



Jane Addams Peace Association

🍏 Teachers, Check Out Our Books In
Their Hands Program to Bring Authors,
Illustrators, and Free Books to Your
Classroom! 📖



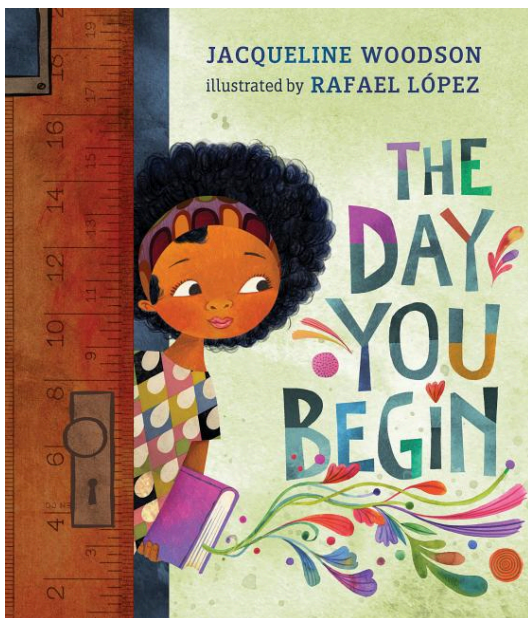
The Jane Addams Peace Association's mission is to deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

Through our **Books in Their Hands** program, we bring authors and illustrators to low-income schools nationally to share their Jane Addams award-winning books and to speak directly with the students and teachers in the community. We also donate Jane Addams Children's Book Award commended titles into the hands of children.

Apply for the "Books in Their Hands" Program Now!

[Learn More About The Program](#)

Books That Celebrate Activism in Schools



The Day You Begin, by Jacqueline Woodson and Rafael López

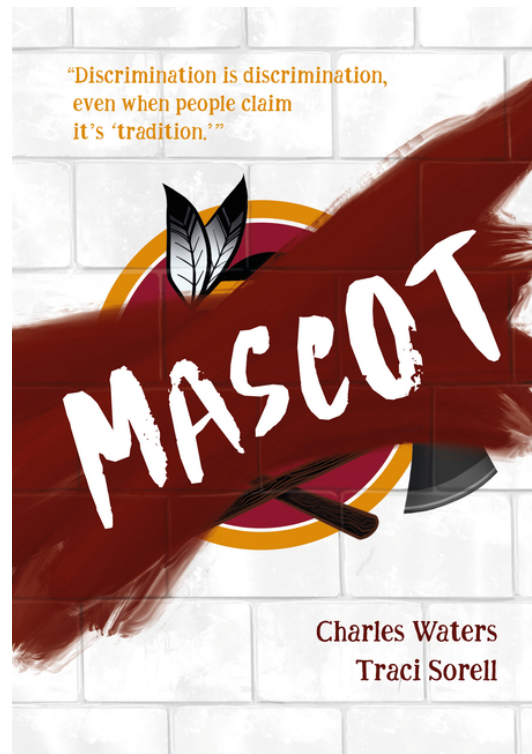
(Picture Book Winner, 2019)

Four children are experiencing an intense sense of isolation from their peers. All four of them navigate the challenges that come with embracing their differences and becoming "your own brave self" when walking into a classroom environment.

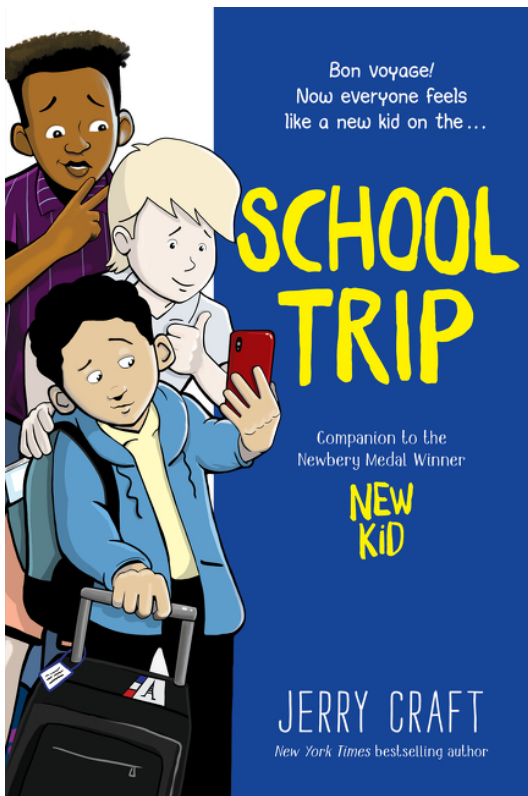
[Learn More](#)

Mascot, by Charles
Waters and Traci Sorell
(Chapter Book Honor, 2024)

It's hard enough being the new kid in school, but for Callie, speaking up against its mascot – a caricature of Native Americans – is more important than fitting in. The entire class gets involved in the debate of whether the mascot is racist, and if its prominent use in the town's highly popular football games is unifying or damaging. Through research, dialogue, shifting friendships, and plenty of good (and bad) advice from adults, the students learn what can be gained by working together to change harmful systems, and how letting go of the status quo might be what is truly brave.



[Learn More](#)



School Trip, by Jerry Craft
(Chapter Book Finalist, 2024)

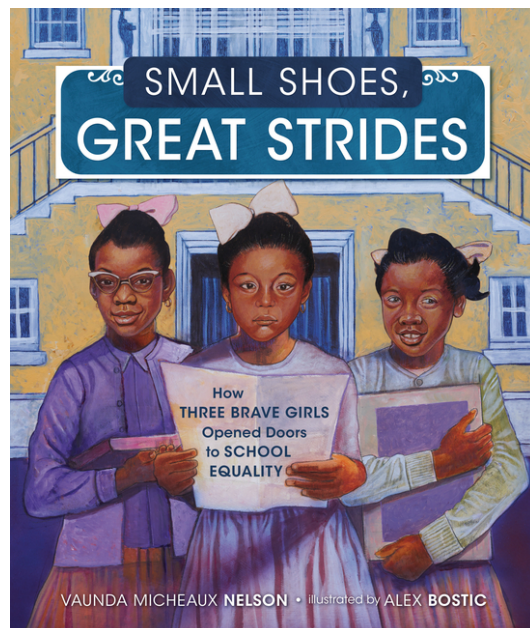
Jordan, Drew, Liam, and Maury are so excited for their school trip to Paris. When an unexpected shift in the faculty guide lineup happens at the last minute, they have to navigate a foreign city by themselves. Can Jordan and his friends learn to embrace and respect a new environment and culture?

[Learn More](#)

Small Shoes, Great Strides: How Three Brave Girls Opened Doors to School Equality, by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and Alex Bostic

(Picture Book Honor, 2025)

Small Shoes, Great Strides tells the story of Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne. Better known as the McDonogh Three, these girls were at the forefront of school desegregation in New Orleans, alongside Ruby Bridges. Readers follow them from their first day of first grade through the remainder of their first year at McDonogh No. 19 Public School, and the weeks and years following.



[Learn More](#)

Online Resource

Social Justice Books' Guide to Reviewing Kid's Literature



Wondering whether a certain book adequately reinforces social justice values and doesn't conform to harmful stereotypes? This article from Social Justice Books is a great resource for learning how to critically examine pieces of media that may have a harmful impact on your classroom or library.

Some of their tips include:

1. **Check the Illustrations (check for stereotypes, tokenism, and invisibility)**
2. **Check the Story Line and the Relationships Between People**
3. **Look at Messages About Different Lifestyles**
4. **Consider the Effects on Children's Self and Social Identities**
5. **Look for Books About Children and Adults Engaging in Actions for Change**
6. **Consider the Author's or Illustrator's Background and Perspective**
7. **Watch for Loaded Words**
8. **Look at the Copyright Date**
9. **Assess the Appeal of the Story and Illustrations to Young Children**

Click link below for an explanation of each of their tips in detail!

[Click For Guide](#)

Support Our Work!



The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

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