

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Additional Resources: Books

MISSION US: "No Turning Back"

The creators of MISSION US have assembled the following list of non-fiction and fiction books to enhance and extend teacher and student learning about the people, places, and historical events depicted in the game.

Non-fiction for Students

Lewis, John; Aydin, Andrew; and Powell, Nate (illustrator). *March Trilogy*. Top Shelf Productions, 2013-2016

Discover the inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis. *March* is the award-winning, #1 bestselling graphic novel trilogy recounting his life in the movement.

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age In Mississippi*. New York: Delta, 2004

Through the NAACP and later through CORE and SNCC, Anne Moody experienced firsthand the demonstrations and sit-ins that were the mainstay of the civil rights movement—and the arrests and jailings, the shotguns, fire hoses, police dogs, billy clubs, and deadly force that were used to destroy it. A deeply personal story but also a portrait of a turning point in our nation's destiny, this autobiography lets us see history in the making, through the eyes of one of the footsoldiers in the civil rights movement.

Pattillo Beals, Melba. *Warriors Don't Cry*. New York: Spark Publishing, 2007.

In this autobiographical account by one of the Civil Rights Movement's most powerful figures, Melba Pattillo Beals of the Little Rock Nine explores not only the oppressive force of racism, but the ability of young people to change ideas of race and identity. In 1957, Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. New York: Puffin Books, 2016.

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.

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Fiction for Students

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*. New York: Yearling, 1995. When the Watson family—ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron—sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything.

Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. New York: Penguin, 1976.

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

Wiles, Deborah. *Revolution*. New York: Scholastic, 2014.

It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi, are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. They're calling it Freedom Summer. In this documentary novel Deborah Wiles uses stories and images to tell the riveting story of a certain time and place -- and of kids who, in a world where everyone is choosing sides, must figure out how to stand up for themselves and fight for what's right.

Non-fiction for Adults

Branch, Taylor. *America in the King Years (3-book series)*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988, 1998, and 2006.

In the three volumes of this series (*Parting the Waters, 1954-63; Pillar of Fire, 1963-65; and At Canaan's Edge, 1965-68*), Branch exhaustively tells the story of the civil rights movement, and the United States during those years, through the career of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Theoharis, Jeanne. *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2018.

By showing us the complex reality of the civil rights movement, the power of its organizing, and the beauty and scope of the vision, Theoharis proves that there was nothing natural or inevitable about the progress that occurred. Theoharis changes our historical frame, revealing

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the richness of our civil rights legacy, the uncomfortable mirror it holds to the nation, and the crucial work that remains to be done.

Hampton, Henry, and Fayer, Steve. *Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s Through the 1980s.* New York: Bantam Books, 1990.

A monumental volume drawing upon nearly one thousand interviews with civil rights activists, politicians, reporters, Justice Department officials, and others, weaving a fascinating narrative of the civil rights movement told by the people who lived it. Hampton and Fayer, bring to life the country's great struggle for civil rights as no conventional narrative can. You will hear the voices of those who defied the blackjacks, who went to jail, who witnessed and policed the movement; of those who stood for and against it—voices from the heart of America.

Holsaert, Faith S. et al. *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC.* Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

Fifty-two women--northern and southern, young and old, urban and rural, black, white, and Latina--share their courageous personal stories of working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement.

Fiction for Adults

Nicholas, Denise. *Freshwater Road.* Chicago: Agate, 2005.

Nicholas tells the story of one young woman's coming of age via the political and social upheavals of the civil rights movement. Nineteen-year-old Celeste Tyree leaves Ann Arbor to go to Pineyville, Mississippi, in the summer of 1964 to help found a voter registration project as part of Freedom Summer. As the summer unfolds, she confronts not only the political realities of race and poverty in this tiny town, but also deep truths about her family and herself.