

Additional/Alternate Literature Suggestions

We suggest one chapter book to go with each region of *Our 50 States*. Below are a few ideas for additional and/or alternate literature titles your family might enjoy. Some are picture books and some are chapter books. There are many other great books out there, but here are a few we wanted to share. We do not have detailed notes about these titles (such as potentially offensive words and topics) as we do for the titles we suggest in *Our 50 States*. We do not necessarily approve of all of the content in all of these books, but we offer them as suggestions because we believe they might be titles your family will enjoy.

New England

Picture books:

Abbie Against the Storm (Marcia Vaughan)

The true story of the heroic actions of a young lighthouse keeper in Maine.

Blueberries for Sal (Robert McCloskey)

A young girl and a young bear get mixed up with each other while picking blueberries with their mothers in Maine.

Here Comes Darrell (Leda Schubert)

This heartwarming story recounts the seasons of Vermont, as well as the many ways neighbors help each other.

Make Way for Ducklings (Robert McCloskey)

The adventures of a duck family in Boston.

Nora's Ark (Natalie Kinsey-Warnock)

Based on the Vermont Flood of 1927, this story captures the drama of the flood and the comfort of a cozy kitchen filled with friends, neighbors, and a few animals too!

Ox-Cart Man (Donald Hall)

Tells the story of a lyrical journey through the days & seasons of life in early 19th century New England.

Time of Wonder (Robert McCloskey)

The engaging story of a family spending one summer on an island off the coast of Maine.

Mid-Atlantic

Picture books:

The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal (Cheryl Harness)

The amazing story of how the Erie Canal connected the Hudson River with the Great Lakes in the early 1800s.

Liberty Arrives! How America's Grandest Statue Found Her Home (Robert Byrd)

The fascinating backstory of the many people who helped make the Statue of Liberty.

Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America's First Bookmobile (Sharlee Glenn)

The story of how one determined woman created a horse-drawn book wagon to take books to all the rural residents of Washington County, Maryland, in 1905.

Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing (April Jones Prince)

The story of how one man seized the opportunity to demonstrate the strength and safety of the newly-opened Brooklyn Bridge.

South

Picture books:

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis (Robbin Gourley)

The childhood story of a young African American girl who enjoyed the fresh produce of gardens in the farming community of Freetown, Virginia, and who grew up to become a famous chef.

Lift Your Light A Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop: Slave-Explorer (Heather Henson)

The story of one of the best known guides of Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

My Great-Aunt Arizona (Gloria Houston)

The delightful story of an Appalachian girl who grows up to become a teacher who influences generations of schoolchildren.

Shovelful of Sunshine (Stacie Vaughn Hutton)

The story of how a young girl finds hope and copes with the danger her father faces as a coal miner in West Virginia.

That Book Woman (Heather Henson)

A story that shows the influence of the pack horse librarians who served Kentucky Appalachian families during the 1930s.

Chapter book:

Happy Little Family (Rebecca Caudill)

The first book in the Fairchild Family Series, which tells about a pioneer family in Kentucky.

Midwest

Picture books:

A Packet of Seeds (Deborah Hopkinson)

A tender tribute to the brave women and children who traveled west across the prairie to make new homes.

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis (Robbin Gourley)

The childhood story of a young African American girl who enjoyed the fresh produce of gardens in the farming community of Freetown, Virginia, and who grew up to become a famous chef.

Hanging off Jefferson's Nose: Growing Up on Mount Rushmore (Tina Nichols Coury)

This book tells the story of Lincoln Borglum, the son of Gutzon Borglum who oversaw the Mount Rushmore project until his death. Lincoln took over the project after his father died.

How We Crossed The West: The Adventures of Lewis & Clark (Rosalyn Schanzer)

The exciting story of Lewis & Clark is told through quotes from their own journals & enhanced with colorful American folk style paintings.

Mackinac Bridge: The Story of the Five-Mile Poem (Gloria Whelan)

The story of how the building of the "Mighty Mac" in Michigan in 1957 changed life for a father and his two sons.

North Woods Girl (Aimee Bissonette)

The story of how a young girl and her nature-loving grandmother enjoy the woods of Minnesota.

Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story (Suzanne Slade)

This picture book biography beautifully tells the story of the life of naturalist and author Anna Comstock. Her most popular book was *Handbook of Nature Study*.

Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes (Pamela Cameron)

The story of a rescued puppy who became a valued crew member as they delivered supplies to lighthouses and made repairs around Lake Michigan in the early 1900s.

The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver (Gene Barretta)

Beautiful paintings and inspirational words tell the story of how the seeds of George Washington Carver's lifelong passion and determination started in a secret garden of his own.

Chapter books:

Betsy-Tacy (Maud Hart Lovelace)

This delightful series tells of the adventures of little girls growing up in Minnesota in the early 1900s. We recommend only reading the first four books in the series. (Later books in the series introduce topics you might not want your young student to read.)

Carolina's Courage (Elizabeth Yates)

Carolina travels with her family from New Hampshire to Nebraska in the 1850s.

Restless Johnny: The Story of Johnny Chapman (Ruth Langland Holberg)

The delightful and inspiring story of how one man served the early settlers of the Ohio Valley and lived out his simple faith by planting apple trees.

Rocky Mountain

Picture books:

Locomotive (Brian Floca)

A colorful tribute to America's first transcontinental railroad.

They're Off! The Story of the Pony Express (Cheryl Harness)

Relates the fascinating story of the endurance and bravery of the Pony Express riders.

Chapter book:

The Secret School (Avi)

The heartwarming story of a hardworking and dedicated 14-year-old girl who unexpectedly takes on the responsibilities of being a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in remote Colorado in 1925.

Southwest

Picture books:

I Have Heard of a Land (Joyce Carol Thomas)

This story describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma Territory Land Rush of 1889.

Little Burro (Jim Arnosky)

Little Burro loves her wonderful canyon home, but an adventure helps her see that there are other wonderful places in the world.

Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers: How a First Lady Changed America (Kathi Appelt)

The story of how a girl who loved wildflowers as a child brought the beauty of wildflowers to America's cities and highways when she served as First Lady in the 1960s.

The Three Little Javelinas (Susan Lowell)

This clever and humorous tale shares details about life in the Southwest as it tells the story of three javelinas chased by a hungry coyote.

Pacific

Picture book:

The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto (Natalie Standiford)

The true story of Balto, the lead sled dog who helped transport medicine to save the town of Nome, Alaska, in 1925.

Marty's Mission: An Apollo 11 Story (Judy Young)

Based on actual events, this book tells the story of a young boy whose father manages the NASA Tracking Station on the island of Guam in 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

'Ohana Means Family (Ilima Loomis)

The Hawaiian tradition of lu'au is told in cumulative and colorful rhyme.

The Buffalo Storm (Katherine Applegate)

A young girl learns to be brave as her family encounters hardships along the Oregon Trail.