Non-Fiction Grades 7-12

AYER, Paula. Foodprints; The Story of What we Eat Annick Press, 2015, 206p. Illus. Gr. 4-10. 978-1-55451-718-3. Pbk. \$16.95



Foodprints provides a complex, informative, and thoughtprovoking look at the history of food; what the sources of food are and where it comes from; nutrition; food science: food facts and data: food audiences; food advertis-

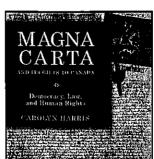
ing; future paths for food and food production. The info-bites, fast food facts and critical thinking challenges and empowers children and young adults to become motivated to participate in healthy eating and to question the food choices being offered in their lives. The book also challenges its audience to step up and take action on a variety of food topics. from school fields trips to changing school cafeteria menus, to cooking at home and following food issues in the news and on media to make an impact on the future of food in society.

This book has an important place as a complement to family studies, environmental science, healthy, active lifestyles curricula, as well as a reference source in the school library. Fast-facts and info-bites also present opportunities for small group or full class discussions and individual research.

Highly recommended as a classroom resource and a fine addition to school library collections.

Thematic Links: Food; Nutrition

Sharon Armstrong



HAR-RIS, Carolyn Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada Dundurn Press, 2015. 128p. Illus. Gr 9-12, 978-1-45973-112-7.

Pbk. \$24.99

2015 marks the 800th year anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta and this approachable book by Dr. Carolyn Harris is an excellent resource for anyone interested in its fascinating history.

Lavishly illustrated throughout, Dr. Harris gives a well-rounded history of the document and its creation and guiding principles. She explains the impact of the document right through to seeing it as a basis of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Of particular interest to students may be the importance of the Magna Carta in Canada's history through to the present day. As well, Dr. Harris looks at the impact of it on the American and French Revolutions.

Besides the labelled pictures, there are also helpful full and part page links (in a white font on brown) to related information, often dealing with the world at the time, people, and popular culture. These sidebars give interesting and focused information. The full-colour visuals include reproductions of text, drawings and art work, illuminations and photographs. The Appendices include information on the venues where the Magna Carta will be displayed in in 2015 and Durham Cathedral (where three of the four copies are housed). As well, there is a helpful reading list provided. All of these add greatly to the reader's understanding of this document and its role in the shaping of democracy.

I had little idea of the true significance and depth of the Magna Carta. I understood it only on a very superficial level. With the help of this extremely well written and relatable book. I have a greater understanding of the impact this document has had, both historically and to the present day.

Highly recommended for both school and public libraries.

Thematic Links: Medieval England: Democracy; Creation of Laws and Societal Codes; Impact of the Magna Carta on Canada and Beyond

Sarah Nelson

Straight Talk About.... Series: STUCKEY, Rachel. Straight Talk G about.... Digital Dangers (978-0-7787-2202-1); Straight Talk About ... Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (978-0-7787-2203-8); BOW, James. Straight Talk About... Binge Drinking (978-0-7787-2200-7); Straight Talk About ... Dealing with Loss (978-0-7787-2201-4) Crabtree Publishing, 2015. 48p. Illus, Gr. 9-12. Hdbk. \$26.95 ea.

These four books are part of the Straight Talk About.... Series published by Crabtree. This series tackles issues that may impact the lives of teenagers and does so in a straightforward and easy to read way.



These four books are a selection of the topics that are covered; others include Date Rape and Gangs. Each book explains the topic, shows how it can progress and what to do if it does, includes pull out boxes and margin section explanations of useful topics and ends with a O&A session.



These books are written in very accessible language and a lower reading level but deal with topics that impact teens of all ages. These books would make a great addition to a school or classroom library, to be accessed or promoted to teens dealing with

specific issues, either themselves or through their friends or students researching the topics discussed.

Thematic Links: Digital Literacy; Sexual Orientation; Gender Identity; Binge Drinking; Loss; Teen Issues; Mental Health; Guidance and Health

Alison Edwards

WILLEN, Janet and Marjorie Gann Speak A Word for Freedom: Women Against Slavery Tundra Books, 2015, 205p. Gr. 7-12. 978-1-77049-651-4. Hdbk. \$24.99



When most of us hear the word slavery we automatically think of the era when slavery

was a way-of-life for most of the black population of the American South. However, this book portrays the wider picture of slavery in many countries throughout the world, not only in the past but also in present times. Even in our

