenbock, illus. by Paul Bacon

Picture book biography - **Intermediate +**

Biography of Jackie Robinson with photos and illustrations.

“Golenbock has taken a single moment of baseball history, set it in its social context, and created a simple and moving tribute to courage and brotherhood.”

10. HOW WOMEN WON THE VOTE

The questions around who has the right to vote are paramount in discussions of civics in the United States. In addition to issues of gerrymandering and voting rights, in 2020 the United States will also recognize the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage.

Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President by Ann Malaspina, illus by Steve James. Picture book biography – **Beginner+**

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote by Tanya Lee Stone, illus by Rebecca Gibbon.

Picture book biography – **Beginner +**

Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told by Walter Dean Myers, illus. by Bonnie Christensen.

Picture book biography – **Beginner +**

Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony,

a documentary by Ken Burns

Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan.

Novel - **Advanced**

You'll see many more books about women gaining the right to vote with notations about reading levels here: <https://www.iamightygirl.com/blog?p=11827>

11. WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

Ghandi: a March to the Sea by Alice B. McGinty, illus. by Thomas Gonzalez

Intermediate +

Mohandas Gandhi protests British rule in India in a 1930 act of civil disobedience.

Home to Medicine Mountain by Chiori Santiago, illus. by Judith Lowry

Picture book – **Intermediate +**

Two young boys are sent to government-run Indian boarding schools. The publisher writes, "This is the story of the boys' journey home one summer and the healing power of their culture."

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki, illus. by Dom Lee

Picture book – **Advanced beginner - Intermediate +**

During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.

Sit - In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Pinkney, illus by Brian Pinkney

Intermediate +

A story of the famous Greensboro, NC sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter that launched thousands of sit-ins across the country to bring about an end to segregation.

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

Picture book – **Beginner +**

Two children's imaginations re-create their world. "There is an air of triumph in Ms. Ringgold's vision." New York Times

Through My Eyes: The Autobiography of Ruby Bridges by Ruby Bridges

Low Intermediate - intermediate

A memoir from the first African American pupil to attend a formerly segregated school in New Orleans in 1960. Excellent prompt for discussion about civil rights and segregation.

12. COMING TO AMERICA

Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings by Francie Latour, illus. by Ken Daley

Picture book – **Beginner +**

A child visits her auntie in Haiti, the country her family left to come to America. Through the aunts paintings, the child learns who she is and about her home country.

A Different Pond by Thi Bui.

Picture book - **Beginner +**

A boy cherishes the ritual of fishing with his father.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales

Picture book – **Literacy +**

A Mexican-American mom and her little boy learn English and a love of books when they are welcomed at the public library.

I was Dreaming to Come to America: Memories from the Ellis Island Oral History Project by Veronica Lawlor

Intermediate

Short oral histories of immigrants coming to America through Ellis Island as children with watercolors by the author.

The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco.

Picture book – **Beginner +**

Polacco's classic story of Russian immigrants to the U.S.

Joseph's Big Ride by Terry Farish.

Picture book – **Beginner +**

In a South Sudanese-American boy's quest to ride his neighbor's bike, he unwittingly makes a friend.

Me and My Fear by Francesca Sanna

Picture book – **Beginner +**

Sanna shows in images how a young migrant learns to handle her fear.

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi.

Picture book – **Beginner +**

A small girl must decide what name she will use in America.

Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone, illus. by Ted Lewin

Beginner - Intermediate

An immigrant family seeks work and self respect in New York City's Little Italy.

When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest, illus. by P.J. Lynch.

Beginner - advance

Jessie emigrates from Eastern Europe to New York City in the early 1900s.

13. LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki, illus by Dom Lee

Intermediate

During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers, illus. by Shawn Harris

Picture book - **Beginner +**

“She’s in New York./ She’s holding a torch./ And she’s in mid-stride...” Eggers on the building and the meaning of the Statue of Liberty.

The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sis.

Graphic memoir - **Advanced**

Sis writes history from his own memories of growing up in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War.

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni, illus. by Bryan Collier

Intermediate

This biography of Rosa Parks tells the story of simple act of courage that launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Sit – In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Pinkney, illus by Brian Pinkney

Intermediate

A story of the famous Greensboro, NC sit-in at the Woolworth’s lunch counter that launched thousands of sit-ins across the country to bring about an end to segregation.

14. HISTORY OF THE US

The history of America in stories, facts, illustrations, and photographs

Picture Books

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki, illus by Dom Lee

Intermediate

During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon by Jacqueline Davies, illus. by Melissa Sweet.

Advanced beginner – intermediate

A story of the great student and painter of birds. Nonfiction, biography.

Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter

Literacy – advanced beginner

An imaginative story of the Underground Railroad.

Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence by Russell Freedman

Advanced

“Freedman takes a crucial moment in American history and imbues it with living grace and powerful tension.” *Booklist*. Nonfiction.

Johnny Appleseed by Reeve Lindbergh

Literacy – Intermediate

Here, this classic tale is told in verse, with detailed illustrations.

Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illus. by Bryan

Collier **Advanced beginner – intermediate**

Biography of Martin Luther King illustrated with Collier’s water color and collage art. Biography.

Midnight Ride of Paul Revere by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illus. by Ted Rand

Pre-Literacy +

An illustrated telling of the classic poem.

Night Boat to Freedom by Margot Theis Raven

Advanced beginner – low intermediate

Award-winning illustrated book based on slave narratives collected by the Federal Writers’ Project.

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni, illus. by Bryan Collier

Intermediate

Biography of Rosa Parks

Squanto’s Journey by Joseph Bruchac, illus. by Greg Shed

Intermediate

A story of the first Thanksgiving.

Novels

Lyddie by Katherine Paterson

Intermediate

Set in 1843, a girl leaves her family’s failing farm in Vermont to work in the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts. 192 pages.

15. WORK

Here is a selection about many aspects of work: families pulling together in times of crisis, entrepreneurs taking pride in their efforts, young people leaving home to make it on their own and, in “Breaker Boys” and “Kids at Work,” a look at the exploitation of child laborers.

Picture books

Breaker Boys by Michael Burgan with photographs by Lewis Hine

Intermediate

This book tells the story of young boys who sorted coal in dusty, loud, and dangerous conditions. Many of these breaker boys worked 10 hours a day, six days a week all for as little as 45 cents a day. Child labor was common in the United States in the 19th century. The photographs of Lewis Hine and others brought the harsh working conditions to light.

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall, illus. by Barbara Cooney

Literacy +

Hall's poem with Cooney's primitive paintings follow the New England seasons through the life of a mid-19th century farmer.

Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone, illus. by Ted Lewin

Beginner - Intermediate

An immigrant family seeks work and self respect in New York City's Little Italy.

Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression by Kate Lied, illus. by Lisa Ernst

Beginner – intermediate

When Dorothy's father loses his job and cannot find another the family borrows a car and sets off for Idaho where jobs digging potatoes can be found. The author was eight years old when she wrote this family story told to her by her aunt.

Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree King Mitchell

Beginner-Intermediate

As the only black barber in a county of sharecroppers during the 1920s, Uncle Jed traveled for miles to tend to his customers and dreamed of someday opening his own shop.

Chapter books and novels

Counting on Grace by Elizabeth Winthrop

Intermediate-Advanced

1910: At 12, Grace and her best friend Arthur must leave school and go to work as a "doffers" on their mothers' looms in the mill. Horrified by the working conditions and the very young children they see, they write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in Pownal, Vermont. What happens next changes her sense of herself, her future, and her family's future.

Lyddie by Katherine Patterson

Intermediate- Advanced

When Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family's farm debts, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family once again. Hearing about all the money a girl can make working at the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, she made her way there, only to find that her dreams of returning home may never come true.

The Most Beautiful Place in the World by Ann Cameron

Intermediate

In a small, first chapter book, a Guatemalan grandmother and grandson make the boy's dream to go to school come true. Cameron is a master of spare, emotionally true stories and presents social issues that lead to rich discussions. Themes include education, poverty and child labor.

Out Of The Dust by Karen Hess

Intermediate-Advanced

This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. Newbery Medal

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman, illus. by Judy Pedersen

Intermediate

A collection of stories of people from around the world who are now neighbors with a common love – growing things in the ground. “Thirteen voices tell one story of the flowering of a Cleveland vacant lot into a neighborhood garden.” Short novel made up of small stories. 70 pages

16. NEW HAMPSHIRE STORIES

Picture Books

The Bear That Heard Crying by Natalie Kinsey – Warnock, illus. by Helen Kinsey

Advanced beginner – intermediate

Little Sarah Witcher wanders off into the woods and spends a night curled up with a bear! Based on a true NH tale from Colonial times.

Birches by Robert Frost, illus. by Ed Young

Intermediate

An illustrated telling of Frost's classic poem evocative of NH settings.

Christmas Farm by Mary Lyn Ray, illus. by Barry Root

Advanced beginner - intermediate

NH writer and conservationist, Mary Lyn Ray has written this story about growing Christmas trees and a unique friendship. Themes include New Hampshire, holidays, Christmas in New England, Planting the Earth.

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall, illus. by Barbara Cooney

Literacy – low intermediate Hall's poem with Cooney's primitive paintings follow the New England seasons through the life of a mid-19th century farmer.

A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry

Intermediate

Modern-day descendants of the Nashua Indians and European settlers were able to combat pollution and restore the beauty of the Nashua River in Massachusetts.

JOURNEYS

17. FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD

Stories of families from Egypt, Guatemala, the U.S., Australia, and more and what families bring with them on their journey from one country to another.

Picture Books

Boundless Grace by Mary Hoffman, illus. by Caroline Binch

Pre-literacy- advanced beginner

A girl and her grandmother travel to Africa where the girl's father now lives with a new wife.

The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Parry Heide, illus. by Ted Lewin

Beginner – intermediate

Set in Cairo, the story and illustrations recreate the sound, scent, and images of the city. "Life goes on in the hectic, noisy cities of the world regardless of a day's news and yet, the boundless energy and promise of youth reinforce the ideal that anything is possible. Ahmed's story is a joyful celebration of that spirit."- *School Library Journal*.

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Stephen Gammell

Advanced Beginner

Story of a joyous, summer family party in the American south.

When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant, illus. by Diane Goode

Pre-literacy – advanced beginner

Memories of growing up in Appalachia. *Caldecott Honor*

Chapter Books and Novels

The Most Beautiful Place in the World by Ann Cameron.

Intermediate

In a small, first chapter book, a Guatemalan grandmother and grandson make the boy's dream to go to school come true. Cameron is a master of spare, emotionally true stories and presents social issues that lead to rich discussions. Themes include education, poverty and child labor. 64 pages.

Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye

High intermediate – Advanced

An American girl moves with her family to Palestine and into the Arab heritage of her father's family in this novel of reaching out across cultures and divides. Themes include cross cultural families and peace - building. 272 pages.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Advanced/HiSet

Short adult novel in small chapters. Cisneros writes about growing up in a Latino family. Themes include identity, immigrant neighborhoods, home, living in two cultures, courage. 110 pages.

18.FOLK TALES

Folk tales are often short, on universal themes, and can stimulate storytelling and cross-cultural discussion

Picture Books

How the Stars Fell into the Sky, a Navajo Legend retold by Jerry Oughton, illus by Lisa Desimini
Beginner – advanced beginner

What is the best place to write the laws for all to see? An enchanting tale with stunning illustrations.

The Story of a Pumpkin, by Hari Tiwari, illus. by Dal Rai *NH Author and illustrator, published by the New Hampshire Humanities.*

Advanced beginner – intermediate

A childless couple become the parents of a young pumpkin and all goes well until the pumpkin goes in search of a wife. A bilingual folktale from Bhutan in English and Nepali.

Strega Nona, by Tomie De Paola *Award-winning NH Author/Illustrator and featured speaker at the Connections 2015 family literacy event*

Advanced beginner

A "Grandma Witch," a magic pot and a curious, hungry attendant make for disaster! This classic tale has many counterparts from around the world.

The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks, by Katherine Paterson, illus. by D. and L. Dillon

Advanced beginner – intermediate

A beautiful mandarin duck is captured and caged by a greedy lord who wants to show off the bird's magnificent plumage. When the kitchen maid releases the bird against her lord's command, she and the one-eyed servant, Shozo, are sentenced to death. The grateful bird intends to return their kindness, but can he outsmart the cruel lord?

Folktale Selections from the International Children's Digital Library

www.childrenslibrary.org

The International Children's Digital Library is a free online library for children and other learners around the world. The library is comprised of scanned images of actual books (many are out of print) and the illustrations are stunning. Many of the books have text in multiple languages. A projector and large screen or blank wall will be necessary for viewing. These books cannot be downloaded, but can be viewed as many times as you wish. Students can learn how to access the site and read a book at home with their children in English or their native language. *Connections* facilitators will plan discussion topics, activities and supplementary materials as usual. There can be many advantages to viewing and reading a story together in this way.

Digital Picture Books from ICDL

The Farmer's Wife, by Idries Shah, illus. by Rosemary Santiago (ICDL)

Advanced Beginner

A farmer's wife tries to retrieve an apple from a hole in the ground. Read to learn how she solves her problem.

The Hunterman and the Crocodile by Baba Wague Diakite (ICDL)

Advanced Beginner – Intermediate

A hunter and a crocodile take turns being captive and captor in a humorous folktale that teaches the importance of living in harmony with nature and is illustrated with ceramic-tile paintings.

A Man Called Raven by Richard Van Camp (ICDL)

Low Intermediate

A mysterious man tells two Indian brothers why they must not hurt the ravens that pester them.

19. JOURNEYS

Imagine the many kinds of journeys. How can journeys change the course of a life?

Picture Books

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

Advanced beginner – low intermediate

A man lives in two cultures, and when he is in one, he yearns for the other.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, illus. by John Schoenherr

Literacy – low intermediate

A father and his little girl follow the call of the owl through the woods on a winter night. Poem.

What You Know First by Patricia MacLachlan, illus. by Barry Moser.

Intermediate +

Set in the U.S. during the Depression, the story captures the universal emotions of leaving a place one loves.

Chapter Books and Novels

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Intermediate

A courageous girl must move from Mexico to work among the farm laborers in California during the Great Depression. 262 pages.

20. ART AS POWER

The transformative power of art, music and imagination

Picture Books

Celia Cruz by Veronica Chambers, illus. by Julie Maren

Advanced beginner – intermediate

The story of the famous Cuban singer and how she becomes the “Queen of Salsa.”

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Literacy – beginner

Frederick the mouse reveals the power of poems.

The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

Beginner - intermediate

From a basket of old clothes, an immigrant mother from Russia makes a quilt and connects her family to home.

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Literacy +

Follow Harold’s imagination as he draws his world and walks into it.

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

Literacy – beginner

A boy finds two sticks and day dreams himself into a world of percussion.

Silent Music: a Story of Bagdad by James Rumford*

Intermediate

A boy uses skill at calligraphy to express himself as his country is enveloped in war. Beautiful illustrations.

Symphony of Whales by Steve Schuch, illus. by Peter Sylvada

Intermediate +

Whales stranded near the Bering Strait respond to the sounds of classical music and follow the music to the open sea.

Wabi Sabi by Mark Reibstein, illus. by Ed Young.

Advanced beginner – intermediate

This picture book explores the Japanese idea of wabi sabi - beauty in that which is simple, natural, and imperfect - and haikus, the 17-syllable poem.

Chapter book

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Chapter book Intermediate +

A timeless story for all ages about prejudice, personal choice, art, and defining one's own identity.
96 pages