

# **OHIO HISTORY IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:**

Fiction & Nonfiction

Resources



# Picture Books - Ohio Connections

## Apple Valley Year. Ann Warren Turner

The Clark family keeps busy through all four seasons at their apple orchard, pruning dead branches at the end of winter, carrying the beehives among the trees in May, propping up branches heavy with summer fruit, and harvesting the apples in the fall.

## Aurora Means Dawn. Scott Russell Sanders

After traveling from Connecticut to Ohio in 1800 to start a new life in the settlement of Aurora, the Sheldons find that they are the first family to arrive there and realize that they will be starting a new community by themselves.

## Bingleman's Midway. Katherine Ayres.

The story of a young boy who cannot resist the lure of a carnival when it visits his small Ohio town.

## Elijah's Angel: A Story for Chanukah and Christmas. Michael J. Rosen

At Christmas-Hanukkah time, a Christian woodcarver gives a carved angel to a young Jewish friend, who struggles with accepting the Christmas gift until he realizes that friendship means the same thing in any religion.

## The Erie Canal. Peter Spier

The folk song describing the journey from Albany to Buffalo on the Erie Canal in the 1850's. Includes musical notation.

## Floating House. Scott Russell Sanders

In 1815, the McClures sail their flatboat from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River and settle in what would later become Indiana.

## The Flyers. Allen Drummond

In 1903, a group of children on the beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, dream of flying and witness the first flight of the Wright brothers. Includes a chronology of milestones in the history of flight.

## The Giant of Seville; a "tall tale" based on a true story. Dan Andreasen

A simple, illustrated biography of Martin Van Buren Bates who grew to be nearly eight feet tall. **Girl Wonder; a baseball story in nine innings.** Deborah Hopkinson.

In the early 1900s, Alta Weiss, a young woman who knows from an eraly age that she loves baseball, finds a way to show that she can play, even though she is a girl.

## Good Night Ohio. Adam Gamble

Highlighting many of Ohio's most interesting places and features—from the University of Ohio, the Columbus Museum of Art, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cincinnati Reds, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Ohio River Way, and Cedar Point Amusement Park—this is the perfect celebration of the Buckeye State.

## Harriet's Homecoming; a high-flying tour of Cincinnati. Susan Sachs Levine

A peregrine falcon chick that is rehabilitated after flying into a Carew Tower window explores Cincinnati as she looks for her home.

#### Horsin' Around. Loren Long and Phil Bildner

Originally published in 2007 under title: Game 2. The Payne siblings continue their travels throughout the U.S. in 1899 trying to earn enough money playing baseball to pay off the family debt, while at the same time working to unravel a mystery that has made them the target of the greedy Chancellor.

## In Coal Country. Judith Hendershot

A child growing up in a coal mining community finds both excitement and hard work, in a life deeply affected by the local industry.

## Indian Captive: the story of Mary Jemison. Lois Lenski

In this classic frontier adventure, Lois Lenskireconstructs the real life story of Mary Jemison, who was captured in a raid as young girl and raised amongst the Seneca Indians. Meticulously researched and illustrated with many detailed drawings, this novel offers an exceptionally vivid and personal portrait of Native American life and customs.

## Journey to Freedom; a story of the underground railroad. Courtni Crump Wright

Joshua and his family, runaway slaves from a tobacco plantation in Kentucky, follow the Underground Railroad to freedom.

#### Just as Good; how Larry Doby changed America's game. Chris Crowe.

An African American family in Cleveland, Ohio, listens on their new radio to the first game of the 1948 World Series, in which Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, won the game for the Cleveland Indians. Batter up for the first-ever children's book about Larry Doby, the first African-American player to hit a home run in the World Series.

#### Just Plain Fancy. Patricia Polacco

Naomi, an Amish girl whose elders have impressed upon her the importance of adhering to the simple ways of her people, is horrified when one of her hen eggs hatches into an extremely fancy bird.

#### King Emmett the Second. Mary Stolz

Emmett endures the death of his pet pig and his family's move from New York City to Ohio and finally comes to accept the thought of getting another pet.

## The Legend of Blue Jacket. Michael P. Spradlin

He was only sixteen when the Shawnee Indians took him from his home. But he wasn't captured. He went *willingly*. And, after many years of proving his bravery in battle against the colonists, he was named war chief of the Shawnee. His name was Blue Jacket.

## The Legend of Ohio. Dandi Daley Mackall

Young Dikewamis and her family are forced to keep moving south because of the movement of the Great White Stone Mountains, but soon their chief leads them to a land that came to be known as Ohio, which means "beautiful river.

#### Lentil. Robert McCloseky

Lentil's harmonica playing saves the day when calamity threatens the homecoming celebration for the leading citizen of Alto, Ohio.

#### Louis Sockalexis; Native American baseball pioneer. Bill Wise

Tells the story of Louis Sockalexis, a Penobscot, who in the late nineteenth century pursued his childhood love of baseball and became the first Native American to play in the major leagues, now the Cleveland Indians, where he faced racism and discrimination. Includes a biographical afterword.

## The Lucky Buckeye; a story about Ohio. Kristal Leebrick

Ohio at a glance -- What do you know? -- What to do in Ohio. Teaches young readers about the history, people, geography, plants, and animals of Ohio through a story about a grandfather who takes his grandson to a storytelling festival.

#### Max's Wild Goose Chase. Sandra J. Philipson

A naughty Springer Spaniel upsets geese along the Chagrin River, and they conspire to teach him a lesson.

## McCrephy's Field. Christopher A. Myers

Relates how the plants and animals around a farmer's barn change over the course of fifty years.

## Night Boat to Freedom. Margot Theis Raven

At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.

#### Night Running: how James escaped with the help of his faithful dog. Elisa Carbone Based on a true story. A runaway slave makes a daring escape to freedom with the help of his faithful hunting dog, Zeus. Based on the true story of James Smith's journey from Virginia to Ohio in the mid-1800s.

## Nothing Here but Trees. Jean VanLeeuwen

A close-knit pioneer family carves out a new home amidst the densely forested land of Ohio in the early nineteenth century.

## **Ohio Thunder**. Diane Mortensen

A powerful thunderstorm sweeps across an Ohio farm.

#### Packard Takes Flight; a bird's-eye view of Columbus, Ohio. Susan Sachs Levine

A fledgling peregrine falcon who falls off the top of the Rhodes Tower sees the sights of Columbus while working his way back to his family.

#### Paper Boy. Mary Kay Kroeger

In Cincinnati in 1927, paperboy Willie Brinkman tries to sell extras on the Dempsey-Tunney boxing match in his workingman's neighborhood.

## A Place Called Freedom. Scott Russell Sanders

After being set free from slavery in 1832, young James Starman and his family journey from Tennessee to Indiana to start a new life and over the years they are joined by so many blacks that they start their own town.

#### Pink and Say. Patricia Polacco

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a Black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather.

## Riding with Aunt Lucy. Sharon Phillips Denslow.

On drives with his friend Leonard's great-aunt, Walter never knows what the trio will discover.

## Rudy Rides the Rails; a Depression Era Story. Dandi Daley Mackall

In 1932, during the Depression in Ohio, thirteen-year-old Rudy, determined to help his family weather the hard times, hops a train going west to California and experiences the hobo life.

## Santa from Cincinnati. Judi Barrett

A baby in Cincinnati whose first words are "ho ho ho" grows up to become Santa Claus.

## Santa is Coming to Ohio. Steve Smallman

Santa Claus and his reindeer deliver Christmas presents to the good children of Ohio.

## Secret Signs; Along the Underground Railroad. Anita Riggio

When the barn used for hiding runaway slaves burns to the ground, Luke, who is deaf, finds a unique way to pass along information about the next safe haven.

## The Shoe Tree of Chagrin. J. Patrick Lewis

The barn-tall old plainswoman Susannah DeClare braves deep snow and icy weather to fulfill her promise to deliver a load of handmade shoes to Chagrin Falls, Ohio, by Christmas.

## Silent Star; the story of deaf major leaguer William Hoy. Bill Wise

"A biography of William "Dummy" Hoy, who pursued his love of baseball and became the first deaf player to have a long career in the Major Leagues, where he accumulated records and top-ranking statistics. Includes an afterword, author's sources, and historical photograph." Now in the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame.

## Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt. Deborah Hopkinson

A young slave stitches a quilt with a map pattern that guides her to freedom in the North.

## Tin Heart. Karen Ackerman

As the onset of the Civil War causes a rift between their fathers, Mahaley and Flora find a way to preserve their friendship.

## Warm as Wool. Scott Russell Sanders

When Betsy Ward's family moves to Ohio from Connecticut in 1803, she brings along a sockful of coins to buy sheep so that she can gather wool to clean, spin cloth, and make clothes to keep her children warm.

## Wee and the Wright Brothers. Timothy R. Gaffney

A rodent reporter from the "Mouse News" travels from Dayton, Ohio, to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, to cover Wilbur and Orville Wright's historic 1903 flight.

## Who Came Down that Road? George Ella Lyon

Answering the child's questions, the mother tells how her great-grandparents used the road, then moves back to Civil War soldiers, earlier settlers . . . and finally . . . 'the mystery of the making place' . . .

## Up the Tracks to Grandma's. Judith Hendershot

A young girl helps her grandmother with her daily chores and takes care of her house and garden while she is in town helping Aunt Katy.

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## Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad. Marlene Targ Brill

Recounts how Allen Jay, a young Quaker boy living in Ohio during the 1840s, helped a fleeing slave escape his master and make it to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

## The Beaded Moccasins; the story of Mary Campbell. Lynda Durrant

After being captured by a group of Delaware Indians and given to their leader as a replacement for his dead granddaughter, twelve-year-old Mary Campbell is forced to travel west with them to Ohio.

## The Bells of Christmas. Virginia Hamilton

Twelve-year-old Jason describes the wonderful Christmas of 1890 that he and his family celebrate, in their home in Springfield, Ohio.

#### Betsy Zane: the rose of Fort Henry. Lynda Durrant

In 1781 twelve-year-old Elizabeth Zane, great-great-aunt of novelist Zane Grey, leaves Philadelphia to return to her brothers' homestead near Fort Henry in what is now West Virginia, where she plays an important role in the final battle of the American Revolution.

## Betsy's River Adventure; the journey westward. Veda Boyd Jones

Thirteen-year-old Betsy Miller and her family are moving from Boston to Cincinnati, making the long, difficult trip down the Ohio River in 1808, and Betsy must learn to adjust to leaving her home and friends.

## Black-eyed Susan. Jennifer Armstrong

Ten-year-old Susie and her father love living on the South Dakota prairie with its vast, uninterrupted views of land and sky, but Susie's mother greatly misses their old life in Ohio.

#### The Borning Room. Paul Fleischman

Lying at the end of her life in the room where she was born in 1851, Georgina remembers what it was like to grow up on the Ohio frontier.

## Bringing Ezra Back. Cynthia DeFelice

Sequel to: Weasel. In the mid-1800s, twelve-year-old Nathan journeys from his farm on the Ohio frontier to Western Pennsylvania to rescue a friend held captive by the owners of a freak show.

## The Cabin on Trouble Creek. Jean Van Leeuwen

In 1803 in Ohio, two young brothers are left to finish the log cabin and guard the land while their father goes back to Pennsylvania to fetch their mother and younger siblings.

## Children of the Dawnland. Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear

Twelve-year-old Twig, a Spirit Dreamer who can see into the future, teams up with best friend Greyhawk and the unpopular shaman Screech Owl to warn villagers of an impending natural disaster. Includes review questions, recommended reading, and information on the prehistory of the Great Lakes Region, paleoclimatology, and Clovis culture.

## Conflict at Chillicothe. Karen Meyer

Settlers fear the Shawnee Indians at Chillicothe. Joshua is about to learn why. For Joshua Stewart and his family, the Kentucky frontier is their promised land. It's a fresh start away from the difficulties of Virginia. It's an opportunity to own as much land as they care to claim. It's a chance of a lifetime, a dream come true. The only problem is getting there. Will the Stewarts overcome the hardships that await them in the mountains of Pennsylvania?

## Crooked River. Shelley Pearsall

When twelve-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death.

## Danger Along the Ohio. Patricia Willis

Traveling down the Ohio River in 1793, Amos, Clara, and Jonathan are separated from their father during a brutal Indian attack. The three children are swept down the river, and must make their way back through the wilderness in the direction of the Marietta settlement.

### Double Dutch. Sharon Draper

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.

#### The Day I Hit a Home Run at a Great American Ballpark. Paul Mullen

Young Fuji Powers, playing minor league baseball in Ohio, gets his wish to play at the home field of the team he idolizes, the Cincinnati Reds.

#### Double Dutch. Sharon Draper

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump ropecompetition in their home town of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.

#### 42 Miles. Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

Linked free-verse poems and illustrations depict the challenges a young girl faces as she grows up and tries to determine who she really wants to be and how she can remain true to herself.

## Freedom's Tremendous Cost. Raelene Phillips

Sequel to *Freedom's Destiny Fulfilled*. In 1820s Ohio eighty-five-year old Hannah and her children devote themselves to helping runaway slaves escape to the north through the Underground Railroad.

## Freedom's Wings. Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Kentucky to Ohio, 1857. A nine-year-old slave keeps a diary of his journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad in 1857.

#### Getting in the Game. Dawn Fitzgerald

When everyone tries to get thirteen-year-old Joanna off the boys ice hockey team, including Ben, her best friend since kindergarten, Jo resolves to deal with the problems caused by her participation.

## The Gold Cadillac. Mildred Taylor

Two African-American girls living in the North are proud of their family's beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

#### Honeysuckle House. Andrea Cheng

An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in their fourth grade classroom, but they are both missing their best friends and soon discover other connections.

#### Horror from the Sky; the 1924 Lorrain, Ohio tornado. Bonnie Highsmith Taylor

Calvin panics when he is caught in the 1924 Lorain, Ohio tornado and races to find his family and make sure they survived.

#### Horsin' Around. Loren Long and Phil Bildner

Originally published in 2007 under title: *Game 2*. The Payne siblings continue their travels throughout the U.S. in 1899 trying to earn enough money playing baseball to pay off the family debt, while at the same working to unravel a mystery that has made them the target of the greedy Chancellor.

#### How to Beat a Bully Without Really Trying. Scott Starkey

Rodney, an admitted coward, moves to Ohio where the middle school bully immediately singles him out, but when a stray baseball knocks the bully out just as he is about to beat Rodney up, Rodney gains an undeserved reputation as a tough guy.

## The House of Dies Drear. Virginia Hamilton

An African-American family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home that was once a stop on the Underground Railroad. Sequel: *The Mystery of Drear House*.

#### How Not to run for President. Catherine Clark

When Aidan, an ordinary Ohio twelve-year-old, saves a presidential candidate from injury during a campaign appearance and his heroic deed is broadcast everywhere, he and his family discover the seamy side of being in the media spotlight.

#### Itch. Michelle D. Kwasney

In 1968, after the death of her beloved Gramps, Delores "Itch" Colchester and her grandmother move from Florida to an Ohio trailer park, where she meets new people and, when she learns that a friend is being abused by her mother, tries her best to emulate her plain-spoken grandfather.

#### The Last Invisible Boy. Evan Kuhlman

In the wake of his father's sudden death, twelve-year-old Finn feels he is becoming invisible as his hair and skin become whiter by the day, and so he writes and illustrates a book to try to understand what is happening and to hold on to himself and his father.

#### Letters from Hillside Farm. Jerold W. Apps

An account of the fictional Struckmeyer family's move from Cleveland, Ohio to a rundown farm in central Wisconsin in 1938, told through letters exchanged by young George Struckmeyer and his grandmother.

#### Lunch-box dream. Tony Abbott

Told from multiple points of view, a white family on a 1959 road trip between Ohio and Florida, visiting Civil War battlefields along the way, crosses paths with a black family near Atlanta, where one of their children has gone missing.

## Magic in the Outfield. Loren Long and Phil Bildner

Originally published in 2007 under title: Game 1. Griffith, Ruby, and Graham Payne hit the road with the Travelin' Nine barnstorming baseball team in 1899, armed with a mysterious ball given to them by their Uncle Owen that their dad used before his death, and that gives them unexplained power.

## Mary Mae and the Gospel Truth. Sandra Dutton.

Ten-year-old Mary Mae, living with her parents in fossil-rich southern Ohio, tries to reconcile, despite her mother's strong disapproval, her family's Creationist beliefs with the prehistoric fossils she studies in school.

#### Max's Wild Goose Chase. Sandra J. Philipson

A naughty Springer Spaniel upsets geese along the Chagrin River, and they conspire to teach him a lesson.

#### Me and the Pumpkin Queen. Marlene Kennedy

Although Aunt Arlene tries to interest her in clothing and growing up, ten-year-old Mildred is entirely focused on growing a pumpkin big enough to win the annual Circleville, Ohio, contest, as her mother dreamed of doing before she died.

#### Meg Follows a Dream; the fight for freedom. Norma Jean Lutz

Twelve-year-old Meg Buehler is frustrated when her family can't understand her interest in art, and tries to cope with the struggles and triumphs of pre-Civil War Ohio.

## My Last Skirt: the story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier. Lynda Durrant

Enjoying the freedom afforded her while dressing as a boy in order to earn higher pay after emigrating from Ireland, Jennie Hodgers serves in the 95th Illinois Infantry as Private Albert Cashier, a Union soldier in the American Civil War.

## North by Night; a story of the Underground Railroad. Katherine Ayes

Presents the journal of a sixteen-year-old girl whose family operates a stop on the Underground Railroad.

#### Nuts; a novel. Kacy Cook

When eleven-year-old Nell finds a tiny baby squirrel on the ground in her yard, she begs her parents to let her raise it as a pet, even after the research she does shows that this is not a good idea.

#### Oliver's Travels; an Ohio Adventure. Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

Oliver, a tiny mouse with big dreams, follows a piece of a very old treasure map his great-uncle gave him, leaving safety and security behind to journey through Ohio, learning much about the state along the way. Includes Ohio activities, symbols, and other facts.

## Packard Takes Flight; a bird's-eye view of Columbus. Susan Sachs Levine

A fledgling peregrine falcon who falls off the top of the Rhodes Tower sees the sights of Columbus while working his way back to his family.

#### Queen Sophie Hartley. Stephanie Greene

A suggestion from her mother leads Sophie to befriend the new girl at school and an elderly, grouchy woman, and helps her overcome the feeling that she is not good at anything.

#### Race for the Sky; the Kitty Hawk diaries of Johnny Moore. Dan Gutman

Based on the real-life story of Johnny Moore.Ordered to practice his writing skills in the blank book his mother gave him, fourteen-year-old Johnny would rather go fishing near his home on North Carolina's Outer Banks and cannot think of anything important to write until two "dingbatters" from Ohio arrive in 1900 and try to build a flying machine.

#### The Second Bend in the River. Ann Rinaldi

Rebecca Galloway is a busy pioneer girl in the Ohio Territory. Over the years, her friendship with Tecumseh, the respected Shawnee chief, grows into love. Rebecca must choose a future on her family homestead, or with the man she loves.

#### Seed Folks. Paul Fleischman

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and, in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

#### Shadows of Caesar Creek. Sharon Draper

Originally published with the series title Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs. Ziggy and his Black Dinosaur pals, filled with stories of their camp counselor's Shawnee ancestors, manage to scare themselves when they decide to test their manhood by sneaking out at night and taking a canoe across the lake.

#### Silver Ribbon Skinny: the towpath adventures of Skinny Nye, a muleskinner on the Ohio & Erie Canal,

#### **1884.** Marilyn Seguin.

Presents the fictional memoirs of Skinny Nye in which he tells of his adventures living and working on a canal boat on the Ohio and Erie Canal route in the late nineteenth century.

#### Soccer Chick Rules. Dawn Fitzgerald

While trying to focus on a winning soccer season, thirteen-year-old Tess becomes involved in local politics when she learns that all sports programs at her school will be stopped unless a tax levy is passed.

#### The Stones. Janet Hickman

While his father is fighting in Europe, a young American boy, motivated by misguided patriotism, harasses an old man who has a German name.

#### Susannah. Janet Hickman

The critically acclaimed author tells the story of Susannah, a teenage girl who has been brought by her widowed father to live in a Shaker settlement in Ohio in 1810. In this austere, orderly community where few things other than religious devotion and duty are tolerated, Susannah grieves for her mother and longs for the simple freedoms of the outside world. Her tale is one of loyalty and defiance, compassion and bravery and will strike a resonant chord in the hearts and minds of readers.

#### The Toothpaste Millionaire. Jean Merrill.

A young girl describes how her school friend made over a million dollars by creating and marketing a cheaper and better toothpaste.

#### Trouble Don't Last. Shelley Pearsall

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

## Underground Man. Milton Meltzer

In this classic novel, Josh, a teenage logger on the Ohio River, discovers his life's true mission as an abolitionist after his first encounter with a runaway slave.

The Underground Railroad Adventure of Allen Jay, underground activist. Emma Carlson (graphic novel) Recounts in graphic novel format how Allen Jay, a young Quaker boy living in Ohio during the 1840s, helped a fleeing slave escape his master and make it to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

## What Katy Did. Susan Coolidge

Katy Carr intends to be beautiful and beloved and as sweet as an angel one day. For now, though, her hair is forever in a tangle, her dress is always torn and she doesn't care at all for being called 'good'. But then a terrible accident happens and Katy must find the courage to remember her daydreams and the delightful plans she once schemed; for when she is grown up she wants to do something grand. \*\*\*Susan Coolidge (1835-1905) was born Sarah Chauncey Woolsey in Ohio, USA. She worked as a nurse during the American Civil War, after which she started to write. She is best known for her classic children's novel What Katy Did, which was modelled on her own family, and its four sequels: What Katy Did at School, What Katy Did Next, Clover and In the High Valley. The Puffin Classics series is a perfect marriage of the old and the new.

#### What's So Big about Cleveland, Ohio? Sara Holbrook

While visiting Cleveland, Ohio, nine-year-old Amanda is bored with all of Alan's favorite sights until she learns a secret about the city.

#### The Wright Twist. Josie Daval

Leah, a twelve-year-old Ohio tomboy and middle child in a family inclined to practical jokes and experiments gone awry, spends the summer of 1905 in adventures with her older brothers, including sneaking a peek at the crazy Wright men and their new flying machine.

#### Yuki's False Alarm. Dannah Gresh and Chizuruoke Anderson.

Sixth-grader Yuzi, trying hard to fit in at a new school, is traumatized by being asked to dress as a stalk of corn in the town's annual Marion, Ohio, Popcorn Festival and soon finds herself in after-school detention, where she meets three other girls who join her in forming the "Secret Keeper Girl Club." Includes a mother/daughter Girl Gab assignment.

#### Zoar Blue. Janet Hickman

Two young members of a German pacifist community in Ohio are caught up in the turbulence brought to the village by the Civil War.

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# Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad. Marlene Trill Brigg

Recounts how Allen Jay, a young Quaker boy living in Ohio during 1840s, helped a fleeing slave escape his master and make it to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

## **B is for Buckeye.** Marchia Schonberg

Part history book and part travel, Rubini's book offers an overview of a variety of places to visit in Ohio while providing relevant historical facts.

## Becco's Big Year: a baby elephant turns one. Linda Stanek

Includes bibliographical references (p. 45-46). Follows Beco, a baby elephant, through his first year at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, showing how he eats, plays, and learns with the help of his mother and zoo workers.

## The Bell Keeper: the story of Sophia and the massacre of the Indians at Gnadenhutten, Ohio in

## **1782**. Marilyn Seguin.

Presents a fictional history of a woman named Sophia and her life around the time of the American Revolutionary War and the events of the Gnadenhutten massacre of Native Americans in Ohio in 1782.

#### Best Wishes. Cynthia Rylant

Children's author Cynthia Rylant describes her life and writing process and how they are interwoven. The author takes her readers to her home in Ohio, then travels back to her childhood in West Virginia.

#### Black and White Airmen; their true story. John Fleischman

Presents the true story of two men--one African-American, the other white--who lived in the same Ohio neighborhood, went to the same school, joined the Army Air Corps in 1941, and finally became close friends nearly sixty years later.

## The Boy Who Saved Cleveland; based on a true story. James Cross Giblin

During a malaria epidemic in late eighteenth-century Cleveland, Ohio, ten-year-old Seth Doan surprises his family, his neighbors, and himself by having the strength to carry and grind enough corn to feed everyone.

## Bull's-eye; a photobiography of Annie Oakley. Sue Macy

A photographic biography of Annie Oakley, discussing her early life, her prowess with a gun, her stint with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, and her enduring image in movies, books, television shows, and plays.

## Cardinal Numbers; an Ohio counting books. Marcia Schonberg

This colorful and richly informative pictorial teaches children about numbers and math concepts by using people, places, and things specific to Ohio as examples.

## Civil Rights Pioneer: a story about Mary Church Terrell. Gwenyth Swain

A biography of a determined woman, who was born in Tennessee, educated in Ohio, and lived in Washington, D.C., where she worked to gain equal rights for herself and other African-Americans.

## Clarabelle: making milk and so much more. Cris Peterson

The author describes all the latest technology that enables farmers to create energy and other byproducts from cows. Photographs by David Lundquist capture Clarabelle with her herdmates and her newborn calf as well as the family members of Norswiss Farm in this Ohio Farm Bureau Children's Literature Award winner.

#### Colo's Story; the life of one grand gorilla. Nancy Roe Pimm and Jack Hanna

When Colo was born unexpectedly on the cold concrete floor of the zoo on December 22, 1956, the book, How to Raise a Baby Gorilla didn't exist. How do you raise a baby gorilla? the keepers at the Columbus Zoo wondered. They raised Colo the only way they knew as if she were a human baby

#### Critters, flitters and spitters; 24 amazing Ohio animal tales. Rick Sowash

Presents twenty-four animal stories from the Ohio region and includes tales from the Mound builders and Shawnee, pioneers and settlers, from the Amish people, and from the Civil War period.

## Delaware and Delaware County. Jeffrey T. Darbee

From its early founding to becoming a university town, from the interurban railroad era to the famous Little Brown Jug harness race, Delaware and Delaware County, Ohio, have many stories to tell. Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes was born here. In these pages, the reader will discover the story of Delaware and of Delaware County communities such as Ashley, Galena, Ostrander, Powell, Radnor, Shawnee Hills, and Sunbury.

## Diary of an Ohio Kid. Cyd Moore

Kids can plan a trip, record their memories, draw picture of favorite places, and much more in this new state journal.

#### **Escape from Saigon; how a Vietnam War orphan became an American boy**. Andrea Warren Chronicles the experiences of an orphaned Amerasian boy from his birth and early childhood in Saigon through his departure from Vietnam in the 1975 Operation Babylift and his subsequent life as the adopted son of an American family in Ohio.

## Freedom River. Doreen Rappaport

Describes an incident in the life of John Parker, an ex-slave who became a successful businessman in Ripley, Ohio, and who repeatedly risked his life to help other slaves escape to freedom.

#### George Bellows; painter with a punch. Robert Burleigh

No punches are pulled in this fascinating biography that covers the life and work of the prolific artist George Bellows. Having spent most of his adult life in New York City, Bellows left behind an extraordinary body of work that captures life in this dynamic city: bustling street scenes, ringside views of boxing matches, and boys diving and swimming in the East River. Art reproductions and photographs from his youth round out the book.

## George Washington: leader of a new nation. Daniel C. Gedacht.

George Washington is easily our most recognizable Founding Father. This book shows the many faces of Washington: gentleman farmer, army general, and U.S. president. Students will love reading about Washington's life, from his boyhood to his famous crossing of the Delaware River to the true story concerning his false teeth, and surveying the Ohio Valley.

#### Ghosts of Historic Delaware, Ohio. John B. Ciochetty

The infamous Vaudeville Ghost that still puts on a show at the Strand, the mischievous, piano-playing poltergeists of Arts Castle and the bearded ghoul that speeds at a hellish pace down North Franklin Street in a horse-drawn carriage--these are the otherworldly denizens of Delaware, Ohio.

#### Heroes of Ohio; 23 true tales of courage and character. Rick Sowash

Tells the stories of twenty-three men and women from throughout the history of Ohio whose lives stand as examples of courage and character, including Tecumseh, Ulysses S. Grant, and Neil Armstrong.

#### Historical Atlas of Delaware Ohio. Anna C. Pabst

Hidden Ohio. Julie K. Rubini

Part history book and part travel, Rubini's book offers an overview of a variety of places to visit in Ohio while providing relevant historical facts.

#### How to Draw Ohio's Sights and Symbols. Aileen Weintraub

Explains how to draw some of Ohio's sights and symbols, including the state seal, the official flower, and the cardinal, Ohio's state bird.

#### How to Draw the Life and Times of Rutherford B. Hayes. Melody S. Mis

Introduction to the life, times, and key achievements of Rutherford B. Hayes while including step-bystep illustrations with easy-to-follow directions that allow readers to draw what they are learning.

#### It Came from Ohio; My life as a writer. R.L.Stine

A best-selling author tells kids everything they ever wanted to know about him--and Goosebumps! What was R.L. Stine like as a kid? How did he start writing books? Where does he get all his scary ideas? These and many more questions are answered in this humorous, fast-paced biography

#### Johnny Appleseed. James Howard Kunstler

Who's that man rambling down the road? It's Johnny Appleseed, planting apple trees wherever he goes.

#### Just as Good; how Larry Doby changed America's game. Chris Crowe

An African American family in Cleveland, Ohio, listens on their new radio to the first game of the 1948 World Series, in which Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, won the game for the Cleveland Indians.

## Liftoff: a photobiography of John Glenn. Don Mitchell

Presents and illustrated biography of John Glenn, with a special emphasis on his career as an astronaut. How does a boy from a small Ohio town grow up to become one of the most enduring heroes in American history?

## Louie the Miracle Elephant. Marian Goldner.

This book was published by the world-renowned Toledo Zoo. It is basically a kids' version of the true story of the birth of an elephant at the zoo.

#### The Lucky Buckeye; a story about Ohio. Kristal Leebrick

Teaches young readers about the history, people, geography, plants, and animals of Ohio through a story about a grandfather who takes his grandson to a storytelling festival.

#### Ohio; a picture book to remember her by. Ted Smart

A collection of photographs showing the scenic diversity of Ohio, including the vast areas of countryside, historic landmarks, and highly industrialized cities such as Cincinnati and Cleveland.

## Ohio Native Peoples. Marcia Schonberg

Provides information about the history of Native Americans in Ohio, and includes a map, time line, glossary, and resources for further study.

Ohio Plants and Animals. Marcia Schonberg

Describes the plant and animal communities which live in Ohio's various ecosystems, including woodlands, streams and lakes, wetlands, and urban areas.

The Ohio Reader. Marcia Schonberg

A collection of stories, riddles, and poems about the history, people, and symbols of the state of Ohio.

## One Giant Leap; the story of Neil Armstrong. Don Brown

Discusses the life and accomplishments of astronaut Neil Armstrong, from his childhood in Ohio to his famous moon landing.

#### Our Farm; four seasons with five kids on one family farm. Michael J. Rosen

Children describe their day-to-day experiences on their family farm and explain how those experiences change with the seasons.

#### Paddle to the Sea. Holling C. Holling

An Indian boy carves a figure in a small canoe and sends it on a journey through the Great Lakes to the sea.

Picture book of Jesse Owens. David A. Adler

A simple biography of the noted African-American track star who competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

R.L. Stine. Hal Marcovitz

Presents a short biography of twentieth-century American children's author R.L. Stine, and describes his childhood in Ohio, early interest in writing, and later literary career.

## Red Hawk and the Sky Sisters; a Shawnee legend. Gloria Dominic

Relates the story of the skilled hunter Red Hawk who captures and marries the youngest daughter of Bright Star, only to have her return to the sky with their son.

## The Roaring 20; the first cross-country air race for women. Margaret Whitman Blair.

Adventure, excitement, and fearlessness take wing in the dramatic true story of the twenty aviatrixes who set off on the first Women's Cross-Country Air Derby. Readers will thrill to the feats of "the roaring twenty," the daredevil pilots who pioneered women's aviation in this 2800-mile race from Santa Monica, California, to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1929.

## Rocket Man; the Mercury adventures of John Glenn. Ruth Ashby

Presents the story of John Glenn's flight into space taken from Glenn's own memoirs and dialogue from the transcripts of the actual Friendship 7 flight.

## Seed by Seed; the legend and legacy of Johnny Appleseed. Esme Codell

His real name was John Chapman. He grew apples. Why should he be remembered, more than 200 years after he was born? Codell and Perkins show in eloquent words and exhilarating pictures why Johnny Appleseed matters now.

# Song of Courage, Song of Freedom; The story of the child, Mary Campbell, held captive by the Delaware Indians from 1759 to 1764. Marilyn Seguin

Details the kidnapping, captivity, and return of an Ohio girl by Delaware Indians in the eighteenth century.

## Steamboat in a Cornfield. John Hartford

A rhyming text describes an incident on the Ohio River in 1910 in which the steamboat Virginia went aground in a cornfield.

#### Tecumseh. James Laxer

Maps on endpapers. An illustrated biography of Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief, discussing his work to form a confederacy of Native American people to oppose the encroaching colonists, his leadership, and his role in the War of 1812, in which he sided with the British against the United States and developed a friendship with Major General Isaac Brock.

#### The True Tale of Johnny Appleseed. Margaret Hodges

Relates the story of the man who traveled west planting apple seeds to make the country a better place to live.

## Underground Railroad. Raymond Bial

Within the pages of this book are documented, in prose and elegantly articulate photographs, examples of stations on the Railroad, along with images of the routes, lives, and hardships of both the passengers and conductors.

## Weird Ohio: your travel guide to Ohio's local legends and bestkept secrets. James A. Willis

Describes and directs travelers to roadside oddities, personalized properties, strange beasts, legendary spots, places related to heroes and villains, and sites of unexplained phenomena throughout the state of Ohio.

#### Who Was Annie Oakley? Stephanie Spinner

Tells the life story of sharpshooter Annie Oakley, that chronicles her childhood in Ohio, her rise to fame in Wild West shows, her world travels as a performer, and her later years.

# The Wright Brothers for Kids; how they invented the airplane: 21 activities exploring the science and history of flight. Mary Kay Carson.

Tells the amazing true story of how two bicycle-making brothers from Ohio, with no more than high-school educations, accomplished a feat that forever changed the world

## The Wright Brothers; how they invented the airplane. Russell Freedman

Follows the lives of the Wright brothers and describes how they developed the first airplane. The Wright Sister; Katherine Wright and her Famous Brothers. Richard Maurer

Published in time for the 100th anniversary of the first flight, here is the first complete biography of the Wright Brothers' sister. Beloved sibling, confidant, and caregiver, Katharine managed many of her brothers' affairs. Based on a thorough study of her personal papers and the Wright archives, *The Wright Sister* tells a touching personal story, and casts a uniquely intimate light on the lives of two of the twentieth century's most famous men.

#### Yankee Blue or Rebel Gray? The Civil War Adventures of Sam Shaw. Kate Connell.

Previously published as: Blue or Gray? a family divided. Illustrated text, letters, and diary excerpts follow the fictional Abbotts in Ohio, whose son fights for the Union, and their relatives in Tennessee, who support the Confederacy, during the Civil War.

## >>>>>> Poetry

## In His Own Voice; the dramatic and other uncollected works of Paul Laurence Dunbar.

An anthology of previously uncollected works by African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

#### Shaker Hearts. Ann Turner

Celebrates the way of life of the people who began forming communities in America in 1774 and who numbered more than 4,000 members in the late 1820s.

#### **Tornado. Arnold Adoff**

A poetic description of a tornado and its aftermath.

Note: All annotations are taken from the publishers' notes.

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Read Together ~ Read Chia ~ Read for Life

**Choose to Read Ohio** (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. The State Library of Ohio, **Ohioana Library Association** and **Ohio Center for the Book** encourage Ohioans of all ages to read and enjoy books together.



http://www.infohio.org/

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# **Teaching Ideas:**

- ~ Conduct then-and-now studies using the settings of the books
- $\sim$  Read nonfiction accounts of settling Ohio and then fictional accounts
- ~ Discuss the role of narrative in learning history
- ~ Write narratives of other Ohio history events
- ~ Select an event or person. Conduct a WWW search to learn about him/her/it.
- $\sim$  Read the collection of books about early Ohioans. Characterize them, their life styles.

**Related WWW sites:** 



## **OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION**

http://ohiohistory.org This is the Ohio Historical Society's main WWW site. Lots is here, including a site about the African-American Experience in Ohio and a listing of places in Ohio that are part of the National Register of Historic Places.

http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us/products/build Called the "Evolution of Ohio," this site offers maps and charts by section of the state that trace all aspects of development.

http://ohiobio.org Here you will find brief biographies of many famous Ohioans. The site is searchable by county, name, or occupation.

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/5870 Called "Hillbilly Bear's Regional History of Appalachian Ohio," the site is just that.

http://www.ohiokids.org/ohc This is the site for the Ohio History Central online encyclopedia.

SEP Ohio History Matrix



# Ohio Passport Program http://www.ohiohistory.org/museums-and-historic-sites/passport-program



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