

Growing American Patriots Through Literacy

Provided by the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women
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What do American patriots do?

- they actively support our country by being involved on a local, state, and national level.
- they show respect for the symbols and representations of our nation – the flag, the buildings, etc.
- they encourage, respect, and support their fellow citizens
- they work hard to maintain the freedoms we have been given by respecting and following the Constitution.

But as we all know, patriotism is in a terrible decline. Many individuals decry our country as unworthy of their support and love. Unfortunately, many schools and universities are graduating students who riot against the United States instead of standing for it. The bleeding must be stopped. The tide must be turned.

How do we make the changes necessary? Proverbs 22:6 teaches us that if “we train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Hitler and all intelligent leaders throughout history have understood that the way to change a country was through the training of its youth, to get them while they are young.

How do we train our youth? Obviously, the best way is by example, but we can also be very intentional about what we ask our young people to read and hear. The TFRW Literacy Committee has declared a new theme for 2024-2026: **Growing American Patriots through Literacy.**

We are providing reading lists and suggestions for materials that can be shared through local Clubs with children and grandchildren and recommended for local libraries. This information will be posted at <https://tnfrw.org/education-for-a-lifetime/> and available through the clubs' literacy chairs.

Let's all be intentional about teaching our young people to love our country.

For more information on the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women go to the TFRW website tnfrw.org or email TFRW President Sharon Boreing at rocknhill@comcast.net

Reading List

1. *M is for Majestic: A National Parks Alphabet*

Written by David Domeniconi; illustrated by Pam Carroll

Reading age: 6-9 years

Grade level: 1st – 4th

After revealing a large map of America, this beautiful picture book introduces young people to our state parks in alphabetical order. The text highlights the main features of the parks, and the wonderful illustrations invite us to visit each and every one of them.

2. *A is for America: An American Alphabet*

Written by Devin Scillian; illustrated by Pam Carroll

Reading age: 8-10 years

Grade level: 5th

Using wonderful rhythmic alliteration, this book moves through the alphabet highlighting important people, authors, places, historical events, and even cultural icons such as Tootsie Rolls and Holiday Inns. The book includes native American Indian tribes and influential Black leaders. It concludes with a reminder of the importance of voting to preserve our democratic republic.

3. *The Log of Christopher Columbus*

Written by Christopher Columbus; Selections by Stephen Lowe; illustrated by Robert Sabuda

Reading age: 7-8 years

Grade level: 2nd – 3rd

Although Christopher Columbus' daily log is no longer available, copies of it were made in the 16th century. Stephen Lowe chose passages from that later log to create this book, giving the reader a sense of the difficulty and essence of the journey. Beautifully illustrated, this book could be enjoyed by children of many ages.

4. *A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing Americans*

Written by Lynne Cheney; illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

Reading age: 4-8 years

Grade level: P – 3rd

A beautiful picture book that takes the reader through the alphabet highlighting important women in history, education, medicine, science, literature, journalism, politics, aviation, philanthropy, entertainment, math, and sports. The footnotes tell additional information about the women.

5. *Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times*

Written by David Rubel

Reading age: 9-14 years

Grade level: 4th – 7th

What a wonderful book! It covers every president up to Barack Obama with detailed information about their campaigns, their Presidency, and their wives. Also included is great information about the social and cultural issues of their day, including the Great Chicago Fire, fashion trends, the Seneca Falls Convention, and the P.T. Barnum and Bailey Circus. The book highlights people from every walk of life, including Mark Twain, Al Capone, and the Marx Brothers. Every home and library needs this book!

6. *Camilla Can Vote*

Written by our very own Marsha Blackburn and her daughter Mary Morgan Ketchel

Reading age: 4-8

Grade level: 1st - 2nd

The main character goes on a class trip to the history museum where she learns about those important women who fought to give women the right to vote. She learns about Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul. She is transported back in time to witness The War of the Roses and to see Harry T. Burn reading his mother's letter and then voting for the women's suffrage. A wonderful retelling of the history that allowed women to vote.