This bibliography lists 585 books suitable for children or adult new readers, classified into the following themes: (1) African American Experience; (2) Appalachia; (3) architecture and engineering; (4) art; (5) communities and change; (6) death; (7) family; (8) farm life; (9) geography; (10) history of Ohio; (11) history of the United States; (12) world history; (13) holidays and celebrations; (14) humor; (15) immigration; (16) Latin America; (17) legends and tales; (18) literature; (19) mathematics and economics; (20) music; (21) reminiscences; (22) science; (23) urban living; (24) war; (25) women in history; and (26) work. The books are also classified according to the following genres: biographies and autobiographies; diaries and journals; drama; essays; photography; poetry; short stories; and wordless or almost wordless books. The bibliography begins with a page of suggestions for using books thematically. (KC)
Using Books Thematically

Nancy Padak
Kent State University

Books that address similar or related topics, concepts, or issues can be used instructionally in a variety of ways. In addition to providing several perspectives on areas of focus, using many books related to a concept or theme allows learners at many achievement levels to work together. Several ideas for using related books follow.

- Use the K-W-L technique to begin a unit of study. Provide many books related to the unit, and ask learners (individually or in pairs) to search through the books to find answers to the questions the group has generated (i.e., the “W” column of the chart). This will also provide a natural opportunity to teach reference skills, as you might ask learners to indicate where they found answers to questions by citing the page number and the book’s bibliographic information.

- Select a single book related to the theme for all learners to read. Provide additional titles for individuals or small groups to read.

- Provide a variety of books related to a broad topic, e.g., “Women in History.” Ask learners to read one book related to the topic. Then invite discussion of ways to share information from the books. In the “Women in History” example, learners might develop a group time line, create character sketches, synthesize information about the issues and circumstances that made these women important figures, etc.

- Select a variety of books that represent a particular genre (e.g., short stories, poetry, legends and tales). Ask students to read some texts. Then invite conversation about similarities, characteristics of the genre, etc. A chart or matrix might be a useful summarizing tool.

- Select a broad concept, such as “Change.” Then collect books about different aspects of the concept, such as environmental change, immigration, aging, discoveries and inventions, death. Learners can focus on one aspect of the concept (e.g., immigration) and then share ideas about change with others who have read about other aspects of the concept. Another option is for learners to read several books, each related to a different aspect of the concept (e.g., a book about aging, a book about environmental change).

- Arrange books chronologically, and ask learners to read one title from “then” and another from “now.” For example, the study of Appalachian culture might include “then” titles such as Fleishman’s *The Borning Room*, Hendershot’s *In Coal Country* and *Up the Tracks to Grandma’s*, Rylant’s *When I was Young in the Mountains*, and Thomas’s *Come Go With Me.* “Now” titles might include Carson’s *Stories I Ain’t Told No One Yet*, Lyons’s *Choices* and *More Choices*, and Rylant’s *An Angel for Solomon Singer* and *Missing May.* Sharing, discussion, and writing can then focus on similarities and differences over time.
Thematic Collections Index
Ohio Literacy Resource Center Reading Group
November, 1997

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see also U.S. History, Poetry
Adoff, A. All the Colors of the Race
Agard, J. & Nichols, G. A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Caribbean Poets
Angelou, M. Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All
Angelou, M. Now Sheba Sings the Song
Belton, S. From Miss Ida's Porch
Cooper, F. Coming Home
Curtis, C.P. The Watsons Go To Birmingham-- 1963
Delany, S. & Delany, A.E. Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years
Eskridge, A. The Sanctuary
Feelings, T. The Soul Looks Back in Wonder
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Hamilton, V. The Bells of Christmas
Hamilton, V. Drylongso
Hansberry, L. A Raisin in the Sun
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Johnson, D. Now Let Me Fly
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Myers, W.D. Now Is Your Time
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Polacco, P. Chicken Sunday
Price, L. Aida
Shange, N. I Live in Music
Stanley, D. Cleopatra
Walker, A. To Hell with Dying
Wright, R. Rite of Passage

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Hendershot, J. In Coal Country
Hendershot, J. Up the Tracks to Grandma's
Lyon, G.E. Choices
Lyon, G.E. More Choices: Stories for New Adult Readers
Rylant, C. An Angel for Solomon Singer
Rylant, C. Appalachia
Rylant, C. Missing May
Rylant, C. When I Was Young in the Mountains
Thomas, R.E. Come Go With Me: Old-Timer Stories from the Southern Mountains

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Dewey, J.O. Animal Architecture
Freedman, R. The Wright Brothers
Harness, C. The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal
Jefferis, D. Timelines Flight: Fliers and Flying Machines
Jennings, T. Cranes, Dump Trucks, Bulldozers and Other Building Machines
Macaulay, D. Castle
Macaulay, D. Cathedral
Macaulay, D. Pyramid
Mann, E. The Brooklyn Bridge
Morris, A. Houses and Homes

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Johnson, S.T. Alphabet City
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Lawrence, J. Harriet and the Promised Land
Littlechild, G. This Land is My Land
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Lyons, M. Stitching Stars
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Stanley, D. Leonardo Da Vinci

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Stanley, J. Children of the Dust Bowl
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Temple, F. Tonight By Sea
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Wheatley, N. & Rawlins, D. My Place
Wolff, V.E. Make Lemonade
Yolen, J. Letting Swift River Go

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Bunting, E. Fly Away Home
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Polacco, P. *My Ol' Man*
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Say, A. *The Lost Lake*
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Oppenheim, S.L. *The Lily Cupboard*
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Wells, R. *Waiting for the Evening Star*
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- Cooney, B. *Miss Rumphius*
- Dean, J. *A Year on Monhegan Island*
- Harness, S. *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal*
- Lasky, K. *Surtsey*
- MacLachlan, P. *Skylark*
- Morris, A. *On the Go*
- Simon, S. *Winter Across America*

**HISTORY—OHIO**
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- Bial, R. *Underground Railroad*
- Blos, J.W. *A Gathering of Days*
- Fleischman, P. *The Borning Room*
- Freedman, R. *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane*
- Hamilton, V. *The Bells of Christmas*
- Hendershot, J. *In Coal Country*
- Hendershot, J. *Up the Tracks*
- Sanders, S. *Aurora Means Dawn*
- Sanders, S. *Warm as Wool*

**HISTORY—U.S.**

**A. Founding the Country**
- Bowen, G. *Stranded at Plimoth Plantation 1626*
- Littlechild, G. *This Land Is My Land*
- Longfellow, H.W. *Paul Revere's Ride*
- Roop, P. & Roop, C. *I, Columbus: My Journal 1492-3*
- San Souci, R. *N.C. Wyeth's Pilgrims*
- Yolen, J. *Encounter*

**B. Settling the Country**
- Fleischman, J. *The Borning Room*
- Harness, C. *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal*
- Kroll, S. *By Dawn’s Early Light*
- Kurelek, W. *They Sought a New World*
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- Paul, A.W. *Eight Hands Round*
- Pinkney, A. *Dear Benjamin Banneker*
Richter, C. The Light in the Forest  
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Sanders, S. Warm as Wool  
Turner, A. Dakota Dugout  
Turner, A. Katie's Trunk  
Van Leeuwen, J. Going West

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Adler, D. A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth  
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Bial, R. The Underground Railroad  
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Fleishman, P. Bull Run  
Gauch, P. Thunder at Gettysburg  
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Hamilton, V. The Bells of Christmas  
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Murphy, J. The Great Fire  
Murphy, J. Into the Deep Forest: With Henry David Thoreau  
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Polacco, P. Pink and Say  
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Sanders, S. Warm as Wool  
Sandler, M. Civil War

D. 20th Century
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Bunting, E. Fly Away Home  
Bunting, E. How Many Days to America?  
Bunting, E. Smoky Night  
Bunting, E. The Wall  
Burleigh, R. Flight  
Cherry, L. A River Ran Wild  
Cooper, F. Coming Home  
Curtis, C.P. The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963  
Delany, S. & Delany, A.E. Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters’ First 100 Years
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Freedman, R. The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane
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Lyons, M.E. Starting Home
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Rylant, C. Something Permanent
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E. African-American History
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Adler, D. A Picture Book of Jesse Owens
Adler, D. A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth
Altman, S. & Lechner, S. Followers of the North Star
Belton, S. From Miss Ida's Porch
Berry, J. Ajeemah and His Son. (about slavery but set in Jamaica)
Bial, R. Underground Railroad
Bradby, M. More Than Anything Else
Curtis, C.P. The Watsons Go To Birmingham-- 1963
Delany, S. & Delany, A.E. Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years
Giovanni, N. Shimmy. Shimmy. Shimmy Like My Sister Kate
Gray, L.M. Dear Willie Rudd
Hamilton, V. Anthony Burns
Hamilton, V. The Bells of Christmas
Hansberry, L. A Raisin in the Sun
Hopkinson, D. Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Hughes, L. The Dream Keeper & Other Poems
Johnson, D. Now Let Me Fly
Lawrence, J. Harriet and the Promised Land
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Lester, J. Long Journey Home
Lyons, M.E. Letters from a Slave Girl
Lyons, M.E. Sorrow's Kitchen: Zora Neale Hurston
Lyons, M.E. Starting Home
Lyons, M. Stitching Stars
McGovern, A. Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman
McKissack, P. & McKissack, F. Christmas in the Big House. Christmas in the Quarters
Myers, W. D. Now is Your Time
Paulsen, G. Nightjohn
Pinkney, A. Dear Benjamin Banneker
Thomas, J.C. Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea
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see also war

Adler, D.  A Picture Book of Simon Bolivar
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Berry, J.  Ajeemah and His Son
Besson, J.L.  October 45
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Foreman, M.  War Game
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Giblin, J.C.  When Plague Strikes
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Kramer, S.  Theodoric's Rainbow
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McCully, E.  The Pirate Queen
Meltzer, M.  Cheap Raw Material: How Our Youngest Workers Are Exploited and Abused
Morimoto, J.  My Hiroshima
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<td>Brandenburg, J.</td>
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<td>Cherry, L.</td>
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<td>Cushman, K.</td>
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<td>Dewey, J.O.</td>
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<td>Dragonwagon, C.</td>
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<td>Jam, T. &amp; Wallace, I.</td>
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<td>Kramer, S.</td>
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<td>Pinkney, A.</td>
<td>Dear Benjamin Banneker</td>
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