

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

We've created ten book lists to support you in the Social Issues Book Club unit:

- Growing Up: Feelings of Exclusion and Secretiveness can be Overwhelming and Confusing;
- Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others;
- Culture and Diversity: Responding to racism, stereotypes and prejudices;
- Finding Our Way in the World as We Overcome Obstacles;
- Impact: The World Changes Us; We Change the World;
- Forgiveness: Finding Good in People and Places;
- Insights: Finding Resolutions to Problems through the Arts;
- Overcoming Obstacles in Life;
- Fitting In: Living in a World of Differences; and
- Perceptions: The Way Others View Us Can Affect the Way We View Ourselves.

However, we realize you may want to create your own set of lenses to read with. To help you do this we've provided a summary for each book. You can download the complete list and do a quick search that fits your needs. For example, books that deal with the issue of divorce appear across the different lists we've created. Searching the word *divorce* can help you to create a list of books that deal with this social issue.

### **Important Things to Know About the Social Issue Book Lists:**

1. All titles are recommended by teachers and staff developers
2. HI-B next to a level indicates titles that are of high interest for boys
3. Some picture books, poems and short stories have been incorporated into these lists as an option for your use as a mentor text. Other than chapter books, the book type is listed under the title of the book.
4. We've tried to provide the cheapest ISBN number for each book. If a paperback version couldn't be located the hard cover ISBN is provided.
5. Our summaries are:
  - from the backs of books, Barnes&Noble.com, amazon.com, and teachers who know the books well.
  - completed with information about the plot, characters, content and language choice. We do not always know every title personally, and ask you to double check that no title on any of these lists will lead you into political hot water before choosing to order them.

### **Help us to improve and maintain these lists!**

We welcome and await your input. If you want to talk back to the leveling of a title, have additional titles to suggest, have additional language to add to the summary, please do not hesitate to email Lea Mercantini at [mercantini@tc.edu](mailto:mercantini@tc.edu).

Tremendous thanks to the scores of teachers and coaches who've helped to create these lists. A special thanks to Kathy Doyle, Mary Chiarella, Katie Bannon, Mindy Tauberg, Jennifer Dare, Shan Gaskin, Cathy Leverette, Lisa Bernstein, Margaret Troyer, Tim Murray, Jennifer Hoffman, Jennifer Brogan, Allison Lennon, Ann Marie Burgess, and Millie De Leon. This list wouldn't be what it is without your help and support!

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### Growing Up: Feelings of Exclusion and Secretiveness can be Overwhelming and Confusing

Level	Title/Author	Summary
HI-B	<i>Aurora County All-Stars, The</i> Deborah Wiles 9780152066260	House Jackson has slogged through the preceding year with an out-of-commission elbow. Instead of playing baseball, he's spent most of his time indoors with Mr. Norwood Rhinehart Beauregard Boyd, an old and disliked man. House is reminded of his itch to play after Mr. Boyd's death. Unfortunately, the All-Stars' only game of the year is scheduled for the same day as Aurora County's 200th anniversary pageant, an event directed by the girl who broke House's elbow, Frances. House and Frances figure out a way to work out a hilarious compromise that all readers can root for.
HI-B	Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series 1. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> 2. <i>Rodrick Rules</i> 3. <i>The Last Straw</i> Jeff Kinney 1.9780810995529 2.9780810994737 (Hardcover) 3. 9780810970687 (Hardcover)	It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary. In book one of this debut series, Greg is happy to have Rowley, his sidekick, along for the ride. But when Rowley's star starts to rise, Greg tries to use his best friend's newfound popularity to his own advantage, kicking off a chain of events that will test their friendship in hilarious fashion. In the second book, <i>Rodrick Rules</i> , Greg enters the new school year, he's eager to put the past three months behind him and one event in particular. Unfortunately for Greg, his older brother, Rodrick, knows all about the incident Greg wants to keep under wraps. But secrets have a way of getting out, especially when a diary is involved. In the third book, <i>The Last Straw</i> , Greg's dad actually thinks he can get his son to toughen up, and he enlists Greg in organized sports and other "manly" endeavors. Of course, Greg is able to easily sidestep his father's efforts to change him. But when Greg's dad threatens to send him to military academy, Greg realizes he has to shape up...or get shipped out.
	<i>Feather Boy</i> Nicky Singer 9780440418580	When timid Robert Nobel asks Edith Sorrell, the mysterious resident of Mayfield Rest Home, to share her wisdom with him as part of a class project, he never expects the complicated mystery it would reveal that would change both of their lives forever.
	<i>Keeping Score</i> Linda Sue Park 9780618927999 (Hardcover)	Against a background of major league baseball and the Korean War on the home front, Maggie looks for, and finds, a way to make a difference in her life and in the lives of those around her. Even those readers who think they don't care about baseball will be drawn into the world of the true and ardent fan. Linda Sue Park's captivating story will, of course, delight those who are already keeping score.
	<i>Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> Betty Smith 9780060736262	The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith's <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.
J	<i>Just Us Women</i> (Picture Book) Janette Caines 9780064430562	"No boys and no men-just us women," Aunt Martha tells her niece. And together they plan their trip to North Carolina in Aunt Martha's brand-new car. This is to be a very special outing-with no one to hurry them along; the two travelers can do exactly as they please.
M	<i>One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo, The</i> (Picture Book) Judy Blume 9780440467311	Lately second-grader Freddy Dissel has that left-out kind of feeling. Life can be lonely when you're the middle kid in the family and you feel like "the peanut butter part of a sandwich," squeezed between an older brother and a little sister. But now for the first time it's Freddy's chance to show everyone how special he is and, most of all, prove it to himself!

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N	<i>How to be Cool in Third Grade</i> Betsey Duffey 9780141304663	Robbie is old enough to know that surviving school depends on one very important thing: knowing what's cool. But <i>what is cool in the third grade?</i> he asks himself. He's got some ideas. Cool is a grown-up name like "Rob" instead of "Robbie." Cool is walking to the bus stop by yourself, and not having your mother there with a camera and a kiss goodbye. Cool is jeans and a t-shirt — and definitely not Super Heroes underwear. Robbie knows he has work to do in the cool department, but he's forgotten about one thing: Bo Haney, the school bully. Bo is big, and he's been in the third grade for a long, long time. More importantly, when he gives a nickname, it sticks. And all it takes is one lurch of the school bus to land Robbie right in Bo's lap, and land him the nickname "Baby Wobbie." Now Robbie is convinced he's in for the worst year ever. But third grade can be full of surprises, as he finds out, not the least of which is his own resourcefulness. Young readers will cheer Robbie's ultimate success in this gentle, realistic chapter book.
N HI-B	<i>Stories Julian Tells, The</i> Ann Cameron 9780394828923	Julian is a quick fibber and a wishful thinker. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people—especially his younger brother, Huey—believe just about anything. Armed with a creative imagination and the ability to think quickly on his feet, Julian delights in telling stories to his family. Although Julian's ability to make people believe in anything usually lands him in trouble, such as taking too many tastes from a lemon pudding meant for his mother, everything ends on a positive note. Older readers will delight in these stories of everyday family life, challenging themselves to think of humorous situations in their lives around the home. Students will also be able to connect with Julian's negotiation of a new friendship with his new neighbor, a girl named Gloria. The book also features a table of contents, which can facilitate students' predictions of the stories Julian will tell to his family. Other supportive features of the text include illustrations and a first person narration, which can allow students an intimate glimpse inside of the thoughts and actions of Julian.
P	<i>Worry Website</i> Jacqueline Wilson 9780754078425	Holly fears that she will soon have a stepmother. Greg admires a girl and hopes to be her boyfriend. Claire has nightmares. William thinks he is useless at everything. Samantha misses her dad, who has left their family to marry another woman. Lisa is frightened by her angry father. Natasha wants to be in the school concert but is uneasy because she is in a wheelchair. These students are all in the same class. Mr. Speed is their fast-moving, funny, and caring teacher who offers The Worry Web Site to his students in an effort to provide the opportunity for them to type in their concerns anonymously. Members of the class address one another's problems by adding their comments. Mr. Speed oversees and quietly intervenes when necessary. Each chapter relates the story of one student. Character development is slight but sufficient and is enhanced by the interaction of the students with one another throughout the book. Their problems are realistic in that some of them do not have clear solutions. Wilson shows that she understands the lives, fears, and worries of young people, and the book has enough suspense, enhanced by frequent humor, for reluctant readers. Some other issues this book includes are: Understanding Self and Others, Courage and Honor.
Q	<i>Dog Days</i> David Lubar 9781581960259	A story about a baseball loving boy's quest to save and place helpless stray dogs and his little brother's unwavering desire to affectionately tag along. These two brothers learn the price of sacrifice and other lessons in this coming-of-age story.
R	<i>18<sup>th</sup> Emergency, The</i> Betsy Byars 9780140314519	Mouse Fawley has just done something very, very dumb. No kid in his right mind would go out of his way to enrage Marv Hammerman, the school bully—but when Mouse saw the picture of the Neanderthal man, he just had to write Marv's name under it. Too bad Marv was standing right behind him while he was doing it. Now Mouse has to choose between being on the run and being killed by the school bully.
R	<i>Day for Vincent Chin and Me, The</i> Jacqueline Turner Banks 9780618548798	Sixth-graders Tommy, Angela, Faye, and the twins, Judge and Jury Jenkins, have been friends forever. Now they're faced with new problems and need to find new solutions to them—even if it means breaking the law. How can they help prevent an inevitable accident on Tommy's street other than to try to stop cars from speeding past Tommy's young, deaf neighbor? Not only must the Posse mastermind a plan, but Tommy must confront his doubts about his mother's participation in a rally to fight racism. The last thing Tommy wants is to be singled out as a Japanese American, so why does his mother insist on drawing attention to his family?
R	<i>Fig Pudding</i> Ralph Fletch 978-0440412038	Twelve-year-old Cliff, the eldest of the six Abernathy children, looks back on a year of ups and downs. This warm story neatly blends the humor and frustrations of growing up in a large family headed by two sanguine parents. Each chapter, while centering on a particular child, subtly weaves together household events, large and small. The episodes smoothly move forward to the family's ultimate crisis: Brad, the gentlest of the children, is killed while riding his bicycle. With remarkable restraint and understatement, Fletcher conveys the bewilderment and grief as each of the Abernathy family members react to this loss. A hopeful ending implies that Brad's memory will live on in the family's exchanges.

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R	<i>Iggie's House</i> Judy Blume 9780440420224	In this coming to age story Winnie welcomes the Garber family into a previously all-white neighborhood she learns the difference between good neighbor policies and friendship. Note to the teacher: There is racial language used in this book.
R	<i>In Plain Sight</i> Carol Otis Hurst 9780618196999 (Hardcover)	After her beloved father leaves their Massachusetts farm in search of gold in California, Sarah is forced to endure her mother's coldness and harsh discipline, but as she works hard to keep the farm running, meeting each challenge with exceptional bravery, she comes to appreciate her mother's strength and patience, and realizes the true cost of her father's recklessness.
R	<i>Love, Ruby Lavender</i> Deborah Wiles 9780152054786	When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, nine-year-old Ruby learns to survive on her own in Mississippi by writing letters, befriending chickens as well as the new girl in town, and finally coping with her grandfather's death.
R	<i>Report Card, The</i> Andrew Clements 9780689845246	It's true that fifth grader Nora Rose Rowley is really a genius, but don't tell anyone. Nora always gets average grades so she can forgo the pressures. But when Nora gets one hundred percent fed up over testing and the fuss everyone makes about grades, she brings home a <i>terrible</i> report card just to prove a point. Pretty soon her teachers, parents, and the principal are launching a massive effort to find out what's wrong. But can Nora convince them that tests alone are a stupid way to measure intelligence?
R	<i>Staying Nine</i> Pam Courad 9780064403771	With her tenth birthday but one week away, Heather is determined to remain nine years old until her uncle's wacky girlfriend, Rosa Rita, shows her that growing up can be fun.
R	<i>Stranded in Boringsville</i> Catherine Bateson 9780823421138	Following her parents' separation, twelve-year-old Rain moves with her mother to the country, where she befriends the unpopular boy who lives next door and also seeks a way to cope with her feelings toward her father and his new girlfriend.
S	<i>Donuthead</i> Sue Stauffacher 9780440419341	Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is. This is a hilarious and touching novel featuring a neurotic, scared boy and a tougher-than-nails girl who each help the other in more ways than they can imagine.
S	<i>Each Little Bird That Sings</i> Deborah Wiles 9780152056575	Comfort lives in a funeral home and has been to more than 200 funerals, so she thinks she knows all about death. But then her great-uncle Edisto dies, and her great-great-aunt Florentine slips away just six months later. At Florentine's funeral, Comfort is in charge of watching her cousin, Peach--and only then does she realize just how difficult death can be.
S	<i>Friendship, The</i> <i>Logan Family Series</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780140389647	Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s. The interaction between the two men portrays how severely the bonds of friendship can be tested against a backdrop of racism, peer pressure, and individual rights.
S	<i>Ida B.</i> K. Hannigan 9780060730260	Who is Ida B. Applewood? She is a fourth grader like no other, living a life like no other, with a voice like no other, and her story will resonate long after you have put this book down. How does Ida B cope when outside forces—life, really—attempt to derail her and her family and her future? She enters her Black Period, and it is not pretty. But then, with the help of a patient teacher, a loyal cat and dog, her beloved apple trees, and parents who believe in the same things she does (even if they sometimes act as though they don't), the resilience that is the very essence of Ida B triumph...and Ida B. Applewood takes the hand that is extended and starts to grow up. This first novel is both very funny and extraordinarily moving, and it introduces two shining stars—Katherine Hannigan and Ida B. Applewood.
S	<i>Mississippi Bridge</i> <i>Logan Family Series</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780553159929	During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River. A terrifying moment occurs that unites all the townspeople in a nightmare that will change their lives forever.
T	<i>Double Dutch</i> Sharon Draper 9780689842313	Delia loves Double Dutch more than just about anything, and she's really good at it -- so good she and her teammates have a shot at winning the World Double Dutch Championships. Delia would die if she couldn't jump -- but Delia has a secret, and it could keep her off the team next year. Delia's friend Randy has a secret too, one that has him lonely and scared. And while Delia and Randy struggle to keep their secrets, their school is abuzz with rumors about what malicious mischief the terrible Tolliver twins -- who just may have a secret of their own -- are planning. Why can't life be as easy for Delia as Double Dutch?

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U	<i>Baseball in April and Other Stories</i> (Short Stories) Gary Soto 9780152025670	A contemporary classic about the pitfalls and triumphs of the teenage years. In this unique collection of short stories, the small events of daily life reveal big themes-love and friendship, youth and growing up, success and failure. Calling on his own experiences of growing up in California's Central Valley, poet Gary Soto brings to life the joys and pains of young people everywhere. The smart, tough, vulnerable kids in these stories are Latino, but their dreams and desires belong to all of us.
U	<i>Every Soul a Star</i> Wendy Mass 9780316002561 (Hardcover)	Three middle schoolers are brought together at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground where thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. Told from these three perspectives, Wendy Mass weaves an intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together under different circumstances and establishing unlikely friendships. With breathtaking descriptions of nature and its ultimate phenomenon, the eclipse, <i>Every Soul a Star</i> is a powerful and humorous story about dealing with change and discovering one's place in the universe.
U	<i>Hush</i> Jacqueline Woodson 9780142406007	Evie Thomas is not who she used to be. Once she had a best friend, a happy home and a loving grandmother living nearby. Once her name was Toswiah. Now, everything is different. Her family has been forced to move to a new place and change their identities. But that's not all that has changed. Her once lively father, an African-American police officer, has become depressed and quiet after he testified against white officers who killed a black teenager. The racist and prejudice attacks are harsh. Her mother leaves teaching behind and clings to a new-found religion. Her only sister is making secret plans to leave. And Evie, struggling to find her way in a new city where kids aren't friendly and the terrain is as unfamiliar as her name, wonders who she is.
U	<i>Knots in my Yo-Yo String</i> Jerry Spinelli 978-0679887911	"A master of those embarrassing, gloppy, painful, and suddenly wonderful things that happen on the razor's edge between childhood and full-fledged adolescence" (The Washington Post), Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli has penned his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his best-selling fiction. From first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience, this is not merely an account of a highly unusual childhood. Rather, like Spinelli's fiction, its appeal lies in the accessibility and universality of his life. Entertaining and fast-paced, this is a highly readable memoir.
U	<i>Loser</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780060540746	Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and called him a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."

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### Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others

Level	Title/Author	Summary
HI-B	<i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The</i> John Boyne 9780385751537	Set in Berlin, 1942 - Bruno returns to his enormous home from school one day, he discovers that all of his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer again like he was back at home and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place, Auschwitz, than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.
	<i>Clementine</i> Sarah Penny Packer 978-0786838837	Clementine spends a lot of time in the principal's office. Since she's always coming up with spectacular ideas, this lovable and realistic 3rd-grader is well-meaning, but has a talent for trouble, and personality to spare. A true original, an empathetic human being with the observant eye of a real artist and a quirky, matter-of-fact way of expressing herself.
	<i>Mama's Bank Account</i> Kathryn Forbes 9780156563772	The charming adventures of the Mama, who gradually Americanizes her family with the aid of her wit and understanding, and her immigrant Norwegian family living in San Francisco. This bestselling book inspired the play, motion picture, and television series I Remember Mama.
	<i>Whirligig</i> Paul Fleischman 9780440228356	When 16-year-old Brent Bishop inadvertently causes the death of a young woman, he is sent on an unusual journey of repentance, building wind toys across the land. In a unique and powerful novel, Newbery author Paul Fleischman traces Brent's healing pilgrimage from Washington State to California, Florida, and Maine, and describes the many lives set into new motion by the ingenious creations Brent leaves behind.
L	<i>Meanest Thing To Say, The</i> Bill Cosby 9780590956161	Michael Reilly has introduced a new game to Little Bill and his friends. You get twelve chances to say something mean to another kid--and whoever comes up with the biggest insult is the winner. Insults start flying: "Jose hops with the frogs in science lab!" "Andrew eats frogs for dinner!" "Little Bill shoots baskets like a girl!" Little Bill tries to think of really mean things to say in retaliation. But Dad teaches him a strategy that enables Little Bill to save face while remaining the nice kid that he really is!
L	<i>Song Lee in Room 2B</i> Suzy Kline 9780141304083	Although Song Lee is very shy in some ways (she is terrified of speaking in front of the class), she brings a lot of her own flair to her second-grade classroom. For instance, when it's her turn to talk about a place she's traveled, she dresses as a cherry blossom tree — cleverly hiding her fear from the audience and bringing in a great image of her homeland, Korea. That's not all — when she realizes the class has no more living pets, Song Lee brings in her own salamander to share with her classmates. Later, when there's a fire drill, Song Lee makes sure to rescue her pet before leaving the building.
M	<i>Fish Face</i> Patricia Giff Reilly 978-0440425571	Emily Arrow, the fastest runner and enthusiastic mathematician of Ms. Rooney's second grade class, is optimistic when Dawn Bosco, a new girl from Florida, is placed in her classroom. Emily thinks they could become fast friends; however, when Dawn steals Emily's beloved unicorn toy and threatens her standing as the fastest runner of the class, Emily begins to have second thoughts about this potential friendship. This text appeals to older readers because they can relate to the issues of friendship in this book, especially of how to initiate new friendships and handle issues of jealousy and lying. Emily is also a relatable character, who loves to run on the playground and complete word problems in math, but struggles with reading and spelling in school.
M	<i>Get the picture, Jenny Archer</i> Ellen Conford 978-0316153935	When Jenny Archer receives a used camera from her grandparents, she fails to see the fun in photography until she discovers an advertisement in the local newspaper for a photo contest. With visions of the prizes of a computer and a mini television dancing in her head, Jenny scopes out her neighborhood for the best candid shot, only to catch her neighbors engaging in seemingly mysterious and possibly dangerous activities. Older readers will delight in Jenny's overactive imagination and challenge themselves to solve the neighborhood's mysteries by keeping track of the clues that Jenny photographs. Students will also be supported by the illustrations that accompany some of the events of the story.

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(Continued - Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others)

N	<p><i>Catwings</i> Ursula K. Le Guin 978-0439551892</p>	<p>Mrs. Jane Tabby is the mother to four kittens, all who were mysteriously born with wings. Mrs. Tabby wants her children to have a better life and longs to leave their terrible neighborhood, which is filled with garbage, filth, and dangerous rats. Because of their gift of wings, Mrs. Tabby encourages her kittens to fly away and seek a more beautiful and safe life. Roger, Thelma, James, and Harriet venture to the forest and struggle to fit in their new habitat. Beautiful illustrations accompany the text, which is sure to enthrall older readers as they lose themselves in this adventurous fantasy world. Students will be captivated by the politics of the forest as the mice and birds figure out what to do with the winged cats and hold their breaths in suspense as the Owl attempts to restore order to the forest. Students will be able to connect with the sense of adventure and independence that the kittens experience as they set out alone in the world for the first time. Older students will be able to recognize and connect with this situation since they are beginning to exert independence in their family, social, and school settings.</p>
N	<p><i>I, Amber Brown</i> Paula Danziger 978-0439071697</p>	<p>Although Amber Brown is still dealing with the effects of her parents' divorce, she is eagerly anticipating celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas with her mom and her mother's fiancé, Max. However, when her father comes back from Paris, Amber is surprised with his exciting news: Mr. Brown is renting a house in town. Conflicted by the tension of the joint custody arrangement and frustrated that she cannot make her own decisions, Amber takes a stand and decides to get her ears pierced, even though her mother has consistently said no and her father is unaware of his ex-wife's thoughts on the subject. Readers will be drawn to this text because they will be able to relate to Amber's experiences as a fourth grader, such as asserting her independence, getting her ears pierced, and coping with the moving away and thought of losing of her best friend, Justin. For students who have experienced the after effects of a divorce in the family, they will be able to relate to Amber's emotions and actions in the story. Readers will also delight with Amber's puns and jokes, which she occasionally uses to shield herself from getting hurt. At first, students might be confused by the language structure Amber uses to refer to herself: "I, Amber Brown." However, at the end of the story Amber reveals how she is trying to assert her identity. She explains, "it makes me strong to say my name that way. Like I belong to myself...I just have to know that's who I am."</p>
N	<p><i>Magic Finger, The</i> <i>Roald Dahl</i> 978-0141302294</p>	<p>This book is told by a narrator with a very unusual gift – when she gets angry and points her magic finger at someone, they better watch out! This time, she does not like that her neighbors, the Gregg family, hunt animals for fun. When she uses her magic finger on them, they will learn a lesson that they will never forget! Older children will like this book because the Gregg family, once big hunters, learns what is like to be the hunted in a series of strange and unusual situations.</p>
N	<p><i>Only Emma</i> Sally Warner 9780142407110</p>	<p>Eight-year-old Emma McGraw is an only child who lives with her mom in their "cozy" condo. When four-year-old Anthony Scarpetto moves in for a week while his parents are away, Emma is not happy. He's loud, he smells, and he touches her stuff. And that's only half of it! Emma has started at a new school, and has finally begun to make friends. But how can she invite anyone over when annoying Anthony is there? Emma is in for a surprise, though. As the week goes by, she starts to realize that having a "little brother" may not be as bad as she thought.</p>
N-T	<p><i>Amazing Days of Abby Hayes</i> <i>(Series)</i> Ann Mazer <a href="http://www.scholastic.com/titles/abbyhayes/books.htm">http://www.scholastic.com/titles/abbyhayes/books.htm</a> (Visit Abby Hayes' site to find a list of titles and summaries of each book)</p>	<p>Abigail "Abby" Hayes lives a relatively normal life with a successful and supportive family and many friends. Abby aspires to be like her siblings, Isabel, Eva, and Alex, each of whom excels in a variety of fields, including athletics and technology. Although fairly strong (she is shown to be a natural swimmer), she is poor in math while rich in literature. Just because she excels in writing, she still feels incomparable to her siblings, though her older sisters envy her hair, and her brother looks up to her. Abby is a very good role model for young girls. Abby's friends and relationships play a major role in her life, as well as her love for animals, notably cats and dogs. She owns a kitten with Isabel named T-Jeff, a kitten she had once taken in secretly when she found him in <i>Look Before You Leap</i> but was permitted to keep him officially when her parents found out. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite grade school teacher is Ms. Bunder, her creative writing teacher, and her favorite middle school teacher is Ms. Bean, her art teacher, who also happens to be good friends with Ms. Bunder. A distinguishing characteristic of Abby is her curly, red hair and blue eyes. She hopes to become a writer, journalist, or writing teacher someday. Her major love interest is Simon, a saxophone player a year older than her who goes to her school.</p>

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(Continued - Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others)

O	<i>Cockroach Cooties</i> L. Yep 9780786813384	Streetwise Teddy usually stays out of sight of the bully nicknamed Arnie-zilla. However, when his little brother, Bobby, insults Arnie, Teddy must come to the rescue -- and become the target of Arnie's wrath instead. Soon Teddy realizes, however, that only Bobby, his pet cockroach, Hercules, and the creepy Bug Lady can keep Arnie-zilla at arm's length. Filled with humor and warmth, this creepy-crawly tale is a tribute to resourcefulness and the unique relationship that only brothers share.
O	<i>Gooney Bird Greene</i> Lois Lowry 978-0440419600	Gooney Bird Greene shows up unexpectedly in Ms. Pidgeon's second grade class one October morning, decked out in pajamas and cowboy boots, clutching a dictionary and lunch box and explaining that she recently moved to Watertower from China via a magic carpet. Gooney Bird takes on the role of the teacher during Ms. Pidgeon's storytelling unit, giving her classmates a glimpse into her quirky life and enlightening them with a variety of literary elements necessary for a story, such as main characters, secondary characters, and dialogue, as she tells the tales of the origin of her name and her adventure of moving to Watertower. Even though the story takes place in a second grade classroom, older students will be delighted by the sophisticated humor and word play and enjoy figuring out the double meaning of the titles of Gooney Bird's stories. For instance, when Gooney Bird proclaims that she directed a symphony orchestra, one would guess that she directed them musically. However, Gooney Bird's tale eventually reveals that she actually provided them with traffic directions. Students should also keep an eye out for the font changes throughout the story, which signify the transition from Gooney Bird's stories to the present day setting in her classroom. This story also has a powerful message for readers in that everyone has stories within themselves that are worthy, entertaining, and inspirational. Finally, the story integrates some whimsical illustrations, which depict some main events of the story.
O	<i>Not-So-Weird Emma</i> Sally Warner 9780142408070	Emma McGraw is slowly making friends at her new school, but when Cynthia calls her weird, Emma is shocked. They are supposed to be best friends! In response, Emma decides that Cynthia's new name should be <i>bossy pants</i> , and she tells everyone in the class. Now the entire third grade is trading nicknames. And while it starts out being funny, Emma begins to see the downside of name-calling. But just when she decides it's time for apologies, her teacher makes the most dreaded call of all-the one to everyone's parents.
P	<i>Angel for Solomon Singer, An</i> (Picture Book) Cynthia Rylant 9780531070826	Author Cynthia Rylant's tells a heartwarming story about a lonely man living in a hotel in New York City who longs for his home in Indiana. Always dreaming of things he loves most but cannot have, he wanders the streets and finds a café and a welcoming smile that slowly helps him to find happiness and see beauty in the life he leads.
P	<i>Felita</i> Nicholasa Mohr 9780141306438	In this vivid portrayal of a close-knit Hispanic community, Felita's parents promise she will love their new neighborhood. Only Abuelita, her grandmother, understands how much Felita will miss her old block, and her best friend Gigi. Nine-year-old Felita and her family encounter racial discrimination and mild violence when they move because they are from Puerto Rico. First published twenty years ago, Felita's compelling story has resonance for kids today. Isolation is a social issue explored in this book.
P	<i>Hundred Dresses, The</i> Eleanor Estes 9780152052607	A story about prejudice and understanding where a young girl comes to terms with the effects that the teasing of her friends has had on a shy classmate. Though Maddie feels increasingly uncomfortable with the way the other girls — led by her best friend, Peggy — joke with Wanda, she doesn't have the courage to do anything about it. Then one day Wanda stops coming to school. Maddie can't shake a bad feeling about Wanda's absence, but she pushes it aside, preferring instead to think about the drawing contest, which she is sure Peggy will win. Will Maddie side with the bully or will she make another choice as she learns more about who she really is?
P	<i>Hundred Penny Box, The</i> Sandra Bell Mathas 9780142407028	A timeless story of the relationship between a boy and his elderly relative. Michael loves his great-great-aunt Dew. He especially loves to spend time with her and her beloved hundred penny box, listening to stories about each of the hundred years of her life. Michael's mother wants to throw out the battered old box that holds the pennies, but Michael understands that the box itself is as important to Aunt Dew as the memories it contains.
P	<i>Min and Jake</i> Janice S. Wong 9780374400217	Fifth-grader Minn, the tallest girl in school, begins a rocky friendship with Jake, a new student who is not only very short, but is also afraid of the worms and lizards that Minn likes to collect. Minn and Jake learn about themselves and friendship as they get to know one another better.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others)

P	<i>Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving</i> (HF Picture Book) Joseph Bruchac 9780152060442	Squanto. Courageous. Generous. Kind. His fate was to be separated from his tribe and family. His destiny was to save a nation. In 1620, when a British ship called the <i>Mayflower</i> arrived on the shore of what would be Plymouth, the settlers were not prepared for the struggles to come. Without the friendship of Squanto, who taught the newcomers the ways of the land and the animals, and how to survive in this rugged place they now called home, the colony would not have survived. When autumn came, their hard work produced a bountiful harvest, and the two peoples came together to feast in the spirit of brotherhood--a feast we still celebrate today.
P	<i>Worry Website, The</i> Jacqueline Wilson 9780440419297	Six wonderful short stories about the members of Mr Speed's primary school class and their special Worry Website. The website allows everyone in the class to type in their worries anonymously and receive advice from their classmates -- whether they want it or not! This book also explores the issue of growing up.
Q	<i>Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Summerset Sisters</i> Leslie M. Blume 9780440421108	Eleven-year-old Cornelia is the daughter of two world-famous pianists--a legacy that should feel fabulous, but instead feels just plain lonely. She surrounds herself with dictionaries and other books to isolate herself from the outside world. But when a glamorous neighbor named Virginia Somerset moves next door with her servant Patel and a mischievous French bulldog named Mister Kinyatta, Cornelia discovers that the world is a much more exciting place than she had originally thought.
Q	<i>Drita, My Home Girl</i> Jenny Lombard 9780142409053	A poignant story about the difficulties of leaving everything behind and the friendships that help you get through it. Drita learns that friendship can bloom and overcome even a vast cultural divide at the same time she learns about who she is.
Q	<i>Fourth Grade Rats</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780590442442	Fourth graders are tough. They aren't afraid of spiders. They say no to their moms. They push first graders off the swings. And they never, ever cry. Suds knows that now that he's in fourth grade, he's supposed to be a rat. But whenever he tries to act like one, something goes wrong. Can Suds's friend Joey teach him to toughen up...or will Suds remain a fourth grade wimp?
Q	<i>Fox in the Frost</i> Ben Baglio 978-0439230179	It's Christmas at Animal Ark, but for a pair of foxes it's far from the season of goodwill. Mrs. Ponsonby is convinced they're a danger to her dogs and want them driven out of the area. But the local farmers are thinking of a more drastic solution. Can Mandy and James save the foxes from being injured...or worse?
Q	<i>Funny Frank</i> Dick King-Smith 9780440418801	Being a duck isn't all it's quacked up to be. But don't try telling that to Frank—he's a chicken with a dream. Gertie the hen is appalled when her son Frank wants to swim with the ducks, but Jemima and her mother, the farmer's wife, make him a special outfit so that his dream can come true.
Q	<i>Goat in the Garden</i> Ben Baglio 9780590187527	Houdini the goat is in trouble. He keeps escaping and eating Mr. Western's prize plants. Now Mr. Western is taking matters into his own hands. Mandy and her friend James help Houdini and learn about themselves in the process.
Q	<i>Guinea Pig in the Garage</i> Ben Baglio 978-0340667293	When Mandy asks Rachel Farmer to look after a neighbor's guinea pigs, Rachel is thrilled. When her parents see how responsible she is, she's sure they'll let her have one of her own. But then Rachel loses one of the babies, and she's worried she'll never be allowed to have a pet!
Q	<i>Homework Machine, The</i> Dan Gutman 9780689876790	Meet the D Squad, a foursome of fifth graders at the Grand Canyon School made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker. They are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. Because the machine, code-named Belch, is doing their homework for them, they start spending a lot of time together, attracting a lot of attention. And attention is exactly what you don't want when you are keeping a secret. This foursome learns a big lesson about themselves and about life.
Q	<i>Horse in the House</i> Ben Baglio 9780439343879	Mandy and James are sad that their friend Wilfred Bennett has to sell his riding stables. Things get even worse when Sam Western turns the land into a campsite and wants everyone to forget that the stables ever existed. Now campers are telling stories of a ghostly horse and rider passing through the campsite - and vanishing into the night air! Mandy and James don't believe the spooky tales, but can they figure out what's really going on?
Q	<i>Just Juice</i> Karen Hesse 9780590033831	Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that she must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house. Another social issue explored in this book is stereotypes.
Q	<i>Lamb in the Laundry</i> Ben Baglio 9780439086424	Little Jenny Spiller has become fast friends with a tiny black lamb who was rejected by its mother. When Jenny gets trapped in a collapsed shed, the lamb's loud cries become a life-saving call for help. Through this experience Jenny learns more about herself.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Courage and Honor: Understanding Self and Others)

Q	<i>Owl in the Office</i> Ben Baglio 9780439084161	The Welford Animal Shelter has always been a place for homeless and hurt animals. What will happen to the animals if the shelter has to close? Mandy and James organize a huge pet show to raise enough money to keep the shelter open.
Q	<i>Pigglet in a Playpen</i> Ben Baglio 9780812096682	Mandy, the daughter of two veterinarians, hopes to save an undersized piglet from destruction by turning her into a prize-winning pig.
Q	<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i> Judy Blume 9780142408810	Peter Hatcher feels like his little brother, Fudge, receives all the attention. Fudge is a two-year-old who gets away with everything and makes Peter feel like a "fourth grade nothing." What can Peter do to make his parents to pay attention to him for a change.
Q HI-B	<i>There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom</i> Louis Sachar 9780394805726	An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too. Other issues this book explores are bullying and fitting in.
Q	<i>Year of the Dog, The</i> Grace Lin 9780316060028	It's the Chinese Year of the Dog, and as Pacy celebrates with her family, she finds out that this is the year she is supposed to "find herself." Universal themes of friendship, family, and finding one's passion in life make this novel appealing to readers of all backgrounds.
Q	<i>Year of the Rat, The</i> Grace Lin 9780316033619	In this sequel to <i>Year of the Dog</i> , Pacy has another big year in store for her. The Year of the Dog was a very lucky year: she met her best friend Melody and discovered her true talents. However, the Year of the Rat brings big changes: Pacy must deal with Melody moving to California, find the courage to forge on with her dream of becoming a writer and illustrator, and learn to face some of her own flaws. Pacy encounters prejudice, struggles with acceptance, and must find the beauty in change.
R	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i> Kate DiCamillo 9780763616052	The summer Opal and her father, the preacher, move to Naomi, Florida, Opal goes into the Winn-Dixie supermarket -- and comes out with a dog. With the help of her new pal, whom she names Winn-Dixie, Opal makes a variety of new, interesting friends and spends the summer collecting stories about them and thinking about her absent mother. But because of Winn-Dixie, or perhaps because she has grown, Opal learns to let go, just a little, and that friendship -- and forgiveness -- can sneak up on you like a sudden summer storm.
R	<i>Circle of Gold</i> Candy Dawson Boyd 978-0590407540	When Mattie's father was alive, everything seemed perfect. But her world changed when he died. Her mother is always angry and never smiles. Her twin brother seems quiet and withdrawn. And Mattie doesn't know what to do. She does know that Mother's Day is coming, and she desperately wants to buy her mom the perfect gift: a beautiful golden pin. But Mattie doesn't have the money for the pin, and her mother doesn't even want to celebrate. That's when Mattie decides to take matters into her own hands. That's when she decides that she'll do what it takes to bring her family together again.
R	<i>Last Holiday Concert, The</i> Andrew Clements 9780689845253	Life is usually easy for popular fifth grader Hart Evans, but when his music teacher puts him in charge of the holiday concert, Hart must use all of his leadership skills to unite the other students. Bullying is another topic which is explored in this book.
R	<i>Rules</i> Cynthia Lord 9780439443838	Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. This is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules of what is normal. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?
S	<i>Donuthead</i> Sue Stauffacher 9780440419341	Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is. This is a hilarious and touching novel featuring a neurotic, scared boy and a tougher-than-nails girl who each help the other in more ways than they can imagine.
S	<i>Each Little Bird That Sings</i> Deborah Wiles 9780152056575	Comfort lives in a funeral home and has been to more than 200 funerals, so she thinks she knows all about death. But then her great-uncle Edisto dies, and her great-great-aunt Florentine slips away just six months later. At Florentine's funeral, Comfort is in charge of watching her cousin, Peach--and only then does she realize just how difficult death can be.

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## Social Issues Book List

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S	<i>Friendship, The Logan Family Series</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780140389647	Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s. The interaction between the two men portrays how severely the bonds of friendship can be tested against a backdrop of racism, peer pressure, and individual rights.
S	<i>Hang Tough, Paul Mather</i> Alfred Sote 9780064401531	Paul hasn't been allowed to do much of anything, much less play his favorite sport, baseball. He's got leukemia, and it's put him into the hospital several times already. His parents are so worried; they've forbidden him to play the game he loves so much. But Paul is a winner. His team needs him, and he won't give up without a fight. Paul Mather is determined to pitch every inning...to keep playing baseball, and to keep hanging tough, no matter what the odds.
S	<i>Journey</i> Patricia MacLachlan 978-0440408093	When his mother walks out on 11-year-old Journey and his older sister, Cat, the boy refuses to believe she will not return. He listens to the constant clicking of the shutter as his grandfather takes possession of Cat's cast-aside camera, asserting that "sometimes pictures show us what is really there." Journey questions the value of this incessant picture-taking, yet pores through his grandmother's photo album, trying to patch together a fragmented past that is frustratingly out of focus. He hopes that the truth will be found in a box of family photos that his mother left in tiny scraps under her bed. Setting out to piece the pictures back together, Journey finally admits that this dream is as hopeless as his mother's return. It is his grandfather, on whom Journey has taken out much of his anger, who eventually answers the child's most troubling questions. The wise older man assures Journey that he is not to blame for his mama's departure, and shares a truth that is at the heart of the novel: although everything in life--from photographs to families--is not perfect, "things can be good enough."
S	<i>Junebug and the Reverend</i> Alice Mead 9780440415718	Having moved out of the housing project and into a new home along with his mother and sister, ten-year-old Junebug discovers that bullies are everywhere and that the elderly can make great friends.
S	<i>Little Gentleman</i> Phillippa Pearce 9780060731601	A young girl's dull life is transformed when she meets and befriends an extraordinary talking mole that likes to be read to and tell of his own past exploits throughout the centuries.
S	<i>Me, Mop, and the Moon Dance Kid</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780440403968	Although adoption has taken the children out of the New Jersey institution where they grew up, eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Moondance remain involved with their friend Mop's relentless attempts to become adopted herself and to wreak revenge on their baseball rivals the obnoxious Eagles. Values, character, cultural diversity and sports are other topics which are explored in this book.
S	<i>Mississippi Bridge Logan Family Series</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780553159929	During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River. A terrifying moment occurs that unites all the townspeople in a nightmare that will change their lives forever.
S	<i>Skunk Scout</i> L. Yep 9780786817146	A movie-loving boy is reluctant to go on a camping trip with his uncle and younger brother. Nothing can prepare him for his meeting with Mother Nature. Soon Teddy, Bobby, and Uncle Curtis find themselves in the woods, sleeping on rocks, and battling raccoons, mosquitoes, and poison oak. Through it all, Teddy is determined to prove he is just as smart as his little brother.
T	<i>Any Small Goodness</i> Tony Johnston 9780439233842	A Hispanic family lives in L.A. Not the L.A. where there are fast cars, people who are too rich and too poor – this L.A. is a place where random acts of generosity and goodwill improve the lives of the community. Any Small Goodness is a novel filled with hope, love, and warmth. Stereotyping and family are two other issues explored in this book.
T	<i>Carolina Crow Girl</i> Valerie Hobbs 9781440109010	Carolina lives with her mother and baby sister in an old school bus. They are always traveling, and Carolina has to start in a new school every year and leave just when she's getting settled. But this stop, things are different. First Carolina finds an abandoned baby crow and decides to care for him until he can fly. Then she meets Stefan, who lives in the mansion near where they've parked the bus. The two become friends, and Carolina starts to set down roots. Valerie Hobbs explores the fine line between safety and stagnation, rootlessness and freedom.
T	<i>Cassie Binegar</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064401951	After her grandfather's death, Cassie longs for an orderliness to life - ' a pattern - ' that doesn't exist among her raucous, loving family. During her family's first summer in a weathered old house by the sea, Cassie learns to accept change and to find her own space.

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T	<i>Dillon Dillon</i> Kate Banks 9780374417154	During the summer that he turns ten years old, Dillon Dillon learns the surprising story behind his name and develops a relationship with three loons, living on the lake near his family's New Hampshire cabin, that help him make sense of his life.
T	<i>Going Home</i> Nicholasa Mohr 9780141306445	Everything in Felita's life seems to change the year she turns twelve. Felita spends her summer in Puerto Rico, where she struggles to fit in. By the time summer has ended, Felita is beginning to feel at home with herself and her Puerto Rican heritage. Cultural Diversity is another topic that is explored in this book.
T	<i>Half and Half</i> Lensey Namioka 9780440418900	Fiona Chang is half and half: Her father is Chinese and her mother is Scottish. Fiona looks more like her father than her mother, so people always expect her to be more interested in her Chinese half than her Scottish half. Fiona struggles to fit in and lately even Fiona's confused about who she really is.
T	<i>Joey Pigza Loses Control</i> Jack Gantos 9780064410229	Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.
T	<i>Randall's Wall</i> Carol Fenner 9780689835582	Artistically talented but socioeconomically underprivileged, a fifth-grade boy has built a wall of defense to protect himself from the pain of human relationships--a wall which begins to crumble when a dynamic and compassionate classmate decides to interfere in his life.
T	<i>Sam I Am</i> Ilene Cooper 9780439439671	Twelve-year-old Sam, the son of a Jewish father and Christian mother, struggles to understand religion and its role in his family's life during the Hanukkah and Christmas holidays.
T	<i>Saving Lilly</i> Peg Kehret 9780671034238	After they write a report on the mistreatment of circus animals, sixth graders Erin and David learn their teacher has planned a field trip to the Glitter Tent Circus, which has been cited for animal cruelty. Along with their classmates, they try to raise the awareness of such cruelty and learn about themselves along the way.
T	<i>Sylvia and Miz Lula Maye</i> Pansie Hart Flood 9780876142042 (Hardcover)	After Sylvia Freeman and her mother move to Wakeview, South Carolina, Sylvia isn't too sure she is going to like it very much. Her only friend is a ninety-nine-year-old woman who lives down the road. Soon Sylvia and Miz Lula Maye become best friends. Then, one day, a stranger comes to town with news about the past that changes Sylvia's life forever. She develops a sense of place and learns how to fit in wherever she goes.
T	<i>What Jamie Saw</i> Caroline Coman 9781590786390	This is a story of survival. Having fled to a family friend's hillside trailer after his mother's boyfriend tried to throw his baby sister against a wall, nine-year-old Jamie finds himself living an existence full of uncertainty and fear. Slowly the characters learn how to trust the people around them—and each other. Cultural Diversity is another topic explored in this book.
T	<i>Zulu Dog</i> Anton Ferreira 9781440109010	In post-apartheid South Africa a boy finds a bush dog who gets injured by a wild animal. The dog becomes a catalyst for friendship between the boy and a white-farmer's daughter.
U	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Gail C. Levine 9780064407052	Based on <i>Cinderella</i> , this is an entertaining story of Ella of Frell, who at birth was given the gift of obedience by a fairy. Ella soon realizes that this gift is little better than a curse, for how can she truly be herself if at anytime anyone can order her to hop on one foot, or cut off her hand, or betray her kingdom and she'll have to obey? Against a bold tapestry of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella's quest to break the curse once and for all and discover who she really is.
U	<i>Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt, The</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064402651	Minna wishes for many things. She wishes she understood the quote taped above her mother's typewriter: <i>Fact and fiction are different truths</i> . She wishes her mother would stop writing long enough to really listen to her. She wishes her house were peaceful and orderly like her friend Lucas's. Most of all, she wishes she could find a vibrato on her cello and play Mozart the way he deserves to be played. Minna soon discovers that some things can't be found—they just have to <i>happen</i> . And as she waits for her vibrato to happen, Minna begins to understand some facts and fictions about herself.
U	<i>Loser</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780060540746	Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

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U	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i> Avi 9780380719075	Ninth grader Philip Malloy is forbidden to join the track team because of his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred into a different homeroom. Instead of standing silently during the national anthem, he hums along. And ends up on trial.
U	<i>Tangerine</i> Edward Bloor 9780152057800	Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight. Paul learns about himself as he works towards overcoming his difficulties.
U	<i>Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963, The</i> Christopher Paul Curtis 9780440414124	A wonderful middle-grade novel narrated by Kenny, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up.
U	<i>Wringer</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780064405782	As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli's most powerful novel yet is a gripping tale of how one boy learns how not to be afraid.
V	<i>Becoming Naomi León</i> Pam Muñoz Ryan 9780439856218	A riveting novel about family and identity, drawn from Pam Muñoz Ryan's own Mexican and Oklahoman heritages. Naomi Soledad León Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life. But according to Gram's self-prophecies, most problems can be overcome with positive thinking. Life with Gram and her little brother, Owen, is happy and peaceful until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover who she really is.
V	<i>Crash</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780679885504	Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.
V	<i>Save Queen of Sheba</i> Louise Moeri 9780140371482	The vicious attack on their wagon train killed almost everyone - except David and his younger sister, whom he calls Queen of Sheba. The two are stranded on the deserted trail and struggle to survive. And although David is seriously hurt, he knows that frail Queen of Sheba is counting on him. He can only hope that their parents are somewhere up ahead.
V	<i>Stargirl</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780440416777	From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.
W	<i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Philbrick 9780439286060	Meet learning disabled Maxwell Kane, narrator of <i>Freak the Mighty</i> . He's a timid soul stuck in the body of a teenage giant with size 14 shoes. Haunted by a dark secret in his past, he hides out in his basement room, avoiding the world. But when a new kid who's birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind moves in next door Max's life changes forever. The two outcasts form the 'normal' world team up to become "Freak the Mighty." Like knights of old they defend the weak, right every wrong—and solve the mystery of Max's past. Proving once and for all that courage comes in all sizes.
X	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> Gennifer Choldenko 9780142403709	Set in 1935, when guards actually lived on Alcatraz Island with their families, Choldenko's novel brings humor to the complexities of family dynamics and illuminates the real struggle of a kid trying to free himself from the "good boy" stance he's taken his whole life.
X	<i>Legend of Buddy Bush, The</i> Shelia p. Moses 9781416907169	The day Uncle Goodwin "Buddy" Bush came from Harlem all the way back home to Rehobeth Road in Rich Square, North Carolina, is the day twelve-year-old Pattie Mae Sheals' life changes forever. Pattie Mae Sheal grows up and learn about herself in this book.
Y	<i>Giver, The</i> Lois Lowry 9780440237686	December is the time of the annual Ceremony at which each twelve-year-old receives a life assignment determined by the Elders. Jonas watches his friend Fiona named Caretaker of the Old and his cheerful pal Asher labeled the Assistant Director of Recreation. But Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man — the man called only the Giver — he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.

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Y  HI-B	<i>Monument, The</i> Gary Paulsen 9780440407829	It all begins when Rocky follows Mick Strum around town while he sketches its people, animals and graveyard. Mick has been commissioned by Rocky's Kansas town to create a memorial to their war dead. As Rocky learns to respect Mick and his talents, he helps her to develop her own artistic sensibilities. But the townspeople see things in Mick's drawings that they don't want to know or accept about themselves. Can Mick help them accept one monument that will be meaningful to everyone?
Z  HI-B	<i>Monster</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780064407311	Steve Harmon: 16 years old and on trial for murder. His parents' hearts break as they watch the drama unfold from their seats in the back of the courtroom. Did Steve serve as the lookout when Bobo Evans and James King robbed the drugstore and then killed the store's owner in the commotion? Or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? Is he being framed by a couple of losers he used to call friends? In the tension-filled courtroom, reality begins to blur for Steve. How on earth did he get here? Is he a monster?

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project  
Social Issues Book List

**Culture and Diversity: Responding to Racism, Stereotypes and Prejudices**

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #	Summary
	<i>The Legend of Freedom Hill</i> (Picture Book) Linda J. Altman 978-1584301691	A modern American tall tale. The story of how a free African American girl, Rosabel, and a Jewish girl, Sophie, living in California during the gold rush rescue Sophie's mother from a slave catcher by discovering a gold vein. This book is full of great historical references, as well as being set against cross-cultural acceptance. Kids will enjoy relating the story to what they have learned about the American West, and laws pertaining to slavery.
	<i>Black Angels</i> R. Murphy 978-0440229346	During the summer of 1961, 11-year-old Celline discovers the existence of angels. "I believe in angels because I've seen them... three naked black girls with creamy white wings, throwing stones on my hopscotch board.... The angels come every day now since the trouble started." The "trouble" is that Celli's beloved housekeeper, Sophie, is stirring up the black community of Mystic, Georgia, with talk of the civil rights movement. Celli is frightened for Sophie, and knows the folks on her side of town--"the white side"--won't tolerate her activism much longer. But when Celli begins to see the small black angels around her home, she feels strangely comforted: "They never speak to me, but somehow their presence fills me with hope." Then a stranger with a secret about Celli's past comes to town the same week as the Freedom Riders, and Celli discovers her fate is tied to Sophie's in a way she never dreamed possible. Now Celli must find the courage, in a dangerous time and place, to stand up for what she knows is right.
HI-B	<i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The</i> John Boyne 9780385751537	Set in Berlin, 1942 - Bruno returns to his enormous home from school one day, he discovers that all of his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer again like he was back at home and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place, Auschwitz, than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.
	<i>Color of My Words, The</i> Lynn Joseph 9780064472043	Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her -- watching her brother search for a future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community -- that Ana Rosa must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her -- and to transcend the most unthinkable of tragedies.
M	<i>Molly's Pilgram</i> (Picture Book) Barbara Cohen 978-0439148689	Molly and her parents are a Jewish family who have emigrated from Russia to the United States to escape religious persecution. Molly is the only Jewish child in third grade. When Thanksgiving arrives, the teacher assigns a project to make a Pilgrim doll. Molly is embarrassed by her mother's attempts to help with her Thanksgiving project. She makes a pilgrim doll — but dresses it in Russian clothing. Soon, however, Molly learns that it takes all kinds of "pilgrims" to make a Thanksgiving. This story is very much based on the traditional Thanksgiving story which is highly fabricated. At the end of the book it says that Thanksgiving was based directly on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which is misleading. But, the book's message is still an important one—that many of us originally came to this country for religious freedom and other similar reasons, and that ties us together in a way we often forget.
M	<i>Other Side, The</i> (Picture Book) Jacqueline Woodson 978-0399231162	Clover has always wondered why a fence separates the black side of town from the white side. But this summer when Annie, a white girl from the other side, begins to sit on the fence, Clover grows more curious about the reason why the fence is there and about the daring girl who sits on it, rain or shine. And one day, feeling very brave, Clover approaches Annie. After all, why should a fence stand in the way of friendship?
N	<i>Brothers</i> Yin 9780399234064	When Ming arrives in San Francisco after the long boat journey from China, his older brothers waste no time warning him: "Chinese should not go outside Chinatown." But Ming risks doing just that, and when he meets Patrick, he knows the young Irish boy has a kind heart, and begins a remarkable friendship that brings their two very different communities together.
N	<i>Creativity</i> John Steptoe 978-0340749234	When a boy named Hector joins Charles's class, Charles finds the new boy's dark skin and straight hair confusing. How can Hector speak Spanish, be Puerto Rican, and have the same skin color as Charles, who is African American? This confusion sparks discussion about shared heritage and language.

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N	<i>Key Collection, The</i> Andrea Cheng 978-0805071535 (Hardcover)	Xiao Jimmy's Grandma Ni Ni is his favorite person in all the world. Ni Ni cooks delicious jiao zi, teaches Jimmy Chinese characters, and always has wonderful stories and fascinating objects--like the key collection--to share with him. So when Jimmy learns that Ni Ni must move far away to California, he feels he is losing his best friend. In time, however, Jimmy discovers there are ways to bridge distance, and to make new friends in the process. This warm and reassuring novel explores a special relationship that crosses cultures and generations, and holds strong when tested. The essential references to Chinese culture are conveyed with skill and clarity.
N	<i>My Name Is Maria Isabel</i> Alma Flor Ada 978-0689802171	When Maria Lopez moves to the United States from Puerto Rico and faces her first day at school, she finds herself in a classroom with two other Marias. Re-named Mary by her teacher, who does not know that Maria was named after her grandmothers, Maria cannot respond to her new name. Not until she writes a paper on My Greatest Wish does she become Maria again in this story about the value of heritage and its impact on the individual self.
N	<i>Shadow of the Wolf</i> Gloria Whelan 9780679881087	The woods of southern Michigan are getting crowded, so Libby Mitchell and her family load up their covered wagon and move north. They settle on the shores of Lake Michigan--right next to the Indian camp where Libby's friend Fawn lives! But Libby and Fawn soon find out that greedy men are trying to cheat the Indians out of their land. Now the girls must think of a way to stop them--before the people and animals who call the forest their home lose it forever.
O	<i>Fudge</i> Charlotte Towner Graeber 9780671702885	Graeber deals with a normal and recurrent childhood theme: a child's desire to have a pet and the parental skepticism that goes along with it. She also portrays some of the responsibilities pet ownership demands in this story of nine-year-old Chad, whose wish for a puppy is curtailed when his mother finds out that she is going to have twins. All ends well, though, as Chad proves that he can care for Fudge, and he also learns that he has to make some sacrifices of his own in the process. Characters are real, the action moves quickly, and the story line will interest children. While Chad may be more understanding than most children, his responses and solutions are believable. Values are tested and explored in this book.
O	<i>Maxie, Rosie and Earl, Partners in Grime</i> Barbara Park 9780679806431	At first it seems as though Maxie, Rosie, and Earl have nothing in common. Maxie is too smart for his own good, Rosie is a born tattler, and Earl can't stop cracking up when he reads out loud in class. But when all three kids land outside the principal's office in disgrace, they can't help comparing notes. Just when they think there's no chance of a reprieve, the fire alarm goes off. There's only one thing for three doomed nerds to do -- head straight for the exit doors and dive into the Dumpster!
O	<i>Mouse Called Wolf, A</i> Dick King-Smith 9780375800665	Wolf has a big name for such a little mouse. But the name fits. His favorite pastime is listening to Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house, play the piano. If only he could sing along to the music! One day, Wolf decides to try -- and to his surprise, out of his mouth comes a perfect melody. Then an accident leaves Mrs. Honeybee in danger, and it's up to Wolf to save her... the only way he knows how.
O	<i>Quail Club, The</i> Carolyn Marsden 9780763634223	Oy lives in America now, but she loves to go to the back room of Pak's auto shop on Saturdays to learn traditional Thai dances. She loves it almost as much as being a member of the Quail Club - five friends who gather after school to hatch and care for baby quail. When the teacher announces a talent show, Oy knows how proud her family and Pak would be to see her step onstage in her beautiful gold-threaded dress from Thailand. But bossy Liliandra vows to kick her out of the Quail Club if she won't team up for a very different kind of dance. Someone will be disappointed. But who?
O HI-B	<i>Rats!</i> Jan Cutler 9780786812257	The Fraser brothers are back in this lighthearted sequel to "No Dogs Allowed." Now entering fourth grade, Jason wonders if it isn't time to find a new look in clothing and acquires an unwanted girlfriend whom Mrs. Fraser unwittingly invites to dinner. Edward, a first-grader, must face a pre-Halloween haunted house complete with spaghetti brains, and experiences mother-hood up close when his pet rat Spike, who isn't supposed to, has babies. With humorous black-and-white drawings, these five stories perfectly capture the brothers' never-ending adventures.
O	<i>Tamika and The Wisdom Rings</i> Camille Yarbrough 9780940975675	Tamika loves to wonder. But sometimes wondering gets Tamika into trouble, especially when she doesn't think before she acts. So Mama and Daddy share words of wisdom with Tamika and they give her sparkling, colorful rings (each one representing words of wisdom), so whenever Tamika starts wondering, she can look at the rings and remember. But lately Tamika and her family's safety have been in danger. Eight year old Tamika suffers the biggest tragedy of her life. Tamika finds strength in her family, her friends, and herself as she copes with the murder of her father by drug dealers. Values is another issue explored in this book.

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O	<i>Tea With Milk</i> (Picture Book) Allen Say 9780547237473	After growing up near San Francisco, a young Japanese woman returns with her parents to their native Japan, but she feels foreign and out of place. This story also explores the issue of understanding self and others.
P	<i>Home at Last</i> Kathryn Lasky 978-0439206440	After her dramatic release from quarantine and reunion with her family, Sofia moves to the North End of Boston, where the Monaris start their new lives in their new country. While her parents struggle to make ends meet, Sofia must adjust to her American school, friends and job. There is also lots of Spanish with English translations, which makes this book good for English language learners and also for English speaking students to learn some Spanish.
P	<i>Honeysuckle House</i> Andrea Cheng 9781886910997 (Hardcover)	Alienation, longing, prejudice, and cultural difference is touched on in this immigrant story told in the voices of two ten-year-old girls. Sarah and Tina are fourth graders. The most important thing in the world to Sarah - American-born Chinese - is the recent departure of her best friend, Victoria. She misses her terribly. Tina has just recently moved to Cincinnati from Shanghai, and is trying to make sense of a whole new world - pretty much clueless to all the things Sarah is hip to. The two girls are paired together in school, as if Asian appearance were proof of parallel lives and experience. It's the daily, common stuff of childhood intrigue that finally manages to connect their stories and forge a friendship. A whole constellation of adult concerns swirl around them - green card worries, assimilation, absent fathers, family tensions This is a story which blends tears and games, drama and play.
R	<i>How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay</i> Julia Alvarez 9780440418702	Moving to Vermont after his parents split, Miguel has plenty to worry about! Tia Lola, his quirky, "carismatica," and maybe magical aunt makes his life even more unpredictable when she arrives from the Dominican Republic to help out his Mami. Like her stories for adults, Julia Alvarez's first middle-grade book sparkles with magic as it illuminates a child's experiences living in two cultures.
R	<i>Iggie's House</i> Judy Blume 9780440420224	When Winnie welcomes the Garber family into a previously all-white neighborhood she learns the difference between good neighbor policies and friendship. Note to the teacher: There is racial language used in this book.
R	<i>Jacket, The</i> Andrew Clements 9780689860102	After wrongly accusing a boy--an African American boy—of stealing his brother's jacket, Phil--a white boy--has some hard thinking to do. And a tough question for his mom: "How come you never told me I was prejudiced?" This seemingly small school incident turns into a painful, but ultimately satisfying, learning opportunity for the sixth grader, as he explores the myriad influences in his life and the way his thought patterns have formed... and finds a new friend in the process. The intellectual evolution Phil goes through may be somewhat facile for a child his age, but Andrew Clements's message will undoubtedly hit home for many readers. This is exactly the kind of situation that arises every day in schools (and offices and buses) all over the world.
S	<i>Seedfolks</i> Paul Fleischman 9780064472074	A vacant lot, rat-infested and filled with garbage, looked like no place for a garden. Especially to a neighborhood of strangers where no one seems to care. Until one day, a young girl clears a small space and digs into the hard-packed soil to plant her precious bean seeds. Suddenly, the soil holds promise: To Curtis, who believes he can win back Lateesha's heart with a harvest of tomatoes; to Virgil's dad, who sees a fortune to be made from growing lettuce; and even to Maricela, sixteen and pregnant, wishing she were dead. Thirteen very different voices -- old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful -- tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood.
S	<i>Star Fisher</i> Lawrence Yep 9780140360035	Here is the true account of the author's Chinese mother and her family's struggle to find respect in a small West Virginian town. In 1927, 15-year-old Joan Lee, a U.S. citizen, and her family move from Ohio to West Virginia to open a laundry business. Joan and her siblings speak English, but her parents only know Chinese. When they arrive in town, they are harassed by a family of white bigots, and welcomed by a kind landlord. Joan believes her desire for respect and acceptance mirrors the Chinese legend of the star fisher — a creature that sees with two sets of eyes. Joan sees life as an Asian and as an American. Young adults will learn to appreciate the struggles of Asian Americans and the right of all people to be treated with respect.

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T	<i>Steal Away...to freedom</i> Jennifer Armstrong 978-0590469210	Susannah, a teenage orphan, is reluctantly transplanted from Vermont to Virginia and Bethlehem, the slave assigned to her, decide to escape together. The two young women, who alternate as narrators, have very different points of view: to Susannah, teaching her slave to read is merely a project; in leaving her stern uncle's farm, she runs only the risk of being brought back. For Bethlehem, both learning to read and running away are deadly dangerous but the potential rewards are beyond price. Decades later, the two women are reunited in Bethlehem's slum apartment, where she is on her deathbed. There, they tell their story to Susannah's naive granddaughter and an angry student of Bethlehem's.
U	<i>Baseball in April and Other Stories</i> (Short Stories) Gary Soto 9780152025670	A contemporary classic about the pitfalls and triumphs of the teenage years. In this unique collection of short stories, the small events of daily life reveal big themes—love and friendship, youth and growing up, success and failure. Calling on his own experiences of growing up in California's Central Valley, poet Gary Soto brings to life the joys and pains of young people everywhere. The smart, tough, vulnerable kids in these stories are Latino, but their dreams and desires belong to all of us.
U	<i>Weedflower</i> Cynthia Kadohata 9781416975663	Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. This story explores an important and painful topic through the eyes of a young girl who yearns to belong. <i>Weedflower</i> is the story of the rewards and challenges of a friendship across the racial divide, as well as the based-on-real-life story of how the meeting of Japanese Americans and Native Americans changed the future of both. Bullying is another issue explored in this book.
V	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> Pam Munoz Ryan 9780439120425	Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico—she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—Mama's life and her own depend on it.
X	<i>Kira, Kira</i> Cynthia Kadohata 9780689856402	Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering—kira-kira—in the future.
Y	<i>If You Come Softly</i> Jacqueline Woodson 9780142406014	Jeremiah, whose parents are divorced, is confident about who he is -- that is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But when he starts attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, he realizes that black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when, during his first week of school, he feels an immediate connection with a white girl named Ellie, whose parents have abandoned her twice. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they belong together -- despite the fact that she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world feels differently.

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### Finding Our Way in the World as We Overcome Obstacles

Level	Title/Author	Summary
HI-B	<i>Book Thief, The</i> Markus Zusak 9780375842207	Set during World War II in Germany is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist –books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.
HI-B	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series</i> 1. <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> 2. <i>Rodrick Rules</i> 3. <i>The Last Straw</i> Jeff Kinney 1. 9780810995529 2. 9780810994737 (Hardcover) 3. 9780810970687 (Hardcover)	It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary. In book one of this debut series, Greg is happy to have Rowley, his sidekick, along for the ride. But when Rowley's star starts to rise, Greg tries to use his best friend's newfound popularity to his own advantage, kicking off a chain of events that will test their friendship in hilarious fashion. In the second book, <i>Rodrick Rules</i> , Greg enters the new school year, he's eager to put the past three months behind him . . . and one event in particular. Unfortunately for Greg, his older brother, Rodrick, knows all about the incident Greg wants to keep under wraps. But secrets have a way of getting out . . . especially when a diary is involved. In the third book, <i>The Last Straw</i> , Greg's dad actually thinks he can get his son to toughen up, and he enlists Greg in organized sports and other "manly" endeavors. Of course, Greg is able to easily sidestep his father's efforts to change him. But when Greg's dad threatens to send him to military academy, Greg realizes he has to shape up...or get shipped out.
	<i>Flip Flop Girl</i> Katherine Paterson 9780140376791	Sometimes only a true friend can help you put your life back together. Vinnie Matthews needs a real lifesaver — one that will bring her father back to life and let her family go home. Living with Grandpa means having to be responsible for her little brother. Then Vinnie meets Lupe, the mysterious "flip-flop girl" — who might just be the friend she needs, if only Vinnie can ignore the rumors about her past. . .
	<i>How to Steal a Dog</i> Barbara O'Conner 9780312561123	<i>Half of me was thinking</i> , Georgina, don't do this. Stealing a dog is just plain wrong. <i>The other half of me was thinking</i> , Georgina, you're in a bad fix and you got to do whatever it takes to get yourself out of it. Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is "borrow" the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected. With unmistakable sympathy, Barbara O'Connor tells the story of a young girl struggling to see what's right when everything else seems wrong.
	<i>Story of Tracy Beaker, The</i> Jacqueline Wilson 9780440862796	Ten-year-old Tracy, who lives in a children's home because her mother was forced to give her up, dreams of getting a good foster family where she can be happy until her mother comes back for her. Tracy's doing everything she can to take care of herself—even though she has to share her birthday cake. Then a journalist shows up to write a story about their orphanage, and she and Tracy strike up a special friendship.
Q	<i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i> Beverly Cleary 9780380709588	Leigh Botts has been author Boyd Henshaw's number one fan ever since he was in second grade. Now in sixth grade, Leigh lives with his mother and is the new kid at school. He's lonely, troubled by the absence of his father, a cross-country trucker, and angry because a mysterious thief steals from his lunchbag. Then Leigh's teacher assigns a letter-writing project. Naturally Leigh chooses to write to Mr. Henshaw, whose surprising answer changes Leigh's life.

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R R R T R	<p>Brian's Saga Series</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Hatchet</i></li> <li>2. <i>The River</i></li> <li>3. <i>Brian's Winter</i></li> <li>4. <i>Brian's Return</i></li> <li>5. <i>Brian's Hunt</i></li> </ol> <p>Gary Paulsen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 9781416936473</li> <li>2. 9780440407539</li> <li>3. 9780440227199</li> <li>4. 9780440413790</li> <li>5. 9780440413790</li> <li>6. 9780553494150</li> </ol>	<p>Brian Robeson is at home in the Canadian wilderness. He stands up to the challenges of surviving alone in the woods. He prefers being on his own in the natural world to civilization. This series starts out with <i>Hatchet</i>, the story of a plane crash and how Brian survives, taking all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive. Then, in <i>The River</i> the government wants him to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. <i>Brian's Winter</i> begins with a new and harrowing ending to <i>Hatchet</i>. In this unique retelling of a young boy's struggle to survive in the wilderness, Paulsen raises the stakes with the question: what if Brian hadn't been rescued at the end of summer, but instead had been left to confront his deadliest enemy — winter? In <i>Brian's Return</i>, he's back in civilization and can't find a way to make sense of high school life. He feels disconnected, more isolated than he did alone in the North. The only answer is to "go back in" — for only in the wilderness can Brian discover his true path in life, and where he belongs. <i>Brian's Hunt</i> is the last story in the series. Brian's keen senses alert him when he finds a wounded dog. With his new companion at his side, and with a terrible, growing sense of unease, he sets out to learn what happened.</p>
R  HI-B	<p><i>Rules</i> Cynthia Lord 9780439443838</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules of what is normal. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?</p>
S	<p><i>Great Gilly Hopkins</i>, The Katherine Paterson 978038045963</p>	<p>At eleven, Gilly is nobody's real kid. If only she could find her beautiful mother, Courtney, and live with her instead of in the ugly foster home where she has just been placed! How could she, the great Gilly Hopkins, known throughout the county for her brilliance and unmanageability, be expected to tolerate Maime Trotter, the fat, nearly illiterate widow who is now her guardian? Or for that matter, the freaky seven-year-old boy and the shrunken blind black man who are also considered part of the bizarre "family"? Even cool Miss Harris, her teacher, is a shock to her. Gutsy Gilly is both poignant and comic as, behind her best barracuda smile, she schemes against them and everyone else who tries to be friendly. The reader will cheer for her as she copes with the longings and terrors of always being a foster child.</p>
S	<p><i>Ida B.</i> K. Hannigan 9780060730260</p>	<p>Who is Ida B. Applewood? She is a fourth grader like no other, living a life like no other, with a voice like no other, and her story will resonate long after you have put this book down. How does Ida B cope when outside forces—life, really—attempt to derail her and her family and her future? She enters her Black Period, and it is not pretty. But then, with the help of a patient teacher, a loyal cat and dog, her beloved apple trees, and parents who believe in the same things she does (even if they sometimes act as though they don't), the resilience that is the very essence of Ida B triumph...and Ida B. Applewood takes the hand that is extended and starts to grow up. This first novel is both very funny and extraordinarily moving, and it introduces two shining stars—Katherine Hannigan and Ida B. Applewood.</p>
S/T	<p><i>Suitcase Kid</i> Jacqueline Wilson 9780440867739</p>	<p>Andrea West's parents are divorced, and her tiny stuffed rabbit, Radish, seems her only comfort in the world. She must leave the home she loves and deal with parents who still fight, stepparents, step-siblings, two different bedrooms (neither of which is really hers), loneliness, and an acute longing for the past. It seems like her life is falling apart and she's not quite sure how to fix any of it. Eventually, though, a new equilibrium begins to settle on her life. Honest and true-to-life, Andy's story shows that dealing with divorce is never easy.</p>
T	<p><i>Crooked River</i> Shelley Pearsall 9780440421016</p>	<p>The year is 1812. A white trapper is murdered. And a young Chippewa Indian, Amik, stands accused. Can Rebecca overcome her struggles to see justice is served? The unique sharing of narration between Rebecca and Amik further opens the mind to the injustices and inhumanity suffered by this country's Native people. The social issues explored in this book are abusive (parent), prejudice, stereotypes, and cultural diversity.</p>

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T	<i>Darby</i> Jonathon Scott Fugua 978-0744590562	Darby Carmichael thinks her best friend is probably the smartest person she knows, even though, as Mama says, Evette’s school uses worn-out books and crumbly chalk. Whenever they can, Darby and Evette shoot off into the woods beyond the farm to play fancy ladies and schoolteachers. One thing Darby has never dreamed of being - not until Evette suggests it - is a newspaper girl who writes down the truth for all to read. In no time, and with more than a little assistance from Evette, Darby and her column in the Bennettsville Times are famous in town and beyond. Darby writes about a motivated murder in an article urging whites to treat blacks as equals. But is Marlboro County, South Carolina, circa 1926, ready for the truth its youngest reporter has to tell? This book also explores the social issues of friendship and prejudice.
T	<i>Double Dutch</i> Sharon Draper 9780689842313	Delia loves Double Dutch more than just about anything, and she's really good at it -- so good she and her teammates have a shot at winning the World Double Dutch Championships. Delia would die if she couldn't jump -- but Delia has a secret, and it could keep her off the team next year. Delia's friend Randy has a secret too, one that has him lonely and scared. And while Delia and Randy struggle to keep their secrets, their school is abuzz with rumors about what malicious mischief the terrible Tolliver twins -- who just may have a secret of their own -- are planning. Why can't life be as easy for Delia as Double Dutch?
T HI-B	<i>Hidden Roots</i> Joseph Bruchac 9780439353595	Although Sonny is uncertain why his sometimes abusive father is so angry and what secret his mother is keeping from him, eleven-year-old Sonny knows that he is different from his classmates in their small New York town. A terrible accident costs Sonny's father part of his right hand, and a friendship with the town librarian, who shares the news that she lost her German Jewish parents in the Holocaust, reminds everyone to value what will always belong to them, namely, their identity.
T	<i>Soldier Mom</i> Alice Mead 9780440229001	Eleven-year-old Jasmyne gets a different perspective on life when her mother is sent to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War, leaving her and her baby half brother, Andrew, behind in Maine in the care of her Mother's boyfriend, Jake. Jake has never been responsible for Andrew, much less Jas. At first Jas is filled with anger. Then, despite the sacrifices she must make, including precious basketball practice, Jas comes to understand that her mother has to do her job. Still, she wonders, should a mother have a job that might require abandoning her children?
T	<i>Steal Away...to freedom</i> Jennifer Armstrong 978-0590469210	Susannah, a teenage orphan, is reluctantly transplanted from Vermont to Virginia and Bethlehem, the slave assigned to her, decide to escape together. The two young women, who alternate as narrators, have very different points of view: to Susannah, teaching her slave to read is merely a project; in leaving her stern uncle's farm, she runs only the risk of being brought back. For Bethlehem, both learning to read and running away are deadly dangerous but the potential rewards are beyond price. Decades later, the two women are reunited in Bethlehem's slum apartment, where she is on her deathbed. There, they tell their story to Susannah's naive granddaughter and an angry student of Bethlehem's.
T	<i>Trouble Don't Last</i> Shelby Pearsall 9780440418115	Eleven-year-old Samuel was born as Master Hackler's slave, and working the Kentucky farm is the only life he's ever known—until one dark night in 1859, that is. With no warning, cranky old Harrison, a fellow slave, pulls Samuel from his bed and, together, they run. Samuel uncovers the secret of his own past—and future. And old Harrison begins to see past a whole lifetime of hurt to the promise of a new life—and a poignant reunion—in Canada.
T	<i>Tucket's Home</i> Gary Paulsen 978-0440415589	In this story, the fifth and final book in "Tucket's Adventures," Francis Tucket, Lottie and Billy have survived extraordinary, hair-raising adventures in their quest to find Francis's family, lost when he was kidnapped from a wagon train on the Oregon Trail. Now they meet up with a British explorer, bloodthirsty soldiers, and in a tragic, heroic encounter, with Jason Grimes, the mountain man. (There are some religious references made in this book. Specifically, a group of religious men attempt to help the three children.)
U	<i>Journey To Topaz</i> Yoshiko Uchida 9780916870850	Like any 11-year-old, Yuki Sakane is looking forward to Christmas when her peaceful world is suddenly shattered by the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Uprooted from her home and shipped with thousands of West Coast Japanese Americans to a desert concentration camp called Topaz, Yuki and her family face new hardships daily.
U	<i>Killer's Tears, The</i> Anne-Laure Bondoux 9780385733847	On the afternoon when Angel Alegria arrives at the Poloverdos' farmhouse, he kills the farmer and his wife. But he spares their child, Paolo—a young boy who will claim this as the day on which he was born. Together the killer and the boy begin a new life on this remote and rugged stretch of land in Chile. Then Luis Secunda, a well-to-do and educated fellow from the city descends upon them and this tests all values. Paolo is caught in the paternal rivalry between the two men. But life resumes its course . . . until circumstances force the three to leave the farm. In doing so, Angel and Luis confront their pasts as well as their inevitable destinies—destinies that profoundly shape Paolo's own future.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Finding Our Way in the World as We Overcome Obstacles)

U  HI-B	<i>One-Handed Catch</i> Mary Jane Auch 9780805079005	Norm has lost his hand in a meat grinder accident. Now he's faced with the overwhelming task of putting his life back together as he struggles to relearn all those things that used to be so easy. Norm's tough-love mother says he's not going to get any special treatment. There are so many things to figure out: how to pitch, bat, and catch so he can play his beloved baseball; how to play an instrument in the school band; how to tie knots for the Boy Scout Jamboree. Norm's story is sad, funny, and inspiring but never overly sentimental as he stubbornly refuses to let anything stop him. A home run of a story inspired by the life of the author's husband who lost his left hand and went on to excel at sports and to become a graphic artist and illustrator.
U	<i>Sign of the Beaver, The</i> E. George Speare 9780440479000	Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness while his father leaves to bring the rest of the family to their new settlement. When he befriends Attean, an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. He discovers friendship and develops an appreciation for another culture. Should Matt abandon his hopes of ever seeing his family again and go on to a new life?
U	<i>Weedflower</i> Cynthia Kadohata 9781416975663	Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. This story explores an important and painful topic through the eyes of a young girl who yearns to belong. Weedflower is the story of the rewards and challenges of a friendship across the racial divide, as well as the based-on-real-life story of how the meeting of Japanese Americans and Native Americans changed the future of both. Bullying is another issue explored in this book.
V	<i>Becoming Naomi León</i> Pam Muñoz Ryan 9780439856218	A riveting novel about family and identity, drawn from Pam Muñoz Ryan's own Mexican and Oklahoman heritages. Naomi Soledad León Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life. But according to Gram's self-prophecies, most problems can be overcome with positive thinking. Life with Gram and her little brother, Owen, is happy and peaceful until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover who she really is.
V	<i>Money Hungry</i> Sharon Flake 978-1423103868	All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about being homeless, living on the streets again. Raspberry eventually feels like things are looking up. But when their house is robbed and rich people protest against their living situation, Raspberry finds herself doing everything to hold things together. But even money can't answer the questions that keep Raspberry awake at night. Will she and Momma ever move out of the projects? What did Ja'nae do with the two hundred bucks Raspberry loaned her? And what's really going on with Momma and that rich doctor?
V  HI-B	<i>Soldier's Heart</i> Gary Paulsen 9780440228387	Although he was eager to enlist, 15-year-old Charley Goddard has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat. Battle by battle, Gary Paulsen shows readers the turmoil of war through one boy's eyes and one boy's heart -- and gives voice to all the anonymous young men who fought in the Civil War.
W  HI-B	<i>Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street</i> Mike Lupica 978-0142409428	After her mother dies of cancer and she learns her father is a famous basketball player for the Boston Celtics, twelve-year-old Molly struggles to find her way in the new relationship. However, Sam, the sinister agent doesn't make it easy.
W  HI-B	<i>Nightjohn</i> (Please Note: Excerpt from this book used in TCRWP assessment Set 1.Level W) Gary Paulsen 978-0440219361	Set in the 1950's, Sarny, a female slave at the Waller plantation, first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there with a rope around his neck, his body covered in scars. He had escaped north to freedom, but he came back--came back to teach reading. Knowing that the penalty for reading is dismemberment Nightjohn still returned to slavery to teach others how to read. And twelve-year-old Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn.
X  HI-B	<i>Hoops</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780440938842	All eyes are on seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson while he practices with his team for a city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions. His coach, Cal, knows Lonnie has what it takes to be a pro-basketball player, but warns him about giving in to the pressure. Cal knows because he, too, once had the chance--but sold out. As the Tournament nears, Lonnie learns that some heavy bettors want Cal to keep him on the bench so that the team will lose the championship. As the last seconds of the game tick away Lonnie and Cal must make a decision.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project  
Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Finding Our Way in the World as We Overcome Obstacles)

Y	<i>Face on the Milk Carton</i> Caroline Cooney 9780440220657	No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar--a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey--she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl--it was she. How could it possibly be true? Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really Janie's parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?
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# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

### Impact: The World Changes Us; We Change the World

Level	Title/Author	Summary
HI-B	<i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The</i> John Boyne 9780385751537	Set in Berlin, 1942 - Bruno returns to his enormous home from school one day, he discovers that all of his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer again like he was back at home and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place, Auschwitz, than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.
M	<i>Judy Moody Saves the World</i> Megan McDonald 978-1406302127	In this book, Judy sets out to do the important task of saving the environment and its endangered species, along with winning a design contest for Crazy Strips. Children will enjoy reading this book because Judy, along with her little brother and best friends, find themselves in hilarious situations, both important (like saving the forest by stealing everyone's pencils) and misguided (like setting her brother's pet turtle free to save the animals). However, they all prove that every single person, no matter how old, can make a difference in our world.
S	<i>6th Grade Nickname Game, The</i> Gordon Korman 9780786851904	Jeff Greenbaum and Wiley Adamson — the self-appointed nicknamers of Old Orchard Public School, or OOPS — have been best friends for eleven years. So it stands to reason that they would both fall for the same red-haired girl. Meanwhile their charismatic football-coach-turned-English-teacher, Mr. Huge (Hughes), is in danger of losing his job unless their 6th grade class, a.k.a. the Dim Bulbs, ace their State Reading Assessment. With Jeff and Wiley at each other's throats and the class busy reading everything from Dr. Seuss to <i>War and Peace</i> , it stands to reason that both the nickname tradition, and Jeff and Wiley's friendship are threatened. Student's will enjoy Korman's affable characters, and identify with their concerns. This novel may be used to prompt discussions on conflict resolution or working as a team.
S	<i>Broccoli Tapes, The</i> Jan Slepian 9780590434737	Eleven-year-old Sara and her family are spending five months in Hawaii, but Sara is having trouble adjusting to what should be paradise. She can't seem to make friends at her new school, and she misses her teacher and classmates back in Boston. On top of everything, she feels distanced from her parents, who are busy worrying about her grandmother's health and seem to be neglecting Sara and her brother Sam. That's why, even though their parents forbid it, Sara and Sam start taking care of an injured wild cat they name Broccoli. Their constant attention and patience with the wary creature ultimately wins its trust and affection. Out at the "rescue rock" where Broccoli lives, the kids meet another outsider: Eddie Nutt, a local kid whose temper and automatic mistrust make him hard to like at first. But Eddie, it turns out, has family problems of his own, and gradually he starts to turn to Sara and Sam. The three become friends, and without always knowing how, help each other through the difficulties to come: the death of Sara and Sam's grandmother, the seeming rejection of Eddie's father, and even the death of Broccoli.
S	<i>Eagle Song</i> Joseph Bruchac 9780141301693	4 <sup>th</sup> grader Danny Bigtree is having trouble adjusting to his big-city school — he's homesick for the Mohawk reservation where his family used to live, and he wishes he could make a friend. The kids in his class, from a variety of backgrounds themselves, tease him about what they perceive to be his roots. Danny has learned from experience not to correct them. At home, the usual stereotypes are turned upside-down. Whenever Danny's dad puts on his Hollywood Indian voice, Danny knows a joke is coming, and the whole family shares in the laughter. Danny longs for the warmth of his home life to dispel the loneliness of his Brooklyn school, and so his father agrees to help, coming to Danny's class to tell the legend of the great leader, Aionwahta, and his song of peace. While the visit makes a difference, Danny realizes that the most important step toward finding friendship is still to come. A short glossary and pronunciation guide at the back of the book helps with the Mohawk words used within the story, and makes this ideal supplementary reading for units on Native American cultures.
S	<i>Gift Giver, The</i> Joyce Hansen 9780618611232	Sometimes Doris feels like a prisoner in her own home. Her parents' worries about danger on the city streets keep her from hanging out at the playground, and all her friends on 163 <sup>rd</sup> Street tease her about it. All except Amir, the new boy on the block. He looks different, acts different, and doesn't care what anyone else thinks. Yet everybody likes him. It seems as if he has a gift for making friends. When Doris's father loses his job, even she has even less time to spend outside with her friends. But between Amir's friendship and her determination to keep her family together, Doris find she has her own gifts to give.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Impact: The World Changes Us; We Change the World)

S	<i>Mississippi Bridge</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780553159929	During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River. (Prejudice) A terrifying moment occurs that unites all the townspeople in a nightmare that will change their lives forever. Growing up is another social issue explored in this book.
S	<i>Project Mulberry</i> Linda Sue Park 9780440421634	Seventh-graders Julia and Patrick are fast friends who do almost everything together. After joining a new club they are determined to come up with an outstanding project that will enable them to win at least one blue ribbon at the state fair. Usually they have good ideas and work well together. But this time they face several hurdles and cannot seem to agree on a plan. Julia's mother's idea of raising silkworms is enthusiastically accepted by Patrick. Julia thinks it reflects only her Korean heritage and is not "American" enough. When Mr. Maxwell, their advisor, approves the concept, Julia reluctantly goes along even though she secretly keeps putting obstacles in the way of success. Soon Julia gets totally caught up in the project. Along the way she and Patrick learn a great deal about silkworms, friendship, patience and tolerance. A unique addition to the novel is conversation between the author and Julia. Prejudice is another social issue that is explored in this book.
S	<i>Sahara Special</i> Esme Codell 9780786816118	Sahara Jones is going into fifth grade-again. Although she won't be "Sahara Special" anymore (special needs, that is), she doesn't expect this year to be any better than last year. Fifth grade is going to be different, though, because Sahara's class is getting a new teacher: Miss Pointy. From her eggplant-colored lipstick to the strange subjects she teaches, like "Puzzling" and "Time Travel," she is like no other teacher Sahara has ever known. With Miss Pointy's help, Sahara just might find a way to redefine special for herself. The latest chapter in her book unfolds when her mother insists that she be taken out of special Ed. So Sahara is facing fifth grade in the regular classroom, again. But why even try to do the work, Sahara wonders, if everything just winds up in the counselor's file? Through Miss Pointy's unusual teaching, storytelling, and quiet support, Sahara finds the courage to overcome her fears and prove which file shows her true self. Another social issue explored in this book is stereotypes.
S	<i>Stumptown Kids</i> Carol Gorman 978-1561454129	The story of Charlie Nebraska encourages the reader by exemplifying the characteristics of a true friendship. This work of historical fiction reveals some of the most horrific sides of an African American facing racism in the 1950s. The book's main theme is overcoming opposition through friendship, and a strong one it is. Charlie, a twelve-year-old white boy and Luther, a twenty-five year-old African American male, develop an incredible relationship through the game of baseball, despite the negative views of a prejudiced town. Luther's past sets the plot in motion. In his Negro League days, Luther was a pitcher and killed a white man who was crowding the plate. Although Luther is innocent, the victim's brother has vowed revenge. Because of this, Luther must flee to Stumptown, where he becomes Charlie's baseball coach. When Luther's past resurfaces, a series of frightening events take place that helps Luther win the town over and clear his name.
S	<i>Yellow Bird and Me</i> Joyce Hansen 9780618611164	In this sentimental sequel to <i>The Gift-Giver</i> , Doris begins her narration only a few weeks after her friend Amir has left the Bronx for his new home in Syracuse. Doris is moody and depressed, missing Amir so much that all she can think about is earning enough money to go visit him. Nothing is working out for her, though, as her friends tease her, her new teacher Mrs. Barker is mean, her parents won't let her keep her job at the beauty parlor, and crazy Yellow Bird keeps pestering her to help him with his reading problem. When Amir writes back, he tells Doris not to come yet and to take care of Bird. Reluctantly, Doris discovers that despite his problem, Bird is smart and a good friend. Bird's difficulties are too big for Doris to handle by herself, and with the help of the new drama club teacher, Bird gets the lead in the play. There are surprises for both Bird and Doris at the end of the story, and a final letter to Amir shows that Doris has learned how to become her own "Amir."
T	<i>Any Small Goodness</i> Tony Johnston 9780439233842	A Hispanic family lives in L.A. Not the L.A. where there are fast cars, people who are too rich and too poor – this L.A. is a place where random acts of generosity and goodwill improve the lives of the community. <i>Any Small Goodness</i> is a novel filled with hope, love, and warmth. Stereotyping and family are two other issues explored in this book.
T HI-B	<i>Danger! Boys Dancing</i> Sarah Weeks 978-0439574716	Nat Boyd and his best friend Boyd Fink have always found a way to maneuver their way out of trouble. But this time, the problem is serious. It's something horrible and frightening beyond any fifth grader's worst fears. This time, it's...dancing. There's no escaping this humiliating class assignment...and what's worse, there's a rumor that the boys will be forced to wear tutus! What's a Boyd to do?

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Impact: The World Changes Us; We Change the World)

T  HI-B	<i>Fink's Funk</i> Sarah Weeks 978-0439574723	Nat Boyd and Boyd Fink love making up crazy games to play. In their latest, Faboo Facts, the two Boyds go head-to-head, battling to out-faboo each other with the more impressive fact. But this crash of craniums is destined for disaster. It's not long before the competition has gone too far, and Fink starts to change. He's not the same Fink any more...now he's Fink in a funk! Nat had better find a way to break Fink's funk. If he doesn't, he'll lose more than just the game. He'll lose his best friend!
T  HI-B	<i>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key</i> Jack Gantos 9780064408332	To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, hyperactive Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts feeling wired. One mishap after another leads Joey first from his regular classroom to special education classes and then to a special education school. Finally, with medication, counseling, and positive reinforcement, Joey triumphs, in this comic, compassionate, and compelling tale.
T	<i>Larger-Than-Life-Lara</i> Dandi Daley Mackall 978-0525477266 (Hardcover)	Ten-year-old Laney Grafton recounts recent events surrounding Lara, a new girl in her class, who is morbidly obese. Through her narrative, Laney documents the miserable and numerous offenses that are perpetrated on Lara, and reveals her own experiences as the class scapegoat and outcast. Finally, the students' publicly mortify Lara, with an act so mean-spirited that the adults finally get involved (their absence and lack of leadership and guidance is a huge gap throughout this novel). The outcome is that Lara, rather than the perpetrators, has to leave the school. And, to the students' astonishment, Lara and her parents leave without saying goodbye. Realizing the serious effect their actions have had on Lara, and what it has revealed about their own lack of understanding and empathy, the children line the school driveway, holding signs of apology and well wishes as the car passes. This final scene fails to redeem the students' relentless intolerance of Lara up to that point, however. Bullying and prejudices are two other social issues explored in this book.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

### Forgiveness: Finding Good in People and Places

Level	Title/Author	Summary
	<i>Allison</i> A. Say 9780618495375	When Allison, who feels isolated, realizes that she looks more like her favorite doll than like her parents, she comes to terms with this unwelcomed discovery through the help of a stray cat.
	<i>Black Angels</i> R. Murphy 978-0440229346	During the summer of 1961, 11-year-old Celline discovers the existence of angels. "I believe in angels because I've seen them... three naked black girls with creamy white wings, throwing stones on my hopscotch board.... The angels come every day now since the trouble started." The "trouble" is that Celli's beloved housekeeper, Sophie, is stirring up the black community of Mystic, Georgia, with talk of the civil rights movement. Celli is frightened for Sophie, and knows the folks on her side of town--"the white side"--won't tolerate her activism much longer. But when Celli begins to see the small black angels around her home, she feels strangely comforted: "They never speak to me, but somehow their presence fills me with hope." Then a stranger with a secret about Celli's past comes to town the same week as the Freedom Riders, and Celli discovers her fate is tied to Sophie's in a way she never dreamed possible. Now Celli must find the courage, in a dangerous time and place, to stand up for what she knows is right.
	<i>Silver Balloon, The</i> Susan Bonners 9780374466473	One September evening, Gregory ties an index card with his name and address on it to the string of a silver helium balloon and lets it go from his window, into the city sky. Three weeks later, an envelope arrives in the mail. A farmer named Pete has found his balloon! Gregory writes back, and the two become pen pals, exchanging mystery gifts with each letter. Finally, Pete sends a gift that Gregory can identify only by a trip to the natural history museum, and the object turns out to be something truly amazing.
L	<i>Enemy Pie</i> (Picture Book) Derek Munson 9780811827782 (Hard Cover)	It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipes for turning your best enemy into your best friend. Accompanied by charming illustrations, <i>Enemy Pie</i> serves up a sweet lesson in the difficulties and ultimate rewards of making new friends.
M	<i>Pictures for Miss Josie</i> (Picture Book) S. Belton 9780688174804 (Hardcover)	Written to celebrate the life of Josephine Carroll Smith, a respected African-American educator, this fictionalized picture book tells the story of one of the many young black men to whom she opened her home and heart. The third-person narrative describes the experiences of a boy who travels to Washington, DC, for his first meeting with the woman who had welcomed his father into her home when he was a student. The child isn't sure that he wants to stay for the planned overnight visit; to him, she seems like a giant, tall, stern, and foreboding, but Miss Josie encourages his love of drawing, and the time passes quickly. As he grows up, attends college, marries, starts a family, and embarks on an artistic career, she is always there to play a supportive and nurturing role in his life. When it is time for his own son to meet Miss Josie, she is not so tall, but "in the ways that mattered, still the same."
N	<i>Freedom on the Menu</i> Carole B. Weatherford 9780142408940	There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie's town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else.
N	<i>Hard Times Jar, The</i> Ethel Footman Smothers 9780374328528 (Hardcover)	A look at the life of migrant workers through a child's eyes Emma Turner loves books and dreams of one day having the store-bought kind, but the Turners are migrant workers and money is tight. That means "no extras," so Emma must be content to make her own stories and books. Emma has a plan, though - she's going to save all the money she earns picking apples and put it in Mama's hard-times jar. Then there will surely be enough for extras. But when Mama tells Emma that this year she has to go to school instead of to work, it spoils everything. Now she will never own a store-bought book! But school turns out to have a wonderful surprise in store for Emma.
N	<i>Your Move</i> Eve Bunting 9780152001810 (Hardcover)	One night while their mom's at work, ten-year-old James and his six-year-old brother, Isaac, leave their house to meet the K-Bones, a group of guys who hang out and do cool stuff. James is ready to prove he's cool enough to be in with them, but he soon learns that the K-Bones are not just an innocent club--they're a gang that steals, tags freeway signs, and even plans to buy a gun. After a dangerous confrontation with a crew of older boys, James realizes that he's put Isaac in danger, and knows that if he finds the courage to walk away, Isaac will follow. Growing-up is another social issue explored in this book.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Forgiveness: Finding Good in People and Places)

O	<i>Doggy Dare</i> Ben Baglio 9780439051699	Joey, a new boy in class, is deaf. He wants a dog more than anything, but his mother won't allow it. When a stray dog keeps following Joey around, Mandy thinks the dog can be taught to help him. But can the stray be trained? Do Mandy and James dare to try? Prejudice and isolation are two social issues explored in this book.
O	<i>Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia</i> B. O'Connor 9780374400187	Will a spelling bee be the answer to all of Bird's problems? All her life, all Bird has ever wanted is to be noticed in her small town and to get to Disney World. As it turns out, Bird just might have a chance to realize at least one of her goals because of a state spelling bee, and she might get to make a friend along the way - a boy named Harlem Tate who has just moved to Freedom. Harlem seems like a kindred spirit - someone like Bird, whom people don't usually take the time to find the good in. (Unless it's someone like Miss Delphine, who always makes Bird feel special.) But as much as Bird tries to get his attention, Harlem is not easily won over. Then Harlem agrees to be her partner in the spelling bee, and if they study hard enough, the two might just win everything Bird's always wanted. Stereotypes and isolation are two social issues explored in this book.
P	<i>Felita</i> Nicholasa Mohr 9780141306438	In this vivid portrayal of a close-knit Hispanic community, Felita's parents promise she will love their new neighborhood. Only Abuelita, her grandmother, understands how much Felita will miss her old block, and her best friend Gigi. Nine-year-old Felita and her family encounter racial discrimination and mild violence when they move because they are from Puerto Rico. First published twenty years ago, Felita's compelling story has resonance for kids today. Isolation is a social issue explored in this book.
P	<i>Hundred Dresses, The</i> Eleanor Estes 9780152052607	A story about prejudice and understanding where a young girl comes to terms with the effects that the teasing of her friends has had on a shy classmate. Though Maddie feels increasingly uncomfortable with the way the other girls — led by her best friend, Peggy — joke with Wanda, she doesn't have the courage to do anything about it. Then one day Wanda stops coming to school. Maddie can't shake a bad feeling about Wanda's absence, but she pushes it aside, preferring instead to think about the drawing contest, which she is sure Peggy will win. Will Maddie side with the bully or will she make another choice as she learns more about who she really is?
Q	<i>J.T.</i> Jane Wagner 9780440442752	To the guys on the block, J.T. is the kid who stole the radio out of the red convertible before they could get to it. His neighbor, Mrs. Morris, declares him a first-class nuisance. His mother is bewildered — "He's just gone bad, that's all.... Stealin' and lyin' and I don't know what all." But all the sensitivity, responsibility, and care of which ten-year-old J.T. Gamble is capable emerges when he finds an old, one-eyed, badly hurt alley cat. J.T. takes on a new dimension as he lavishes all the love he is unable to express to people around him on the battered cat he has found in the junk-filled empty lot.
R	<i>Circle of Gold</i> Candy Dawson Boyd 978-0590407540	When Mattie's father was alive, everything seemed perfect. But her world changed when he died. Her mother is always angry and never smiles. Her twin brother seems quiet and withdrawn. And Mattie doesn't know what to do. She does know that Mother's Day is coming, and she desperately wants to buy her mom the perfect gift: a beautiful golden pin. But Mattie doesn't have the money for the pin, and her mother doesn't even want to celebrate. That's when Mattie decides to take matters into her own hands. That's when she decides that she'll do what it takes to bring her family together again.
R	<i>Stranded in Boringsville</i> Catherine Bateson 9780823421138	After her parents got divorced, twelve-year-old Rain, who has to have surgery to fix a heart problem, moves with her mother to the country, where she befriends the unpopular boy who lives next door and also seeks a way to cope with her feelings toward her father and his new girlfriend.
S	<i>Janitor's Boy</i> Andrew Clements 9780689835858	When Jack Rankin learns that he is going to spend the fifth grade in the old high school -- the building where his father works as a janitor -- he dreads the start of school. Jack manages to get through the first month without the kids catching on. Then comes the disastrous day when one of his classmates loses his lunch all over the floor. John the janitor is called in to clean up, and he does the unthinkable -- he turns to Jack with a big smile and says, "Hi, son." Jack performs an act of revenge and gets himself into a sticky situation. His punishment is to assist the janitor after school for three weeks. The work is tedious, not to mention humiliating. But there is one perk; janitors have access to keys, keys to secret places....
S	<i>My Name is Sally Little Song</i> Brenda Woods 978-0142409435	Sally Harrison and her family are slaves on a plantation in Georgia. But when Master decides to sell Sally and her brother, the family escapes to seek shelter with a tribe of Seminoles who are rumored to adopt runaway slaves. After a perilous journey, Sally's family finds and joins the tribe. But while her father and brother easily adjust to Indian ways, Sally can't seem to find her place. Combining the poetry of Sally's songs with the heart-racing tension of the family's escape, author Brenda Woods delivers a breathtaking story of a girl caught between worlds.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Forgiveness: Finding Good in People and Places)

S	<i>Permanent Rose</i> Hilary McKay 978-1416928041	Feisty Rose takes center stage as the highly original Casson family faces a long, hot summer. As usual, things are a bit chaotic. Eldest daughter Caddy is engaged to darling Michael, and she's not altogether sure she likes it. Saffy and Sarah are on a mission to find Saffy's biological father (while cultivating hearts of stone). Indigo is cautiously beginning a friendship with a reformed bully, who desperately wants to feel like part of the Casson family. Rose, while dreadfully missing Tom (whom none of them have heard from), enters into a life of petty crime, shoplifting small items until her misadventures nearly bring disaster. Through it all, Rose's single-minded determination to find Tom remains as fierce as it is hopeless. Or is it?
S	<i>Shaper</i> Jessie Haas 9780060001704 (Hardcover)	Chad blames his grandfather Jeep and his older sister, Julia, for the loss/death of his dog last fall. Now, as an empty summer yawns before him, Chad still isn't speaking to jeep, he avoids Julia, and he does his best to ignore the rest of the family, especially the new dog, Queenie. But on this quiet Vermont hillside there's no one but family, nothing to fill the long days ahead. Then a new neighbor, David Burton, moves in down the hill. David is a shaper, a dog trainer who shapes animals' behavior using positive reinforcement. He needs an assistant, and he offers Chad the job. David also has a daughter, Louise beautiful, feisty, a dancer-who's only a year older than Chad. Suddenly Chad's life, which had seemed simple if painful, is terribly, wonderfully, confusingly complicated....
T	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> Gennifer Choldenko 9780142403709	Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder.
T	<i>Any Small Goodness</i> Tony Johnston 9780439233842	A Hispanic family lives in L.A. Not the L.A. where there are fast cars, people who are too rich and too poor – this L.A. is a place where random acts of generosity and goodwill improve the lives of the community. Any Small Goodness is a novel filled with hope, love, and warmth. Stereotyping and family are two other issues explored in this book.
T	<i>Cousins</i> Virginia Hamilton 9780590454360	Being cousins doesn't mean you'll be friends.... Cammy loves her family -- except for her cousin Patty Ann. Though she knows she shouldn't feel this way, she can't help it. Patty Ann is too perfect to like, too perfect to be a friend. Then one day something terrible happens, something that can't be changed. That's when Cammy learns the truth about Patty Ann, and about family love -- and forgiveness.
T	<i>What Would Joey Do?</i> Jack Gantos 9780060544034	Hard to believe that Joey is the almost-normal one in this third and last installment in the chronicles of Joey Pigza. It's not just a funny story with nutty, divorced parents out of control, it's a poignant story of family, loss, lessons learned, and one boy's learning to make his way in the world with confidence and good cheer.
U	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> Christopher Paul Curtis 9780440413288	Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
V	<i>Autumn Street</i> Lois Lowry 9780440403449	When her father goes to fight in World War II, Elizabeth goes with her mother and sister to her grandfather's house where she learns to face up to the always puzzling and often cruel realities of the adult world.
V	<i>Birthday Room, The</i> Kevin Henkes 9780688167332	When twelve-year-old Ben visits his uncle in Oregon, he feels caught in the strained relationship between his mother and her brother while he also begins to accept himself as an artist.
V	<i>Chasing Redbird</i> Sharon Creech 9780064406963	Right from the start, Zinny knew that uncovering the trail would be more than just a summer project. It was her chance to finally make people notice her, and to have a place she could call her very own. But more than that, Zinny knew that the trail somehow held the key to all kinds of questions. And that -- the only way to understand her family, her Aunt Jessie's death, and herself, was to find out where it went. Isolation is another issue explored in this book.
V	<i>Locomotion</i> (Novel in Poetry Form) Jacqueline Woodson 9780142401491	In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.
V	<i>Where I'd Like to Be</i> Frances O'Roark Dowell 9780689870675	Twelve year old Maddie is a foster child who can't stop looking for a home. When Maddie shows a new girl her beloved scrapbook, she doesn't anticipate this one gesture will challenge her very idea of what home, and family, are all about.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Forgiveness: Finding Good in People and Places)

W	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780140384512	The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.
W	<i>Yankee Girl</i> M.A. Rodman 978-0312535766	When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, eleven-year-old Alice wants to be popular but also wants to reach out to the one black girl in her class in a newly-integrated school. It takes a horrible tragedy for her to realize the complete ramifications of following the crowd instead of her heart. This story also explores the issue of isolation.
X	<i>Dacey's Song</i> Cynthia Voigt 9780689863622	Letting Go The four Tillerman children finally have a home at their grandmother's rundown farm on the Maryland shore. It's what Dacey has dreamed of for her three younger siblings, but after watching over the others for so long, it's hard to let go.
X	<i>Feathers</i> Jacqueline Woodson 9780142411988	Nobody knows what to make of the new boy in Frannie's class. Not only does he look different, but he's kind to everyone, he refuses to fight, and he doesn't even seem to mind when the other kids nickname him Jesus Boy. But as winter progresses, Frannie realizes that she's starting to see a whole lot of things in a new light: her brother's deafness, her mother's fear, her friend Samantha's faith, their classmate Trevor's anger, and her own desire for hope—"the thing with feathers." And it's all because of Jesus Boy's differences . . . and his friendship. Bullying is another issue explored in this book.
X	<i>Out of the Dust</i> Karen Hesse 9780590371254	A poem cycle that reads as a novel, <i>Out of the Dust</i> tells the story of a girl named Billie Jo, who struggles to help her family survive the dust-bowl years of the Depression. Fighting against the elements on her Oklahoma farm, Billie Jo takes on even more responsibilities when her mother dies in a tragic accident. A testament to the American spirit, this novel is an instant classic. Homelessness is another social issue explored in this book.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

### Insights: Finding Resolutions to Problems through the Arts

Level	Title/Author	Summary
	<i>Color of My Words, The</i> Lynn Joseph 9780064472043	Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her -- watching her brother search for a future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community -- that Ana Rosa must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her -- and to transcend the most unthinkable of tragedies.
	<i>My Brother Bernadette</i> Jacqueline Wilson 978-0778709862	There are several issues intertwined in this chapter book—how to deal with bullies and teasing, stereotypes, and how to be true to yourself and your own strengths and desires. Bernard is not thrilled with the idea of going to summer camp. His sister is and she assures him that she will look out for him and help him have fun. Early on, Bernard tangles with the bully Big Dan and earns the hated nickname Burnadette. Eventually he finds a safe haven in the clothing design class. It seems that Bernard's grandmother has taught him some basics about sewing, and he has a flair for design. Pretty soon he creates a jacket, draws an admiring crowd and lets these kids know that his name is Bernard. The best part is Bernard's revenge on Big Dan when he designs the costumes for the end-of-camp play. It is sweet and kids will be happy to see that brains and skillful fingers can overcome the bully's brawn.
M	<i>Pictures for Miss Josie</i> (Picture Book) S. Belton 9780688174804 (Hardcover)	Written to celebrate the life of Josephine Carroll Smith, a respected African-American educator, this fictionalized picture book tells the story of one of the many young black men to whom she opened her home and heart. The third-person narrative describes the experiences of a boy who travels to Washington, DC, for his first meeting with the woman who had welcomed his father into her home when he was a student. The child isn't sure that he wants to stay for the planned overnight visit; to him, she seems like a giant, tall, stern, and foreboding, but Miss Josie encourages his love of drawing, and the time passes quickly. As he grows up, attends college, marries, starts a family, and embarks on an artistic career, she is always there to play a supportive and nurturing role in his life. When it is time for his own son to meet Miss Josie, she is not so tall, but "in the ways that mattered, still the same."
N	<i>Chalk Box Kid</i> Clyde Robert Bulla 9780394891026	When nine-year-old Gregory experiences several upsets in his life, he responds by creating a fantastic chalk garden on the charred walls of a burned-out factory behind his house. As his garden grows and flourishes, Gregory finds a voice through his art and, for the first time, is able to find his own place in the world. Isolation is a social issue explored in this book.
O	<i>Marisol</i> Gary Soto 9781584859727	Marisol Luna is a ten-year-old girl who loves to dance. Ballet <i>folklórico</i> (Mexican folkdance) is her favorite type of dance, but she also does jazz, ballet, and a little tap! She is very disappointed when her parents decide to move to the Chicago suburbs—away from their close-knit neighborhood and Marisol's school and dance classes. But Marisol realizes that no matter where she is, it is her passion to dance that will help her persevere in the midst of change. Marisol's story will appeal to all readers—especially those who love dance.
O	<i>Mouse Called Wolf, A</i> Dick King-Smith 9780375800665	Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse ("Wolf," for short) has a big name for such a little mouse. But the name fits. His favorite pastime is listening to Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house, play the piano. If only he could sing along to the music! One day, Wolf decides to try -- and to his surprise, out of his mouth comes a perfect melody. It's not long before Wolf is singing everything from "Three Blind Mice" to Chopin to the Beatles, all to Mrs. Honeybee's accompaniment. Then an accident leaves Mrs. Honeybee in danger, and it's up to Wolf to save her... the only way he knows how.
S	<i>Journey</i> Patricia MacLachlan 978-0440408093	When his mother walks out on 11-year-old Journey and his older sister, Cat, the boy refuses to believe she will not return. He listens to the constant clicking of the shutter as his grandfather takes possession of Cat's cast-aside camera, asserting that "sometimes pictures show us what is really there." Journey questions the value of this incessant picture-taking, yet pores through his grandmother's photo album, trying to patch together a fragmented past that is frustratingly out of focus. He hopes that the truth will be found in a box of family photos that his mother left in tiny scraps under her bed. Setting out to piece the pictures back together, Journey finally admits that this dream is as hopeless as his mother's return. It is his grandfather, on whom Journey has taken out much of his anger, who eventually answers the child's most troubling questions. The wise older man assures Journey that he is not to blame for his mama's departure, and shares a truth that is at the heart of the novel: although everything in life--from photographs to families--is not perfect, "things can be good enough."

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Insights: Finding Resolutions to Problems through the Arts)

U	<i>Drawing Lessons</i> Tracy Mack 9780439112031	Twelve-year-old Aurora is an artist like her father. Through a hundred drawing lessons he guided her hand, trained her eye, taught her how to mix colors and achieve perspective. Together they plan to paint a beautiful mural for Rory's mother... maybe showing a sunset, to make up for the ones Mom misses because she's at her job, supporting the family. But when Rory goes to show her father a sketch for the mural she finds him embracing his model. Outraged, she tries to hurt him by burning up her sketchbook, Soon after, he leaves, and Rory knows her anger drove him away.
U	<i>Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt, The</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064402651	Minna wishes for many things. She wishes she understood the quote taped above her mother's typewriter: <i>Fact and fiction are different truths</i> . She wishes her mother would stop writing long enough to really listen to her. She wishes her house were peaceful and orderly like her friend Lucas's. Most of all, she wishes she could find a vibrato on her cello and play Mozart the way he deserves to be played. Minna soon discovers that some things can't be found-they just have to <i>happen</i> . And as she waits for her vibrato to happen, Minna begins to understand some facts and fictions about herself.
U	<i>Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place, The</i> E.L. Konigsburg 9780689866371	For the last forty-five years, the Uncles have been building three giant towers in their backyard from scrap metal and shards of glass and porcelain. But now, bowing to pressures from some powerful home owners, the towers have been declared blight on the neighborhood. Even worse, the city council has voted to have them destroyed. Margaret Rose is outraged. She knows the towers for what they truly are: irreplaceable works of art. To Margaret, the towers sing. They sing of the joy of making something big and beautiful out of bits and pieces; of integrity; but perhaps most important of all, they sing of history. And Margaret Rose is determined to make sure they always will.
V	<i>Birthday Room, The</i> Kevin Henkes 9780688167332	When twelve-year-old Ben visits his uncle in Oregon, he feels caught in the strained relationship between his mother and her brother while he also begins to accept himself as an artist.
V	<i>Blue Willow</i> Doris Gates 9780140309249	This story chronicles the harsh life experienced by migrant workers in California's Central Valley. Janey Larkin, the young daughter of migrant workers, wishes only for a home, friends and the opportunity to go to school. As the family moves from place to place to earn a less than meager living, Janey and her family experience hardships that are common to itinerant farm laborers. Her most prized possession is a beautiful, blue-and-white Chinese Pagoda plate, with a blue willow design, given to her by her great-grandmother, and Janey's dream is to live in a house beside a willow tree, just like the one on her cherished plate. When her mother becomes ill, Janey contemplates making an incredibly big sacrifice for the welfare of her family. And to further complicate matters, Janey discovers the dishonest foreman is pocketing the family's hard-earned rent money.
V	<i>Locomotion</i> Jacqueline Woodson 9780142401491	In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.
V	<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i> Patricia Reilly Giff 9780440415787	Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She even runs away from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her. Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget.
V	<i>Search for Belle Prater</i> Ruth White 9780440421641	Belle Prater is missing. Since she inexplicably disappeared about a year ago, her son, Woodrow, has been living with his grandparents, next door to his cousin Gypsy. The two are best friends, joined by their adventurous sprits and shared love of stories and magic. One night they receive a puzzling phone call, which provides a clue that sends Gypsy and Woodrow on a mission to find Belle. Joining them is Cassie Caulborne, the new girl in school, who, like Woodrow and Gypsy, has experienced the loss of a parent. She is also endowed with a valuable gift--she knows things, things that happened in the past and reveal themselves to her in dreams. Their quest leads them out of their sheltered life in Coal Station, Virginia, and eventually back to Woodrow's home in Crooked Ridge. On the road they meet new people with their own stories to tell.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Insights: Finding Resolutions to Problems through the Arts)

V	<p><i>Yolanda's Genius</i>          (Please Note: Excerpt from this book used in TCRWP assessment Set 1.Level V)          Carol Fenner          9780689813276</p>	<p>Yolanda finds it easy to watch out for her little, first-grade brother, Andrew. But their mother, a legal professional and a widow, is concerned about crime and drugs in her children's Chicago school. She moves them all to a smaller and, she hopes, smaller town. Yolanda, at first, is scornful of her new town. And Andrew, who never talks much, is having trouble learning to read. What he loves to do is play on the old harmonica given to him as a baby by his father to teethe on and which he's kept blowing ever since. He can imitate any sound he hears, like bacon sizzling, or express any mood he feels, like the freshness of an early morning. Yolanda understands that that's the way he "talks." She is convinced Andrew is a true genius with a great musical gift. But no one else believes it—not her mother, nor Andrew's teachers, not even wonderful Aunt Tiny in Chicago. Yolanda sets out to open up adult eyes, a task whose strategies will call on far more than her physical toughness.</p>
W	<p><i>Indigo Star</i>          Hilary McKay          978-1416914037</p>	<p>It's back to school for the start of a new term. Indigo's returning after a bout of glandular fever and is dreading it. Rose is worrying about Indigo--and her new glasses. Saffy is busy dictating Rose's homework answers, while Caddy agonizes over ways to dump her current boyfriend. And their mother, Eve, is busy trying to dry her latest painting with a hairdryer. Some things never change. But this term Tom has joined Indigo's class. And that will make all the difference . . .</p>
W HI-B	<p><i>Nightjohn</i>          (Please Note: Excerpt from this book used in TCRWP assessment Set 1.Level W)          Gary Paulsen          978-0440219361</p>	<p>Set in the 1950's, Sarny, a female slave at the Waller plantation, first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there with a rope around his neck, his body covered in scars. He had escaped north to freedom, but he came back--came back to teach reading. Knowing that the penalty for reading is dismemberment Nightjohn still returned to slavery to teach others how to read. And twelve-year-old Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn</p>
Y HI-B	<p><i>Monument, The</i>          Gary Paulsen          9780440407829</p>	<p>It all begins when Rocky follows Mick Strum around town while he sketches its people, animals and graveyard. Mick has been commissioned by Rocky's Kansas town to create a memorial to their war dead. As Rocky learns to respect Mick and his talents, he helps her to develop her own artistic sensibilities. But the townspeople see things in Mick's drawings that they don't want to know or accept about themselves. Can Mick help them accept one monument that will be meaningful to everyone?</p>

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

### Overcoming Obstacles in Life

Level	Title/Author	Summary
	<i>Color of My Words, The</i> Lynn Joseph 9780064472043	Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her -- watching her brother search for a future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community -- that Ana Rosa must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her -- and to transcend the most unthinkable of tragedies.
	<i>Girls Rule!</i> Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 9780440419891	Summer is around the corner, and the rivalry between the Malloys and the Hatfords is heating up! The kids have two weeks to earn money for a fundraising contest sponsored by the local hospital. Those who collect \$20 or more for the new children's wing can choose to be in the annual Strawberry Festival Parade or get all the strawberry treats they can eat. There's only one place Caroline Malloy—wants to be: smack dab in the middle of the glamorous Strawberry Queen's float. But how will she earn the money in such a short time? Do the Hatford brothers have moneymaking secrets that they're not telling the girls? Isolation is another social issue explored in this book.
	<i>Stranger in the Mirror</i> Allen Say 9780395938836	One morning eight-year-old Martin looks in the mirror and sees a stranger. Overnight, he has changed. His parents take him to one doctor after another, only to be told that there is nothing wrong with their son. At school his teacher asks, "What have we here, trick or treat?" His classmates will not play with him. At home his family tries to treat him as if he were the same child. But things now are different. Martin has grown very old in the space of one day. His world will never be the same again. Prejudice and loss are two social issues explored in this book.
K	<i>Tight Times</i> (Picture Book) Barbara Hazen 9780140504422	A small boy, not allowed to have a dog because times are tight, finds a starving kitten in a trash can on the same day his father loses his job.
K	<i>Tight Times</i> (Picture Book) Barbara Hazen 9780140504422	A small boy, not allowed to have a dog because times are tight, finds a starving kitten in a trash can on the same day his father loses his job.
K	<i>Tight Times</i> (Picture Book) Barbara Hazen 9780140504422	A small boy, not allowed to have a dog because times are tight, finds a starving kitten in a trash can on the same day his father loses his job.
L	<i>Song Lee in Room 2B</i> Suzy Kline 9780141304083	Although Song Lee is very shy in some ways (she is terrified of speaking in front of the class), she brings a lot of her own flair to her second-grade classroom. For instance, when it's her turn to talk about a place she's traveled, she dresses as a cherry blossom tree — cleverly hiding her fear from the audience and bringing in a great image of her homeland, Korea. That's not all — when she realizes the class has no more living pets, Song Lee brings in her own salamander to share with her classmates. Later, when there's a fire drill, Song Lee makes sure to rescue her pet before leaving the building.
M	<i>Blue Ribbon Blues</i> Jerry Spinelli 978-0679887539	Although it is difficult, Tooter is trying to learn how to live her new life on a farm. To prove that she can be a good farmer, she decides to enter her goat in a contest, but everything gets messed up when her brother gets loose with a bucket of blue paint! Older children will like this book because it shows that hard works helps Tooter overcome all of the obstacles she faces to become not only a winner, but a hero on the farm.
M	<i>Lost Lake, The</i> (Picture Book) Allen Say 978-0395630365	A boy spends a lonely summer with his father, who is so engrossed in work he scarcely notices or talks to his son. Early one Saturday Dad wakes the boy with a surprise: they are going camping, in search of a special lake Dad had visited as a boy. When the Lost Lake is rediscovered, it is overrun with families camping and swimming; Dad is determined they will find another. Through a bleak rainstorm and dangerous bear country father and son press on, and the boy is happy to see Dad gradually become more animated and talkative. The father's dogged perseverance finally pays off: a brand-new special lake, all to themselves, to enjoy and remember.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Overcoming Obstacles in Life)

M	<i>Paint Brush Kid</i> Clyde Robert Bulla 9780679892823	Uncle Pancho, a Mexican-American, is about to lose his house! Gregory and his friends love Uncle Pancho. He isn't really anyone's uncle—he's their friend. When he begins to tell the story of his life, Gregory has an idea. He will paint the story of Uncle Pancho's Life . . . and maybe, just maybe, the painting will help save Uncle Pancho's house. There is a charming message of the power to make dreams come true through the arts in this heart-warming story.
N	<i>Safe at Home</i> Sharon Robinson 978-0439671989	Ten-year-old Elijah Breeze, aka Jumper, is having the hardest summer of his life. He's suffering from the loss of his father; his mother has moved them from the suburbs to New York City's Harlem area; and he has to spend the summer at baseball camp. Basketball is Jumper's game. He doesn't know anything about baseball, or city life, or how to keep going without his dad. Jumper struggles in his new life, but he's encouraged by the support of his coach and by his grandma's wisdom. He finds out it is possible to start over in a new place with new people . . . and still hold on to what's important from his past.
N	<i>Striped Ice Cream</i> Joan Lexau 978-0590457293	Becky is feeling miserable. It's almost her birthday, but this year no one seems to care. Becky knows her family is too poor to buy presents. But why do they keep whispering behind her back and leaving her out? Life was lonely for the youngest in the family when everyone else started working on a project without her. Brother Abe even tried to keep her out of her own home during the day — and playing baseball with Abe did not appeal to Becky. This is a story about a very real family — the ups and downs, the quarrels and making-ups, and it is a story of Becky's happy birthday.
O	<i>Anastasia Krupnik</i> Lois Lowry 9780440408529	To Anastasia Krupnik, being ten is very confusing. For one thing, she has this awful teacher who can't understand why Anastasia doesn't capitalize or punctuate her poems. Then, there's Washburn Cummings, a very interesting sixth-grade boy who doesn't even know she is alive. Even her parents have become difficult. They insist she visit her 92-year-old grandmother who can never remember Anastasia's name. On top of that, they're going to have a baby -- at their age! It's enough to make a kid want to do something terrible. Anastasia knows that if she didn't have her secret green notebook to write in, she would never make it to her eleventh birthday.
O	<i>Gloria's Way</i> Ann Cameron 9780142300237	Gloria has a confrontation with a loquacious parrot; helps Julian and Huey train their dog and cure him of his squirrel obsession; faces her fear of fractions; and learns that some promises shouldn't be kept, some bets aren't fair, and, most important, you can't put a measuring stick to friendship. Ann Cameron's stories about brothers Huey and Julian have captured the hearts of millions of readers, and Julian's best friend, Gloria, has joined them on every adventure. Now Gloria gets to have her own adventures, with Julian and Huey along for the ride! Gloria's stories are told separately, each as its own chapter.
O	<i>Grandmama's Pride</i> Becky Birtha 9780807530283	This picture book about what it was like for African-Americans in the segregated south is particularly well done. Before young Sarah Marie learns to read the notorious "whites only" signs, she is told that picnic lunches for trips south to visit Grandmama are better than lunch counter meals, that seats in the back of the bus are roomier, and that water coolers are off-limits because of germs. Sarah Marie's innocence is lost when she learns to read and discovers the truth. The lazy summer days of her childhood are effectively set against a dark undercurrent of prejudice. This is a moving story of one African-American family's struggle to maintain their dignity.
O	<i>Mailing May</i> (Picture Book) Michael Tunnell 9780064437240	Nowadays it's no big deal or a girl to travel seventy-five miles. But when Charlotte May Pierstorff wanted to cross seventy-five miles of Idaho mountains to see her grandma in 1914, it was a very big deal indeed. There was no highway except the railroad, and a train ticket would have cost her parents a full day's pay. Here is the true story of how May got to visit her grandma, thanks to her won spunk, her father's ingenuity, and the U.S. mail.
O	<i>Mister and Me</i> Kimberly W. Holt 9780613337137	Jolene's family was just Momma and Grandpa until big, loud Leroy Redfield started taking Momma dancing. Jolene refuses to call him anything but "Mister." Without a name, he isn't a real person to her. But then Jolene learns that Mister wants to marry Momma. It seems that even her most defiantly bad behavior cannot make him go away. Prejudice and change are two other social issues explored in this book.
P	<i>El Chino</i> (Picture Book) Allen Say 978-0395778753	A picture-book biography of the first Chinese matador. On his first vacation to Europe, Billy Wong saw a Spanish bullfight and, marveling at the athletic prowess of the matador, realized that even a man shorter than he might enter the sport. So he stayed in Spain and went to bullfighting school, but after two years passed without fighting a single cow, Billy realized that a Chinese matador might stand out in the crowd of aspiring bullfighters--as indeed he did. After his first success as El Chino --The Chinese--in his native costume, Billy received an offer to become a real matador.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

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P	<i>Zooman Sam</i> Lois Lowry 9780440416760	Four-year-old Sam Krupnik longs for recognition and a moment in the spotlight. Fortunately, he has an understanding and patient family so that when he decides to be a zookeeper for Future Job Day at his nursery school, his mother stitches up a uniform and his older sister, Anastasia, provides 30 hats, each with an animal's name on it (Cubs, Gaitors, Lions, etc.), donated by her friend's sportscaster father. Sam also has an understanding teacher who uses the boy's lengthy presentation to discuss one animal each day and to read an appropriate book. In the process of choosing his hat for each day and talking about the animals, Sam has learned to read, and impressing others doesn't matter that much any longer.
Q  HI-B	<i>Doing Time Online</i> Jan Siebold 978-0807516652	Mitchell called it a practical joke that backfired, but the police called it a prank and the punishment is to participate in the O.L.D. Friend program for juvenile offenders. Mitch comes to the police station every Tuesday and Thursday for a month to have a computer "chat" with a resident of the Maple Grove Nursing Home located in another part of the state. Mitch chats with Wootie who is old but not soft. Her feisty remarks and straight-shooting questions help to give Mitch the boost he needs, but he, in turn, helps Wootie with her troubles. It is a good, small story of an unlikely friendship between a twelve-year-old who is trying to make sense of making amends and an ailing woman who is trying to let go of her home to move into an assisted-living facility. The humor and the lack of sentimentality add to the appeal of the book. Secondary characters such as the single parent dad and the neighborhood bully are well developed.
R	<i>Family Under the Bridge</i> Natalie Savage Carlson 9780064402507	This is the delightfully warm and enjoyable story of an old Parisian named Armand, who relished his solitary life. Children, he said, were like starlings, and one was better off without them. But the homeless children who lived under the bridge recognized a true friend when they met one, even if the friend seemed a trifle unwilling at the start. And it did not take Armand very long to realize that he had gotten himself ready-made family; one that he loved with all his heart, and one for whom he would have to find a better home than the bridge. Armand and the children's adventures around Paris -- complete with gypsies and a Santa Claus -- make a story which children will treasure.
R	<i>Granny Torrelli Makes Soup</i> Sharon Creech 978-0439649315	A wise old Italian granny skillfully imparts life advice (and cooking lessons) to her winning but sometimes obstinate 12-year-old granddaughter, Rosie. She and her best friend, Bailey, don't always get along, that's true. But Granny Torrelli seems to know just how to make things right again with her interesting stories and family recipes. It's easier to remember what's important about love, life, and friendship while Granny Torrelli makes soup. Isolation and stereotype are two other social issues explored in this book.
S	<i>Gleam and Glow</i> (Picture Book) Eve Bunting 9780152053802	Based on a true story of a Bosnian family forced to flee their home during the recent civil strife, Bunting skillfully tells young readers about the horrors of war and the hope that can sometimes come after devastation and loss. She tells her readers the tale of a little girl who, before fleeing her home with her family, had to leave two little goldfish behind in their pond. When she comes back home, although the land is destroyed, the pond is brimming with shimmering goldfish. Complemented by expressive oil paintings by illustrator Peter Sylvada, <i>Gleam and Glow</i> is a poetic and important book when teaching about humanity and war.
S	<i>Journey to Jo'burg</i> Beverly Naidoo 9780064402378	Mma (mother in Tswana) lives and works in Johannesburg, far from the village thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother, Tiro, call home. When their baby sister suddenly becomes very sick, Naledi and Tiro know, deep down, that only one person can save her. Bravely, alone, they set off on a journey to find Mma and bring her back. It isn't until they reach the city that they come to understand the dangers of their country, and the painful struggle for freedom and dignity that is taking place all around them.
S	<i>Mick Harte was Here</i> Barbara Park 9780679882039	How could someone like Mick die? This is the hilarious kid who freaked his mom out by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, who did a wild solo dance in front of the whole school because the music got in his pants, and the kid who, if he'd only worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive now. Phoebe has great memories of her brother, but cannot see how her family will ever pick up the pieces and move on.
S	<i>Mississippi Bridge</i> Mildred D. Taylor 9780553159929	During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River. (Prejudice) A terrifying moment occurs that unites all the townspeople in a nightmare that will change their lives forever. Growing up is another social issue explored in this book.

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S  HI-B	<i>Outside Shot, The</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780440967842	When Lonnie Jackson leaves Harlem for a basketball scholarship to a Midwestern college, he know he must keep his head straight and his record clean. That's the only way he'll have a chance of making it to the pros someday. But his street smarts haven't prepared him for the pressures of tough classes, high-stakes college ball, and the temptation to fix games for local gamblers. Everyone plays by a whole new set of rules -- including Sherry, who's determined to be a track star. Her independence attracts Lonnie, but their on-again, off-again relationship is driving him crazy. Lonnie has one year to learn how to make it as a "college man." It's his outside shot at a bright future. Does he have what it takes?
S	<i>Permanent Rose</i> Hilary McKay 978-1416928041	Feisty Rose takes center stage as the highly original Casson family faces a long, hot summer. As usual, things are a bit chaotic. Eldest daughter Caddy is engaged to darling Michael, and she's not altogether sure she likes it. Saffy and Sarah are on a mission to find Saffy's biological father (while cultivating hearts of stone). Indigo is cautiously beginning a friendship with a reformed bully, who desperately wants to feel like part of the Casson family. Rose, while dreadfully missing Tom (whom none of them have heard from), enters into a life of petty crime, shoplifting small items until her misadventures nearly bring disaster. Through it all, Rose's single-minded determination to find Tom remains as fierce as it is hopeless. Or is it? McKay's cheeky, often irreverent tone in scenes about the Casson parents' marital tension and the father's infidelity may baffle some younger readers, and the crowded plot, like the Casson family itself, threatens to careen out of control.
S	<i>Secret Holes</i> Pansie Hart Flood 9780876149232 Hardcover	It's turning out to be quite a summer for ten-year-old Sylvia Freeman. Not only has she discovered that the father she thought was long dead is alive, but she's also learned that her best friend, one-hundred-year-old Miz Lula Maye, is her great-grandmother. But the biggest surprise is yet to come when Miz Lula Maye tells Sylvia about secret holes. Secret holes, Miz Lula Maye explains, were places where people used to keep money and important papers. They could be anywhere -- under a loose floorboard, behind a wall, or even inside a bedpost. While Sylvia helps her best friend uncover hiding places from long ago, she decides there is something she must do. But is Sylvia ready to face what she finds?
T	<i>Darby</i> J. Scott Fugua 978-0744590562	Darby Carmichael thinks her best friend is probably the smartest person she knows, even though, as Mama says, Evette's school uses worn-out books and crumbly chalk. Whenever they can, Darby and Evette shoot off into the woods beyond the farm to play fancy ladies and schoolteachers. One thing Darby has never dreamed of being - not until Evette suggests it - is a newspaper girl who writes down the truth for all to read. In no time, and with more than a little assistance from Evette, Darby and her column in the Bennettsville Times are famous in town and beyond. Darby writes about a motivated murder in an article urging whites to treat blacks as equals. But is Marlboro County, South Carolina, circa 1926, ready for the truth its youngest reporter has to tell? Friendship and prejudice are two social issues that are explored in this book.
T	<i>Double Dutch</i> Sharon Draper 9780689842313	Delia loves Double Dutch more than just about anything, and she's really good at it -- so good she and her teammates have a shot at winning the World Double Dutch Championships. Delia would die if she couldn't jump -- but Delia has a secret, and it could keep her off the team next year. Delia's friend Randy has a secret too, one that has him lonely and scared. And while Delia and Randy struggle to keep their secrets, their school is abuzz with rumors about what malicious mischief the terrible Tolliver twins -- who just may have a secret of their own -- are planning. Why can't life be as easy for Delia as Double Dutch?
T	<i>Going Home</i> Nicholasa Mohr 9780141306445	Felita's whole life seems to change the year that she turns twelve. Her mother begins to insist that her brothers go with her everywhere, and she's not allowed to hang out like she did last year. Nothing about growing up in a strict Hispanic household seems fair. Then Felita learns that one of her dreams will come true—she'll be spending the summer in Puerto Rico with her uncle Jorge. Even though she'll miss her family and her friends—especially Vinny—Felita knows she'll be happy.
T	<i>Money Hungry</i> Sharon Flake 9781423103868	All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about being homeless, living on the streets again. Raspberry eventually feels like things are looking up. But when their house is robbed and rich people protest against their living situation, Raspberry finds herself doing everything to hold things together. But even money can't answer the questions that keep Raspberry awake at night. Will she and Momma ever move out of the projects? What did Ja'nae do with the two hundred bucks Raspberry loaned her? And what's really going on with Momma and that rich doctor?
U	<i>Drawing Lessons</i> Tracy Mack 978-0439112031	Aurora is an artist, like her father. Through years of drawing lessons he taught her about light and color, perspective and form. "The great thing about art," Rory thinks, "is you can bring back something you've lost and keep it forever." But when her father leaves the family, it's Rory who is lost. In this exquisitely told story, a young girl must find her own way of creating, her own way of connecting, her own way of being.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Social Issues Book List

U	<i>Summer of Swans</i> Betsy Byars 9780140314205	This story features another independent, feisty girl, Catherine Kensey, aka Cat. Set in California during the Depression, Cat, 11, is the fastest runner in her school. Refusing to run in the Play Day Races because her father, a strict conservative, will not allow her to buy slacks, she believes her class will lose. It is the new boy, an Okie, who wins the race barefooted. He doesn't care what others think. Slowly Zane and Cat begin an uneasy friendship. She is appalled by the shanty town where his family lives but it is his sister, Sammy, 5, who affects Cat deeply and forces her to dramatic action. Cat learns how quickly people's economic status can change. Growing up and stereotyping are two other issues explored in this book.
V	<i>Blue Willow</i> Doris Gates 9780140309249	A little girl, who wants most of all to have a real home and to go to a regular school, hopes that the valley her family has come to, which so resembles the pattern on her treasured blue willow plate, will be their permanent home. Along with homelessness, isolation and stereotyping are two other issues explored in this book.
V  HI-B	<i>Gregor The Overlander</i> Suzanne Collins 9780439678131	When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and Gregor's arrival is no accident. A prophecy foretells that Gregor has a role to play in the Underland's uncertain future. Gregor wants no part of it -- until he realizes it's the only way to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance. Reluctantly, Gregor embarks on a dangerous adventure that will change both him and the Underland forever.
V	<i>Yolanda's Genius</i> (Please Note: Excerpt from this book used in TCRWP assessment Set 1.Level V) Carol Fenner 9780689813276	Yolanda is smart, tough, and big for her age. Back in Chicago where she used to live, everyone knew better than to mess with her or her little brother, Andrew. Andrew doesn't talk much and he can't read, but he can create unbelievable music on the old harmonica their father left him. When Yolanda reads the definition of "genius" in the dictionary, she knows it describes Andrew, and she's determined to convince the world, and especially their mother, of Andrew's gift. Then one day when Yolanda's back is turned, the unthinkable happens, and the music stops. Now Yolanda's mission is more important than ever. How can she open people's eyes to Andrew's talent and help him find the music again?
W	<i>Higher Power of Lucky, The</i> Susan Patron 9781416975571	Lucky, age ten, can't wait another day. The meanness gland in her heart and the crevices full of questions in her brain make running away from Hard Pan, California (population 43), the rock-bottom only choice she has. It's all Brigitte's fault -- for wanting to go back to France. Guardians are supposed to stay put and look after girls in their care! Instead Lucky is sure that she'll be abandoned to some orphanage in Los Angeles where her beloved dog, HMS Beagle, won't be allowed. She'll have to lose her friends Miles, who lives on cookies, and Lincoln, future U.S. president (maybe) and member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. Just as bad, she'll have to give up eavesdropping on twelve-step anonymous programs where the interesting talk is all about Higher Powers. Lucky needs her own -- and quick. But she hadn't planned on a dust storm. Or needing to lug the world's heaviest survival-kit backpack into the desert. (Note: The word 'scrotum' is used on the first page of this book and alcoholism is addressed.)
W	<i>Missing May</i> Cynthia Rylant 9780439613835	When May dies suddenly while gardening, Summer assumes she'll never see her beloved aunt again. But then Summer's Uncle Ob claims that May is on her way back — she has sent a sign from the spirit world. Summer isn't sure she believes in the spirit world, but her quirky classmate Cletus Underwood — who befriends Ob during his time of mourning — does. So at Cletus' suggestion, Ob and Summer (with Cletus in tow) set off in search of Miriam B. Young, Small Medium at Large, whom they hope will explain May's departure and confirm her possible return.
W	<i>Sister</i> Eloise Greenfield 9780064401999	Doretha is thirteen, black, and confused by her ambivalence about herself. . . . Leafing through her diary, Doretha remembers—and each memory of the past four years reveals something about her and about the people she has loved. The book is strong in perception, in its sensitivity, in its realism. Growing up is another issue explored in this book.
W	<i>Wish List, The</i> Eoin Colfer 9780439443364	Meg Finn is in a tough spot. Really tough. For her last act on Earth, she committed a crime - and lost her life as a result. Now Meg's spirit is stuck in limbo, due to a dead-even tally of good and evil deeds. Meg's only chance at salvation is to return to Earth and stack on a few more good deeds - namely, helping the old man whose apartment she was robbing during her last appearance. For better or worse, that man needs a lot of help. In fact, he has a whole list of wishes he wants to fill before he dies. And it's up to Meg to make those wishes come true - before her own time is up. Meg experiences change in this book.

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Y	<i>How I Survived Being a Girl</i> Wendelin Van Draanen 978-0060540739	Carolyn is a girl with strong opinions. On being a girl: 'stupid.' Wearing dresses: 'only when forced, and then with shorts underneath.' Summer nights: 'make you feel invincible.' Girls with Mary Janes: 'no use at all.' The boy next door: 'I do not have a crush on him!' The top bunk: 'for really great dreams.' She thought she knew how she felt about everything. But the summer before the sixth grade, though everything seemed the same, it all felt different. In this wonderfully funny first novel, Wendelin Van Draanen perfectly captures the emotional earthquakes of growing up and growing into oneself.
Z HI-B	<i>Miracle's Boys</i> Jacqueline Woodson 9780142406021	Lafayette would do anything to have things back the way they used to be—back before their parents died and back before his brother Charlie changed so much. But things have changed and all he can do now is ask why.... Why did Mama have to die? Why does Charlie hate him so much? And how are the three brothers—Miracle's boys—supposed to survive when so much seems to be stacked against them?
Z HI-B	<i>Monster</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780064407311	Steve Harmon: 16 years old and on trial for murder. His parents' hearts break as they watch the drama unfold from their seats in the back of the courtroom. Did Steve serve as the lookout when Bobo Evans and James King robbed the drugstore and then killed the store's owner in the commotion? Or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? Is he being framed by a couple of losers he used to call friends? In the tension-filled courtroom, reality begins to blur for Steve. How on earth did he get here? Is he a monster?
Z HI-B	<i>Scorpions</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780064470667	The Scorpions are a gun-toting Harlem gang, and Jamal Hicks is about to become tragically involved with them in this authentic tale of the sacrifice of innocence in the inner city. Pushed by the bully, Dwayne, to fight, and nagged by the principal, Mr. Davidson, Jamal is having a difficult time staying in school. His home life is not much better, with his mother working her fingers to the bone to try to earn the money for an appeal for Jamal's older brother, Randy, who is in jail. The leader of the Scorpions, Randy wants Jamal to take his place until he is free, but the other gang members, especially Angel and Indian, don't like the idea. Only Mack thinks Jamal should be the leader, and it is Mack who gets Jamal a gun. Jamal wants to do the right thing and earn the money to free his brother by working, but he is afraid to go against the Scorpions. He longs to get rid of the gun, but part of him just can't bring himself to do it. As things heat up within the gang, everything comes to a boil when Mack kills Angel and Indian is thrown in jail. Jamal eventually pulls free of the gang's bad influence, but only through the narrowest of escapes.

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**Fitting In: Living in a World of Differences**

Level	Title/Author	Summary
	<i>Bed and Breakfast Star, The</i> Jacqueline Wilson 978-0440867609	Elsa, who tells many jokes and believes she'll be a star one day, does her best to cheer her family up. But since they've become homeless and had to move into a bed and breakfast hotel, it seems no one laughs much any more.
L	<i>Harry's Got A Girlfriend</i> Ulli Schubert 978-0439101318	This book is about a boy named Harry who is happy when he gets invited to a birthday party. The problem is the party is for a girl and Harry's friends will never stop making fun of him if he actually goes! Younger children will like this book because it shows that it is always better to follow your heart and do what makes you happy without worrying about what other people think. In fact, as Harry learns, the people who are making fun of you may just be jealous!
M	<i>Judy Moody</i> Megan McDonald 978-0763612313	As summer sizzles to a stop, Judy Moody grudgingly prepares to start the third grade with her new teacher, Mr. Todd. For the first month of school, Judy must create a "ME" collage that will tell her new class all about herself. In between negotiating new friendships with boys, tolerating her younger brother, Stink, and stomping through her "roaring" bad moods, Judy learns that people aren't always what they seem and discovers many facets of her artistic and curious self. Older readers will readily identify with the moody third grader, who peppers her language with puns and no-nonsense observations of her family and friends. Students will be able to make connections to the situations Judy encounters throughout the story, such as making new friends and adjusting to a new grade. Supportive elements, such as whimsical illustrations and chapter titles, will allow students to make predictions about the story's events and assist them in making visualizations of the characters and actions of the story. Finally, older readers will be challenged and delighted by the vivid language, such as metaphors and similes, that the author uses throughout her story, such as these following two examples: "Stink waddled into the family room wrapped in a red and white striped tablecloth, looking like he just got hit by a flying picnic" and "She felt like a bike left out in the rain."
M HI-B	<i>Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?</i> Louis Sacher 9780679819479	The bully starts the rumor that Marvin Redpost is the biggest nose-picker in the school. Clarence started it, and now everyone is acting as if it's true. Even Marvin's best friends don't want to be seen with him. It's unfair! But <i>what</i> can Marvin do about it?
N HI-B	<i>Andy and Tamica</i> David Adler 9780152054465	Andy Russell's misadventures continue when his gerbils escape once again, this time at the school carnival. And Stacy Ann Jackson, the teacher's pet, isn't making life any easier for him. Meanwhile, Andy's friend Tamika is preparing to move in with the Russells. And Andy will do anything to find out if he is going to have a baby brother or a baby sister. As he tries to sort through these dilemmas, Andy makes a surprising new friend and discovers what being a family really means. Cultural diversity and friendship are two other social issues explored in this book.
N	<i>Bravo, Maurice!</i> Rebecca Bond 978-0316105453 (Hardcover)	Everyone in the family thinks Maurice will be this way or that when he grows up. However, Maurice begins to grow and his family soon discovers that he has a special gift of his own. Themes of home and hearth are in this tale of intergenerational family love, individuality and the gifts that make each one of us unique.
N	<i>Chalk Box Kid</i> Clyde Robert Bulla 9780394891026	As the story opens, Gregory's father has lost his factory job, and the family is moving to a smaller house in a poorer part of town. At first, Gregory feels lost. The kids at his new school don't readily accept him, he has to share a bedroom with his 22-year-old uncle, and the new house doesn't have a yard where he can play. Then Gregory discovers the chalk factory — an old, burnt-out building nearby. Gregory goes exploring, and as he does, he finds plenty of chalk in the debris. With it he begins to draw flowers on the factory's blackened walls. As his garden grows and flourishes, Gregory finds a voice through his art, and his spirits begin to soar. Through a series of related events, his life and that of his family turns around, and Gregory, for the first time, finds his own place in the world.

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## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Fitting In: Living in a World of Differences)

N	<i>How to be Cool in Third Grade</i> Betsey Duffey 9780141304663	Robbie is old enough to know that surviving school depends on one very important thing: knowing what's cool. But <i>what is cool in the third grade?</i> he asks himself. He's got some ideas. Cool is a grown-up name like "Rob" instead of "Robbie." Cool is walking to the bus stop by yourself, and not having your mother there with a camera and a kiss goodbye. Cool is jeans and a t-shirt — and definitely not Super Heroes underwear. Robbie knows he has work to do in the cool department, but he's forgotten about one thing: Bo Haney, the school bully. Bo is big, and he's been in the third grade for a long, long time. More importantly, when he gives a nickname, it sticks. And all it takes is one lurch of the school bus to land Robbie right in Bo's lap, and land him the nickname "Baby Wobbie." Now Robbie is convinced he's in for the worst year ever. But third grade can be full of surprises, as he finds out, not the least of which is his own resourcefulness. Young readers will cheer Robbie's ultimate success in this gentle, realistic chapter book.
N	<i>Key Collection, The</i> Andrea Cheng 978-0805071535 (Hardcover)	Jimmy is lucky to have his father's mother living next door. However, his aunt Helen lives in San Francisco and wants her mother to come live with her. Helen is a doctor, and as Ni Ni's health deteriorates, this begins to seem like a good idea to the adults. As she is about to leave, Jimmy realizes how much he is losing. As he plays with her key collection, he gradually sorts through his unhappiness. Dividing the keys into families, he begins to see how he and Ni Ni are connected to others. As she recounts familiar family stories, the connections deepen. Eventually Jimmy is able to accept his grandmother's departure, and as new people move into the house and new keys are found, he finds his way forward. This is a quiet story with a strong heart and a clear picture of the way kids cope. The essential references to Chinese culture are conveyed with skill and clarity.
N  HI-B	<i>Maniac Monkeys on Magnolia Street</i> Angela Johnson 978-0375802089	Welcome to Magnolia Street, where Charlie has just moved into her new home. It isn't long before Charlie's exploring, meeting all of her new neighbors, and getting herself into trouble. Her adventures with her bound-to-be best friend Billy--tricking Charlie's older brother, making a racket on a bus trip to the museum, or digging up a box of buried treasure--make even ordinary exciting. This collection of interrelated short stories is a true delight, perfect for newly emerging independent readers. Both girls and boys will cheer for this spunky girl as she takes on Magnolia Street and blossoms day by day.
N	<i>Meet Danitra Brown</i> Nikki Grimes 9780688154714	In a series of poems, an African American girl sings the praises of her best friend and their special relationship. According to Zuri, the speaker here, Danitra is "the most splendid girl in town." Zuri respects Danitra's quirks (she wears only purple clothing) and admires her ability to walk away from boys who taunt her about her glasses. Zuri is, moreover, grateful that "Danitra knows just what to say to make me glad." Grimes's poetry has a very deliberate rhyme scheme, but it also smoothly describes a number of vignettes and links them with consistent themes and characterizations. Issues of race, feminism and family structure are delicately incorporated, and successfully build an emotional connection for the reader.
N	<i>Song Lee and the I Hate You Notes</i> Suzy Kline 9780141303031	When Song Lee-the nicest person in Room 2B-starts getting nasty notes, everyone is shocked. Then Song Lee comes up with a creative way to teach the note sender a lesson he or she won't soon forget.
O	<i>Gloria's Way</i> Ann Cameron 9780142300237	In six spirited stories, Gloria has a confrontation with a loquacious parrot; helps Julian and Huey train their dog and cure him of his squirrel obsession; faces her fear of fractions; and learns that some promises shouldn't be kept, some bets aren't fair, and, most important, you can't put a measuring stick to friendship. Ann Cameron's stories about brothers Huey and Julian have captured the hearts of millions of readers, and Julian's best friend, Gloria, has joined them on every adventure. Now Gloria gets to have her own adventures, with Julian and Huey along for the ride!
O	<i>Marisol</i> Gary Soto 9781584859727	Marisol Luna is a ten-year-old girl who loves to dance. Ballet <i>folklórico</i> (Mexican folkdance) is her favorite type of dance, but she also does jazz, ballet, and a little tap! She is very disappointed when her parents decide to move to the Chicago suburbs—away from their close-knit neighborhood and Marisol's school and dance classes. But Marisol realizes that no matter where she is, it is her passion to dance that will help her persevere in the midst of change. Marisol's story will appeal to all readers—especially those who love dance.
O	<i>Mouse Called Wolf, A</i> Dick King-Smith 9780375800665	Wolf has a big name for such a little mouse. But the name fits. His favorite pastime is listening to Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house, play the piano. If only he could sing along to the music! One day, Wolf decides to try -- and to his surprise, out of his mouth comes a perfect melody. Then an accident leaves Mrs. Honeybee in danger, and it's up to Wolf to save her... the only way he knows how.

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## Social Issues Book List

(Continued - Fitting In: Living in a World of Differences)

O	<i>Shimmershine Queens, The</i> Camille Yabrough 9780698113695	Angie and Michelle are best friends, facing the very real problems of growing up in a tough inner-city neighborhood where it's sometimes not considered "cool," or even safe, to be smart or to have kinky hair and dark skin. That is until 90-year-old Cousin Seatta comes to visit and teaches Angie and Michelle about the shimmershine feeling, that good feeling and pride which people have for their racial heritage and physical features.
O	<i>Tea With Milk</i> (Picture Book) Allen Say 9780547237473	After growing up near San Francisco, a young Japanese woman returns with her parents to their native Japan, but she feels foreign and out of place. This story also explores the issue of understanding self and others.
P	<i>Creativity</i> John Steptoe 978-0340749234	When a boy named Hector joins Charles's class, Charles finds the new boy's dark skin and straight hair confusing. How can Hector speak Spanish, be Puerto Rican, and have the same skin color as Charles, who is African American? This confusion sparks discussion about shared heritage and language. Cultural diversity and friendship are two social issues explored in this book.
P	<i>Hundred Dresses, The</i> Eleanor Estes 9780152052607	In this book, Wanda Petronski wears the same blue dress to school everyday but tells all of the other girls that she has a hundred more at home. Although the other girls, one being a bully, don't believe her and laugh at her, she insists that she has a hundred dresses lined up in her closet until the day that she leaves the school. Older children will enjoy reading this book because it proves that your name or what you wear doesn't make you who you are. In fact, the girl with the foreign name who only wears one dress has hundreds of dreams and a very big heart.
P	<i>Quail Club, The</i> Caroline Marsden 9780763634223	Oy lives in America now, but she loves to go to the back room of Pak's auto shop on Saturdays to learn traditional Thai dances. She loves it almost as much as being a member of the Quail Club - five friends who gather after school to hatch and care for baby quail. When the teacher announces a talent show, Oy knows how proud her family and Pak would be to see her step onstage in her beautiful gold-threaded dress from Thailand. But bossy Liliandra vows to kick her out of the Quail Club if she won't team up for a very different kind of dance. Someone will be disappointed. But who?
W	<i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Philbrick 9780439286060	Meet learning disabled Maxwell Kane, narrator of <i>Freak the Mighty</i> . He's a timid soul stuck in the body of a teenage giant with size 14 shoes. Haunted by a dark secret in his past, he hides out in his basement room, avoiding the world. But when a new kid who's birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind moves in next door Max's life changes forever. The two outcasts form the 'normal' world team up to become "Freak the Mighty." Like knights of old they defend the weak, right every wrong—and solve the mystery of Max's past. Proving once and for all that courage comes in all sizes.
X	<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i> Katherine Paterson 9780064403689	"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated . . ." With her grandmother's taunt, Louise knew that she, like the biblical Esau, was the despised elder twin. Caroline, her selfish younger sister, was the one everyone loved. Growing up on a tiny Chesapeake Bay island in the early 1940s, angry Louise reveals how Caroline robbed her of everything: her hopes for schooling, her friends, her mother, even her name. While everyone pampered Caroline, Wheeze (her sister's name for her) began to learn the ways of the watermen and the secrets of the island, especially of old Captain Wallace, who had mysteriously returned after fifty years. The war unexpectedly gave this independent girl a chance to fulfill her childish dream to work as a watermen alongside her father. But the dream did not satisfy the woman she was becoming. Alone and unsure, Louise began to fight her way to a place where Caroline could not reach.

# Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

## Social Issues Book List

### Perceptions: The Way Others View Us Can Affect the Way We View Ourselves

Level	Title/Author	Summary
	<i>Invincible</i> Sally Rosenberg Romansky 9780972372947	Two princesses rise to physical and emotional challenges in this inspiring fantasy. Hedged round by their overly protective parents, Lena and Meg chafe at their isolated life in the castle. Feisty Lena yearns to explore even while a disability keeps her bound to her wheelchair. When a new manager, Marcus, takes over the stables, Lena learns of his disabled sister, who found physical freedom in horseback riding. Long a horse lover, Lena is determined to learn to ride and the girls solicit Marcus's help. Even when Lena almost drowns while visiting a magical pool, the girls continue to work to realize their dream: to create a place where children, no matter their physical challenges, might learn to ride, like Lena, and express themselves creatively, like Meg. A section on therapeutic riding acquaints young readers with this amazing therapeutic program, "a fun way to exercise both body and mind."
Q	<i>J.T.</i> Jane Wagner 9780440442752	To the guys on the block, J.T. is the kid who stole the radio out of the red convertible before they could get to it. His neighbor, Mrs. Morris, declares him a first-class nuisance. His mother is bewildered — "He's just gone bad, that's all.... Stealin' and lyin' and I don't know what all." But all the sensitivity, responsibility, and care of which ten-year-old J.T. Gamble is capable emerges when he finds an old, one-eyed, badly hurt alley cat. J.T. takes on a new dimension as he lavishes all the love he is unable to express to people around him on the battered cat he has found in the junk-filled empty lot.
S	<i>Cartoonist, The</i> Betsy Byers 978-0140323092	Threatened with the loss of his private place in the attic of his crowded and what some would call dysfunctional home, a young, artistic boy determines to keep it at all costs.
S	<i>Donuthead</i> Sue Stauffacher 9780440419341	Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is. This is a hilarious and touching novel featuring a neurotic, scared boy and a tougher-than-nails girl who each help the other in more ways than they can imagine.
S	<i>Eagle Song</i> Joseph Bruchac 9780141301693	4 <sup>th</sup> grader Danny Bigtree is having trouble adjusting to his big-city school — he's homesick for the Mohawk reservation where his family used to live, and he wishes he could make a friend. The kids in his class, from a variety of backgrounds themselves, tease him about what they perceive to be his roots. Danny has learned from experience not to correct them. At home, the usual stereotypes are turned upside-down. Whenever Danny's dad puts on his Hollywood Indian voice, Danny knows a joke is coming, and the whole family shares in the laughter. Danny longs for the warmth of his home life to dispel the loneliness of his Brooklyn school, and so his father agrees to help, coming to Danny's class to tell the legend of the great leader, Aionwahta, and his song of peace. While the visit makes a difference, Danny realizes that the most important step toward finding friendship is still to come. A short glossary and pronunciation guide at the back of the book helps with the Mohawk words used within the story, and makes this ideal supplementary reading for units on Native American cultures.
S	<i>Gift Giver, The</i> Joyce Hansen 9780618611232	Amir, a gentle loner, is the new boy on the block. Doris is amazed that he doesn't seem to care about doing what everyone else does. As Doris and Amir become friends, he helps her to grow in self-confidence and in her understanding of others. When her father loses his job, it is Amir's influence that enables Doris to plan an active role in keeping her family together—even though it means growing apart from her friends. This sensitive portrayal of a young girl's coming of age offers a positive perspective on life in an inner-city neighborhood and shows that a ghetto is a place where people hope, grow and care.
S	<i>Gleam and Glow</i> (Picture Book) Eve Bunting 9780152053802	Based on a true story of a Bosnian family forced to flee their home during the recent civil strife, Bunting skillfully tells young readers about the horrors of war and the hope that can sometimes come after devastation and loss. She tells her readers the tale of a little girl who, before fleeing her home with her family, had to leave two little goldfish behind in their pond. When she comes back home, although the land is destroyed, the pond is brimming with shimmering goldfish. Complemented by expressive oil paintings by illustrator Peter Sylvada, <i>Gleam and Glow</i> is a poetic and important book when teaching about humanity and war.
S	<i>Journey to Jo'burg</i> Beverly Nadiou 9780064402378	Mma (mother in Tswana) lives and works in Johannesburg, far from the village thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother, Tiro, call home. When their baby sister suddenly becomes very sick, Naledi and Tiro know, deep down, that only one person can save her. Bravely, alone, they set off on a journey to find Mma and bring her back. It isn't until they reach the city that they come to understand the dangers of their country, and the painful struggle for freedom and dignity that is taking place all around them.
S	<i>Me, Mop, and the Moon Dance Kid</i> Walter Dean Myer 9780440403968	Although adoption has taken them out of the New Jersey institution where they grew up, eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Moondance remain involved with their friend Mop's relentless attempts to become adopted herself and to wreak revenge on their baseball rivals the obnoxious Eagles. Values, character, cultural diversity and sports are other topics which are explored in this book.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Social Issues Book List

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S	<i>Project Mulberry</i> Linda Sue Park 9780440421634	Seventh-graders Julia and Patrick are fast friends who do almost everything together. After joining a new club they are determined to come up with an outstanding project that will enable them to win at least one blue ribbon at the state fair. Usually they have good ideas and work well together. But this time they face several hurdles and cannot seem to agree on a plan. Julia's mother's idea of raising silkworms is enthusiastically accepted by Patrick. Julia thinks it reflects only her Korean heritage and is not "American" enough. When Mr. Maxwell, their advisor, approves the concept, Julia reluctantly goes along even though she secretly keeps putting obstacles in the way of success. Soon Julia gets totally caught up in the project. Along the way she and Patrick learn a great deal about silkworms, friendship, patience and tolerance. A unique addition to the novel is conversation between the author and Julia. Prejudice is another social issue that is explored in this book.
T	<i>Any Small Goodness</i> Tony Johnston 9780439233842	A Hispanic family lives in L.A. Not the L.A. where there are fast cars, people who are too rich and too poor – this L.A. is a place where random acts of generosity and goodwill improve the lives of the community. Any Small Goodness is a novel filled with hope, love, and warmth. Stereotyping and family are two other issues explored in this book.
T	<i>Blubber</i> Judy Blume 9780440407072	"Blubber is a good name for her," the note from Wendy says about Linda. Jill crumples it up and leaves it on the corner of her desk. She doesn't want to think about Linda or her dumb report on the whale just now. Jill wants to think about Halloween. But Robby grabs the note, and before Linda stops talking it has gone halfway around the room. That's where it all starts. There's something about Linda that makes a lot of kids in her fifth-grade class want to see how far they can go -- but nobody, least of all Jill, expects the fun to end where it does as she becomes the target.
T	<i>Larger-Than-Life-Lara</i> Dandi Daley Mackall 978-0525477266 (Hardcover)	Ten-year-old Laney Grafton recounts recent events surrounding Lara, a new girl in her class, who is morbidly obese. Through her narrative, Laney documents the miserable and numerous offenses that are perpetrated on Lara, and reveals her own experiences as the class scapegoat and outcast. Finally, the students' publicly mortify Lara, with an act so mean-spirited that the adults finally get involved (their absence and lack of leadership and guidance is a huge gap throughout this novel). The outcome is that Lara, rather than the perpetrators, has to leave the school. And, to the students' astonishment, Lara and her parents leave without saying goodbye. Realizing the serious effect their actions have had on Lara, and what it has revealed about their own lack of understanding and empathy, the children line the school driveway, holding signs of apology and well wishes as the car passes. This final scene fails to redeem the students' relentless intolerance of Lara up to that point, however. Bullying and prejudices are two other social issues explored in this book.
T	<i>My Louisiana Sky</i> Kimberly Willis Holt 978-0440415701	Twelve-year-old Tiger Ann Parker desperately wants to escape from her rural town of Saitter, Louisiana -- and the struggles of living with a mentally disabled mother, a "slow" father, and classmates who taunt her, even though she tried to fit in. But before she leaves to spend the summer with her aunt in Baton Rouge, the sudden revelation of a dark family secret prompts Tiger to make a decision that will ultimately change her life. Set in the South in the late 1950s, this compelling coming-of-age novel is filled with beautiful language, unforgettable characters, and the importance of family and home.
T	<i>Notes from a Liar and Her Dog</i> Gennifer Choldenko 9780142500682	How could Ant MacPherson possibly tell her parents the truth all of the time? They never understand anything! The only person in her family Ant admits to being related to is her little dog, Pistachio. She writes notes in her journal to her "real mom" and tells people at school that she's adopted. But when a concerned teacher sees the truth about Ant and her lies, it seems that Ant may be in for a big change. . .
T	<i>Year of no Rain</i> Alice Mead 978-0440420040	In the dry spring of 1999, eleven-year-old Stephen Majok watches as his friend Wol joins a circle of dancers. Wol is celebrating - only fourteen, he is engaged to Stephen's sister. Wol wants to marry because he might join the guerrillas in southern Sudan and fight the northern government soldiers. He wants a wife to remember him. Stephen thinks Wol is crazy. Children should study. But because of the civil war, there has been no school in their village for over a year. All Stephen has left from his student days is his books and one precious pencil, and the hunger for knowledge. Then, suddenly - but not unexpectedly - exploding bombs are heard in the tiny village. Stephen's mother tells him to hurry, pack his bag, and hide beyond the forest with Wol and their friend Deng. Stephen grabs his geography book, his pencil, and little else. He does not want to leave his mother and sister. He does not want to leave the life he loves. Cultural diversity and friendship are two social issues also explored in this book.
U	<i>Every Soul a Star</i> Wendy Mass 9780316002561 (Hardcover)	Three middle schoolers are brought together at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground where thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. Told from these three perspectives, Wendy Mass weaves an intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together under different circumstances and establishing unlikely friendships. With breathtaking descriptions of nature and its ultimate phenomenon, the eclipse, Every Soul a Star is a powerful and humorous story about dealing with change and discovering one's place in the universe.

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U	<i>If A Tree Falls At Lunch Period</i> Gennifer Choldenko 978-0152066444	Kirsten's parents are barely speaking to each other, and her best friend has fallen under the spell of the school's queen bee, Brianna. It seems like only Kirsten's younger science-geek sister is on her side. Walker's goal is to survive at the new white private school his mom has sent him to because she thinks he's going to screw up like his cousin. But he's a good kid. So is his friend Matteo, though no one knows why he'll do absolutely anything that hot blond Brianna asks of him. But all of this feels almost trivial when Kirsten and Walker discover a secret that shakes them both to the core.
V	<i>Pictures of Holice Wood</i> Patricia Reilly Giff 978-0440415787	Artistically talented Hollis Woods was an infant when she was abandoned and for 12 years she has been transferred from one foster home to another. To the social agency, she is a "mountain of trouble" because she skips school and runs away, even from the Regans, a family willing to give her a real home. When she is placed with Josie, an elderly artist who is becoming very forgetful, Hollis begins to feel needed and doesn't ever want to leave this eccentric old woman who knows a lot about friendship and love. Fearful that the social agency will take her from Josie, Hollis plans a winter escape. This time she takes Josie with her and returns to Branches, the summer home that belongs to the Regans. All along, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, and records every special moment with them in a gallery of pictures.
X	<i>Bluish</i> Virginia Hamilton 9780439367868	Friendship isn't always easy. Natalie is different from the other girls in Dreenie's fifth-grade class. She comes to school in a wheelchair, always wearing a knitted hat. The kids call her "Bluish" because her skin is tinted blue from chemotherapy. Dreenie is fascinated by Bluish -- and a little scared of her, too. She watches Bluish and writes her observations in her journal. Slowly, the two girls become good friends. But Dreenie still struggles with Bluish's illness. Bluish is weak and frail, but she also wants to be independent and respected. How do you act around a girl like that?
Y	<i>Milkweed</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780440420057	He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Runt. Happy. Fast. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.
Y	<i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i> Kimberly Willis Holt 9780440229049	Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much until this summer that's full of big changes. It's tough for Toby when his mother leaves home to be a country singer. Toby takes it hard when his best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. Now their sleepy town is about to get a jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life.