

1930s Trunk Bibliography

Brown, Don. *The Train Jumper*. New Milford: Roaring Brook, 2007. Print. Grade 4–8—The year is 1934, the country is in the grips of the Depression, and 14-year-old Edward "Collie" Collier's father has died. The main character runs away from his poor Wisconsin home and hops the trains in search of his troubled older brother. On the dangerous adventure that takes him through dust storms and work camps, he gets both help and hostility from the people he meets. \$7.50

Burgan, Michael. *The Great Depression: An Interactive History Adventure*. Mankato: Capstone, 2011. Print. In the 1930s, Americans faced one of the biggest crises ever to hit the country. During the Great Depression, the stock market crash caused banks to close and many companies to go out of business. Millions of people lost their jobs and homes during a time when the government wasn't equipped to pick up the pieces. Will you: March on Washington, D.C., as a veteran member of the Bonus Army? Leave your home to find a better life by riding the rails? Help rebuild the country as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps? Paperback \$6.18

Burleigh, Robert, and Leonard Jenkins. *Langston's Train Ride*. New York: Orchard, 2004. Print. Grade 1-5—The train that carried Hughes from Ohio to his father's ranch in Mexico is the vehicle that propels both this slice-of-life picture book and the 18-year-old's journey as a poet. As Burleigh describes the moment in his well-crafted, first-person narration, words drifted into the passenger's consciousness as the rhythm of the wheels and the specter of the Mississippi assaulted his senses. The mighty river conjured up ancient African rivers, and by the end of the trip, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" was scrawled on an envelope. \$7.36

Calt, Stephen, et al. *R. Crumb's Heroes of Blues, Jazz, & Country*. New York: Abrams, 2006.

Print. Anyone who knows R. Crumb's work as an illustrator knows of his passion for music. And all those who collect his work prize the *Heroes of the Blues, Early Jazz Greats*, and *Pioneers of Country Music* trading card sets he created in the early to- mid-1980s. Now they are packaged together for the first time in book form, along with an exclusive 21-track CD of music selected and compiled by Crumb himself (featuring original recordings by Charley Patton, "Dock" Boggs, "Jelly Roll" Morton, and others). A bio of each musician is provided, along with a full-color original illustration by the cartoonist. \$16.58

Caplan, Jeremy. *Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Leader in Troubled Times*. New York: HarperCollins,

2006. Print. The author brings history alive by vividly describing FDR's early life, political career, and presidential policies and actions. Since they are filled with photographs and activity sidebars, the pages are visually pleasing and easily capture the attention of young readers. \$3.51 for paperback.

Elmer, Howard. *Blues: Its Birth and Growth*. New York: Rosen, 1999. Print. Gr 4-7-These informative and interesting titles approach their topics from an African-American perspective. Blues traces the origins of the music and its influence on American society, as well as on jazz and rock 'n' roll. \$9.96

Hughes, Langston, Bryan Collier, and Laurent Linn. *I, Too, Am America*. New York: Simon,

2012. Print. A celebration of Pullman porters is the focus of this new picture-book edition of Langston Hughes' classic poem. The collage spreads, blending oil paintings and cut paper, begin with an image of a speeding train before moving on to large portraits of African American porters serving white passengers aboard a luxury train. When the

passengers leave, the porters gather left-behind items—newspapers, blues and jazz albums—and toss them from the train. Carried by the wind, the words and music fall into the hands of African Americans across the country. The final, contemporary pages show young black people celebrating their place in America and dreaming of a bright future. Collier's long final note explains his interpretation of the poem, and with adult help, kids can look closely at what the pictures show about the porters then and now as well as Collier's visual themes, including the recurring use of stars and stripes, which culminate in a beautiful, final close-up of a boy with his mother staring through a train window today at the starry city sky. Grades K-4. \$13.29

Krull, Kathleen, Steve Johnson, and Lou Fancher. *A Boy Named FDR: How Franklin D.*

Roosevelt Grew up to Change America. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. Print. How did a boy who grew up in the most privileged of American households become one of our presidents who did the most for the "common man"? Award-winning nonfiction author Kathleen Krull attempts to provide some answers to this historical mystery in her picture book biography of FDR, which concentrates on his youth and early adulthood, before he became president. \$16.19

Mackall, Dandi Daley, and Chris Ellison. *Rudy Rides the Rails: A Depression Era Story.*

Chelsea: Sleeping Bear, 2007. Print. Grade 3–6—Set in 1932, this picture book tells of a teenager who leaves his home in Akron, OH, and takes to the rails to find work and hopefully a better life in California. The stirring full-page watercolor paintings capture the period with realism and a tinge of sentiment, starting with Rudy, 13, in a winding line of men and boys desperate for work. \$13.64

Marrin, Albert. *Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl*. New York: Puffin, 2012. Print. The book is written by an award-winning children's author and includes quotations and numerous photographs. Albert Marrin explains the causes behind the disaster and investigates the Dust Bowl's impact on the land and the people. \$16.92

Mullenbach, Cheryl. *Great Depression for Kids: Hardship and Hope in 1930s America, with 21 Activities*. N.p.: Chicago Review, 2015. Print. Kids learn about the harsh realities that most Americans could not escape, such as massive unemployment, natural disasters, and economic collapse. They also learn that the 1930s were a time when neighbors helped neighbors; sports figures behaved admirably; and an army of young men rebuilt the nation's forests, roads, and parks. Librarians delivered books on horseback, and a curly-haired child star charmed moviegoers to "stand up and cheer." \$11.88

Raatma, Lucia. *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of Creativity*. Chanhassen: Child's World, 2003. Print. The book is suitable for age 10 and up and introduces young people to the 1920s era. It is illustrated with photographs, 40 pages. \$7.35

Roxburgh, Ellis. *Al Capone Vs. Eliot Ness: Opposite Sides of the Law*. New York: Gareth Stevens, 2015. Print. The 48 page book is designed for teens who are interested gaining information about how history is influenced by personal conflicts. It is a part of a series of history's rivals, including one on Hitler vs. Churchill. \$14.05

Stanley, Jerry. *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp*. New York: Crown, 1992. Print. Grade 6 Up-- Stanley has crafted a well-researched, highly readable portrait of the "Okies" driven to California by the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s and the hardships they faced. After first detailing the desperation of their lives in the Midwest, he follows them on their trek across the western United States to the

promise of work in California, where their hopes were dashed. The book is illustrated with period black-and-white photographs. \$20.39

Tierney, Tom. *American Family of the 1930's Paper Dolls in Full Color*. Mineola: Dover, 1987.

Print. 10 dolls — spanning 3 generations — and 30 different costumes: single-breasted suits, cuffed slacks and tuxedos for the men; ankle-length dresses, casual skirt, bobby socks and saddle shoes for the ladies and more. Descriptive notes from the illustrator would help students planning skits or doing creative writing. \$13.37

Vandercook, Mark S. *An American Journey: Images of Railroading during the Depression*.

Mobile: Hot Box, 2000. Print. Between the years 1935 and 1941, the Farm Security Administration employed some of the most highly regarded American photographers, including Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange, to document a country whose people and institutions were in upheaval. This remarkable book makes use of the very best black-and-white railroad photographs from this period, taken directly from the Library of Congress. \$19.99