



# Children's Literature Connections to the Illinois Social Science Standards

## Kindergarten Theme: My Social World

This packet provides a list of potential children's books that may assist teachers with connections to the Illinois Social Science Standards. The Illinois Social Science Standards referred to in this document fall into two complementary categories: inquiry skills and disciplinary concepts. The categories are expected to be used simultaneously. The inquiry skills found within the inquiry standards, involve questioning, investigating, reasoning, and responsible action. These inquiry skills are to be used when learning about the disciplinary concepts of civics, economics, geography and history.

Included are the following:

1. Grade Level Social Science Standards
2. Books to assist with the Inquiry Standard of taking informed action.
3. Books to assist with the Civics Standards
4. Books to assist with the Geography Standards
5. Books to assist with the Economics Standards
6. Books to assist with the History Standards

**These books listed can be a great resource when teaching the Illinois Social Science Standards. Of course, just reading a book does not teach a standard. However, they can be used to reinforce the learning standard by:**

- **introducing a lesson, unit or concept**
- **supplementing a lesson or unit**
- **providing additional information for specific topics/standards**



*It is books that are the key to the wide world; if you can't do anything else, read all that you can. —Jane Hamilton*

## Illinois Kindergarten Social Science Standards

### Inquiry Skills

#### Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries

Constructing Essential Questions:

SS.IS.1.K.-2: Create questions to help guide inquiry about a topic with guidance from adults and/or peers.

Determining Helpful Sources:

SS.IS.2.K-2: Explore facts from various sources that can be used to answer the developed questions.

#### Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence

Gathering and Evaluating Sources:

SS.IS.3.K-2: Gather information from one or two sources with guidance and support from adults and/or peers

Developing Claims and Using Evidence:

SS.IS.4.K-2: Evaluate a source by distinguishing between fact and opinion

#### Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action

Communicating Conclusions:

SS.IS.5.K-2: Ask and answer questions about arguments and explanations.

Taking Informed Action:

SS.IS.6.K-2: Use listening, consensus building, and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classroom.

### Civics Standards

Civic and Political Institutions

SS.CV.1.K: Describe roles and responsibilities of people in authority.

Processes, Rules, and Laws

SS.CV.2.K: Explain the need for and purposes of rules in various settings, inside and outside of the school.

### Geography Standards

Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture

SS.G.1.K: Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people's lives.

Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements

SS.G.2.K: Identify and explain how people and goods move from place to place.

### Economics and Financial Literacy Standards

Economic Decision Making

SS.EC.1.K: Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. because we cannot have everything that we want).

### History Standards

Change, Continuity, and Context

SS.H.1.K: Compare life in the past with life today

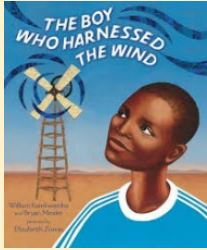
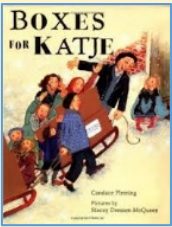
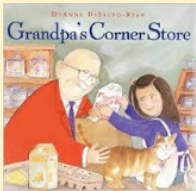
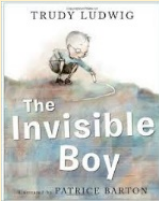
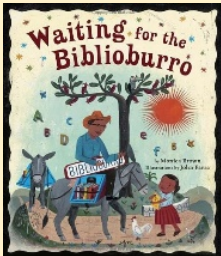
Perspectives

SS.H.2.K: Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them

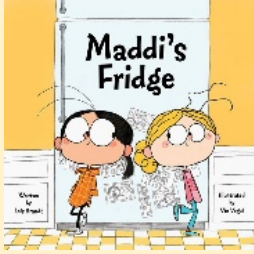
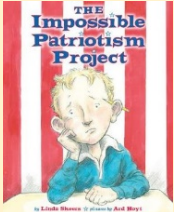
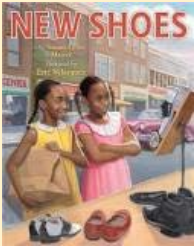
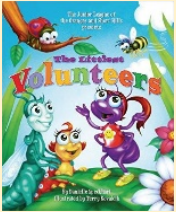
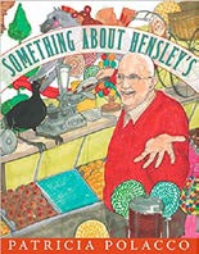
# Children's Book List

## GRADES K-2: INQUIRY STANDARD #6

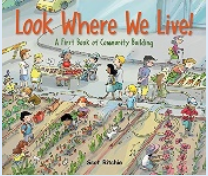


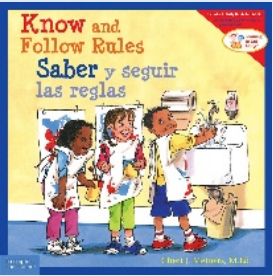
The following books address standard #6 of the Inquiry Standards for Kindergarten by providing students examples of how they can take informed action.

Books	Description	Standards Connection
	<p><b><i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i></b> by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer</p> <p>When a young boy in Malawi realizes his village is starving, he takes action, teaching himself to make a wind turbine out of trash. That wind turbine powers electricity for his home, and later inspires a turbine strong enough to pump water and bring needed water to the fields</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>Boxes for Katje</i></b> by Candace Fleming</p> <p>A family in America sends hard-to-find items to a family in Holland. When two young girls write letters across the ocean, the American girl realizes how much children in Holland are in need. She organizes people in her community to send needed items in care packages.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>Grandpa's Corner Store</i></b> by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan</p> <p>Lucy's Grandpa's store might not make it when the big grocery store comes to town. But Lucy organizes her neighbors and helps to spruce up Grandpa's store. Her action helps him stay in business and raises awareness in the community.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Invisible Boy</i></b> by Trudy Ludwig</p> <p>Sometimes it's a small action—a kind word or encouragement—that can make a big difference. Brian is so quiet that he is almost invisible to everyone else. But when other students make fun of a child's lunch, Brian steps in and in turn, makes a new friend.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>Waiting for Biblioburro</i></b> by Monica Brown</p> <p>Inspired by the story of real-life librarian Luis Soriano, this book tells the story of the most beautiful sight that book-loving Ana has ever seen: a traveling library, brought by a kind man on the backs of two burros. In Colombia, where Soriano works to bring literacy to isolated villages, there are thousands of children just like Ana, who sit and wait excitedly for the BiblioBurro to come.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>


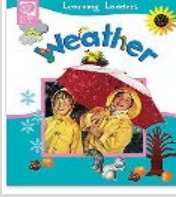


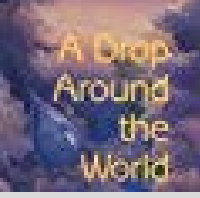

	<p><b>Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans</b> by Phil Bildner</p> <p>Marvelous Cornelius has always picked up trash in the city of New Orleans with joy, but after Hurricane Katrina destroys the city, he realizes he cannot save the city on his own. It takes the actions of the community and thousands of others to bring the city back again.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia</b> by Miranda Paul</p> <p>In this book, Isatou Ceesay takes action in her small village in the Gambia by taking plastic bags that have littered her villages and weaves them into purses. She and a few other women change the landscape in their village and make a difference.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>Stick and Stone</b> by Beth Ferry</p> <p>This book not only shows two friends having fun, it also has a friend sticking up for another—one small action that cements their friendship and changes a bully's ways.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>Tia Isa Wants a Car</b> by Meg Medina</p> <p>When Tia Isa wants to buy a car to go to the beach, a young girl does jobs for people in her community to earn money. This book can also help you piggyback on economics concepts like needs, wants, and savings. This book is about a family in America caring for their family in another country.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle Book</b> by Jude Isabella</p> <p>In this picture book, the main character is a bicycle that starts its life by being owned and ridden by a young boy. Leo loves his bicycle so much he gives it a name -- Big Red. But eventually Leo outgrows Big Red and he decides to donate it. Big Red is sent to Burkina Faso, in West Africa, where it finds a home with Alisetta, who uses it to gain quicker access to her family's sorghum field and to the market.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed</b> by Emily Pearson</p> <p>Can one child's good deed change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary—an ordinary girl who stumbles upon ordinary blueberries. When she decides to pick them for her neighbor, Mrs. Bishop, she starts a chain reaction that multiplies around the world.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>


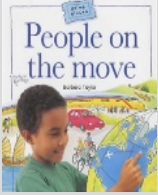

	<p><b><i>Maddi's Fridge</i></b> by Lois Brandt</p> <p>Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood and attend the same school, but when Sofia looks for a snack in Maddi's fridge one day, she is shocked to discover that her friend Maddi spends many of her days hungry. Maddi makes Sofia promise not to tell, but it's hard for Sofia to enjoy all the good food on her own family's table when she knows Maddi's family has none. This compassionate look at hunger in local communities also provides some great tips on how even young girls can make a difference.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Impossible Patriotism Project</i></b> by Linda Skeers</p> <p>Explore the big idea of patriotism and celebrate heroes with this wonderful story. You'll meet Caleb, a boy stumped by an impossible assignment: make something showing patriotism. The big, bold ideas of his classmates only make Caleb feel worse. How can he show them that patriotism is more than maps and statues?</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>New Shoes</i></b> by Susan Lynn Meyer</p> <p>Ever since she can remember, Ella Mae has worn her cousin Charlotte's hand-me-down shoes. But today she is going to get a brand-new pair. In the shoe store, a girl is trying on a pair of pretty red Mary Janes. Because she's black, Ella Mae isn't allowed to try on shoes. Her mother traces Ella Mae's feet on a piece of paper, and the salesman looks for a pair of shoes that will fit. Ella Mae is upset. But not for long!</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2.: Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Littlest Volunteers</i></b> by Danielle Speckhart</p> <p>This book is a fun and interactive way to introduce children to volunteerism. The Littlest Volunteers reinforces many important values including compassion and generosity as children follow the exciting adventure of Annie and her friends. They learn that they too can make a difference.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>
	<p><b><i>There's Something About Hensley's</i></b> by Patricia Polacco</p> <p>It's almost magical the way the Hensley's store manager, Old John, seems to know what the townsfolk need before they do! But then a new family moves to town. The youngest child, Molly, has asthma—but her mother doesn't have money to treat her, or for anything else. But leave it to Old John to find a way to use Hensley's to give the family exactly what it needs, even if it can't be boxed or bagged.</p>	<p>SS.IS.6.K-2. Use listening, consensus-building and voting procedures to decide on and take action in their classrooms.</p>

## Civics

Books	Description	Standards Connection
	<p><b><i>Look Where We Live</i></b> by Scot Ritchie            Author and illustrator Scot Ritchie has created a rich resource for social studies lessons on places, roles and jobs within a community, and what it takes to be a responsible citizen.</p>	<p>SS.CV.1.K. Describe roles and responsibilities of people in authority.</p> <p>SS.CV.2.K. Explain the need for and purposes of rules in various settings inside and outside of the school.</p>
	<p><b><i>Whose Hat Is This?, Whose Vehicle Is This?, Whose Tools Are These?</i></b> by Sharon Katz Cooper            These three books help students think of people in authority by looking at their hats, vehicles and tools.</p>	<p>SS.CV.1.K. Describe roles and responsibilities of people in authority.</p>
	<p><b><i>What If Everybody Did That?</i></b> by Ellen Javernick            If you drop just one soda can out the window, it's no big deal ... right? But what if everybody did that? What if everybody broke the rules ... and spoke during story time, didn't wash up, or splashed too much at the pool? Then the world would be a mess. But what if everybody obeyed the rules so that the world would become a better place? Using humorous illustrations rendered in mixed media, these questions are answered in a child-friendly way and show the consequences of thoughtless behavior.</p>	<p>SS.CV.2.K. Explain the need for and purposes of rules in various settings inside and outside of the school.</p>
	<p><b><i>Know and Follow Rules</i></b> by Cheri J. Meiners            (Available in English &amp; Spanish)            This book starts with simple reasons why we have rules: to help us stay safe, learn, be fair, and get along. Then it presents just four basic rules: "Listen," "Best Work," "Hands and Body to Myself," and "Please and Thank You." The focus throughout is on the positive sense of pride that comes with learning to follow rules. Includes questions and activities adults can use to reinforce the ideas and skills being taught.</p>	<p>SS.CV.2.K. Explain the need for and purposes of rules in various settings inside and outside of the school.</p>

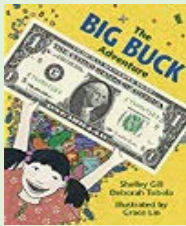

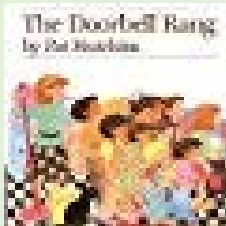
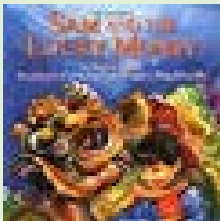

## Geography

Books	Description	Standards Connection
	<p><b>Weather</b> by Seymour Simon Ever wonder what makes the wind blow? Or where clouds come from, or rain? Every day you experience weather, but why do you experience the weather you do?</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b>Weather</b> by Tom Evans Children in grades K-3 can learn about sunny, windy, rainy, and snowy weather. Find out what happens to plants and animals when the weather warms up and cools down.</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b>Weather</b> by Teacher Created Materials Teach beginning readers about the various types of weather including rain, sunshine, snow, fog, wind, and clouds with pages full of bright, colorful images and simple, informational text. Readers are encouraged to notice the changes in the weather around them.</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b>What Will the Weather Be?</b> By Lynda DeWitt Will it be warm or cold? Should we wear shorts or pants? Shoes or rain boots? This picture book explores why the weather can be so hard to predict.</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b>A Drop Around the World</b> by Barbara McKinney This book engagingly leads readers around the world following a drop of water--whether as steam or snow, inside a plant or animal, or underground--teaching the wonders and importance of the water cycle.</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b>Look Out for Litter</b> by Lisa Bullard A young girl named Trina plays at being a pirate as she helps introduce readers to the problem of littering, how it has a negative effect on the environment, and how to keep litter in its proper place.</p>	<p>SS.G.1.K. Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>

	<p><b><i>I Am Earth</i></b> by James and Rebecca McDonald  I Am Earth introduces kids to the basic concepts of earth science while also encouraging the importance of taking care of our special planet through environmental awareness and sustainability.</p>	<p>G.1.K.: Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people’s lives.</p>
	<p><b><i>People on the Move</i></b> by Barbara Taylor  A series of geography books that explore the relationship between people and their environment. Each title begins with a child's local, familiar surroundings before moving on to the way people live in other parts of the world. Topics discussed include environmental change, population and planning.</p>	<p>G.2.K. Identify and explain how people and goods move from place to place.</p>
	<p><b><i>Bananas from Manolo to Margie</i></b> by George Ancona  This book follows the journey of a banana from Honduras where it is grown, to North America where it is eventually consumed.</p>	<p>G.2.K. Identify and explain how people and goods move from place to place.</p>


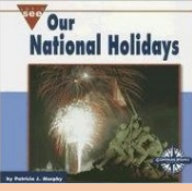




## Economics and Financial Literacy

Books	Description	Standards Connection
	<p><b><i>The Big Buck Adventure</i></b> by Deborah Tobola</p> <p>One little girl and one very big dollar set out on a great adventure at the store. However, what seems like a pleasant afternoon of shopping soon turns perplexing as the challenge of her buying options becomes overwhelming. She doesn't know what to do. There are so many choices, but she only has one buck.</p>	<p>SS.EC.1.K. Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. because we cannot have everything we want).</p>
	<p><b><i>Bringing Rain to the Kapiti Plain</i></b> by Verna Aardema</p> <p>Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain describes in rhythmic, read-along verse how Ki-pat a resourceful man finds water for his thirsty herd and ends the drought afflicting the plain.</p>	<p>SS.EC.1.K. Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. Because we cannot have everything we want).</p>
	<p><b><i>The Doorbell Rang</i></b> by Pat Hutchin</p> <p>Ma makes a batch of a dozen chocolate chip cookies for her children Victoria and Sam. Each child has six cookies. But when the doorbell rings and friends drop by, the cookies must be shared. The doorbell rings again, and again, and again...until there is only one cookie for each child. What happens if the doorbell rings again? Will the cookies be divided? Will Ma make more cookies?</p>	<p>SS.EC.1.K. Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. Because we cannot have everything we want).</p>
	<p><b><i>Sam and the Lucky Money</i></b> by Karen Chinn</p> <p>This year Sam gets to spend his New Year's gift money any way he chooses. Shopping carefully in his favorite Chinatown stores, he is disappointed to find that everything he wants is too expensive. Deciding to forgo a tasty sweet or a new toy for himself, Sam donates his money instead to a barefoot homeless man.</p>	<p>SS.EC.1.K. Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. because we cannot have everything we want).</p>
	<p><b><i>Betty Bunny Wants Everything</i></b> by Michael Kaplan</p> <p>In this book, students will identify all the wants that Betty Bunny has at the toy store. Students will learn that because of scarcity, they must make choices.</p>	<p>SS.EC.1.K. Explain that choices are made because of scarcity (i.e. because we cannot have everything we want).</p>

## History

Books	Description	Standards Connection
	<p><b><i>Going to School: Comparing Past and Present</i></b> by Rebecca Rissman</p> <p>Photographs and clear text compare and contrast modern and historical schools in a child-friendly format, making this a great tool for discussing how life has changed over the years.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>School Long Ago and Today</i></b> by Sally Lee</p> <p>What was school like in the days of old? Can you imagine studying in a tiny one-room schoolhouse, writing out lessons on a chalkboard slate? Discover how school life has changed over time, and what it might be like in the future.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>Playing with Friends: Comparing Past and Present</i></b> by Rebecca Rissman</p> <p>Photographs and clear text compare and contrast modern and historical amusements in a child-friendly format, making this a great tool for discussing how life has changed over the years.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>Cooking and Eating: Comparing Past and Present</i></b> by Rebecca Rissman</p> <p>Photographs and clear text compare and contrast modern and historical cooking methods in a child-friendly format, making this a great tool for discussing how life has changed over the years.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>Food Long Ago and Today</i></b> by Linda LeBoutillier</p> <p>Pass the cornmeal mush please! What were food choices like in the days of old? Would you have liked what ended up on your dinner plate? Discover how food options as well as food preparation techniques have changed over time.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>Toys and Games: Then and Now</i></b> by Robin Nelson</p> <p>Briefly describes how toys and games have changed through the years, including such topics as how playgrounds differ and how today's toys relate to those of the past.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b><i>Transportation: Then and Now</i></b> by Robin Nelson</p> <p>This book presents a brief look at how transportation has changed over the years.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>

	<p><b>Home: Then and Now</b> by Robin Nelson Presents a brief look at how homes in the United States have changed over the years.</p>	<p>SS.H.1.K. Compare life in the past with life today.</p>
	<p><b>Our National Holidays</b> by Patricia J. Murphy Explains the reasons for various national patriotic holidays celebrated in the United States including Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>
	<p><b>National Holidays Series</b> by Meredith Dash Each of the six titles (Columbus Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr., President's Day, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day) will familiarize readers with a national holiday by explaining its beginnings and the "whos, whats and whys" of it.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>
	<p><b>Our National Holidays</b> by Karen Spies This book examines the history and significance of patriotic holidays, holidays that honor famous people, and special American holidays such as Thanksgiving.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>
	<p><b>I am Martin Luther King, Jr.</b> by Brad Meltzer (This book is one of the books in a series of "ordinary people change the world" biography books). Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about the dream of a kinder future, and bravely led the way toward racial equality in America.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>
	<p><b>Memorial Day</b> by Jacqueline S. Cotton This book Introduces the history of Memorial Day and explains how it is observed today.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>
	<p><b>A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln</b> by David Adler Young readers will be inspired by Lincoln's story of hard work, success, and justice.</p>	<p>SS.H.2.K. Explain the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them.</p>