

# Teaching the Basics

## Responsibility in the curriculum

### Notable Trade Books

**S**tories are a powerful medium for teaching. Folk tales can provide an ideal focus for students to explore basic ideas of who we are, what we value, how we live together in harmony or in discord. Students bring their own interpretations and connections to the stories, making for exciting discussions.

Students of many ages can explore values such as responsibility, or prudence, for example, in folk stories like "Little Red Riding Hood" or "The Three Little Pigs."

Storybooks can also provide the material for exploring values. Here are some recent notable books that you can use to explore some of the themes and ideas presented in "Responsibility."

AMERICAN PROMISE SEGMENT	NCSS STRAND* <i>X - Civic Ideals &amp; Practices apply to all</i>	READING LEVEL <i>(P-primary, I-intermediate, A-advanced)</i>	1999 NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS
Inupiat values Traditional values guide Alaskan natives in modern world.	I, III	I, A, P	<i>Children of the Midnight Sun</i> by Tricia Brown The culture of Alaska through the eyes of eight native children.
Guns in school Students start anti-violence program after shooting in school.	IV, V	I, A	<i>Bad</i> by Jean Ferris A 16-year-old girl gets caught after she goes along with her friends' plan to rob a convenience store.
COPS Mexican-Americans organize to change politics in San Antonio, Texas.	III, IV	I, P	<i>Something Beautiful</i> by Sharon Dennis Child, searching a city neighborhood for "something beautiful," is helped by people she meets.
Help for homeless One woman lives on the street to find out what it takes to bounce back from homelessness.	V	I, A	<i>Women of Hope</i> by Joyce Hansen Twelve biographies of African American women who made a difference.
Monday Group Environmental action class leaves its mark on local politics.	III, VIII	A	<i>To Save the Earth</i> by Jules Archer Stories of four Americans who contributed to the modern environmental movement.

#### \*LEGEND

Thematic Strands of the NCSS Curriculum  
Standards for Social Studies

- I. Culture
- II. Time, continuity, and change
- III. People, places, and environments
- IV. Individual development and identity
- V. Individuals, groups, and institutions
- VI. Power, authority, and governance
- VII. Productions, distribution, and consumption
- VIII. Science, technology, and society
- IX. Global connections
- X. Civic ideals and practices

*"Responsibility is unique.  
You may share it with others but your portion is not diminished.  
You may delegate it, but it is still with you.  
You may disclaim it, but you cannot divest yourself of it."*

— Admiral Hyman G. Rickover