



## Using Choose to Read Ohio in School A Tipsheet for K-12 Educators

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) is a statewide reading initiative encouraging Ohioans to “**Read together – Read Ohio – Read for life**”! CTRO spotlights Ohio authors and illustrators, and promotes reading across Ohio. Every two years, CTRO develops a booklist of featured titles for people of all ages, and provides resources including printable booklists, readers’ toolkits, and posters to help schools, libraries, and book clubs build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature.

This list of all the CTRO books for young readers includes publisher-provided reading levels, Lexile scores where available, and one or more learning standards that use of the book may help meet. Any CTRO book may be used to support Ohio’s ELA reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. CTRO books feature a wide variety of reading levels and degrees of text complexity, a range of literary and informational texts, and topics to engage students’ varied interests and align with curricular subjects.

Book-based projects and extension activities for many of the CTRO books support Ohio’s Learning Standards across curricular areas. This tipsheet includes ideas to help you use CTRO in the classroom and school library. Free, downloadable CTRO toolkits include additional activities, plus book summaries; author photos, biographies, and contact information; discussion questions; and links for further exploration. The CTRO toolkits are available as free printable PDF handouts on the CTRO website, where you may also learn more about the CTRO initiative: [library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)/Illustrator (Ohioan listed first)</b>	<b>Grade Level/Age Range (provided by publisher)</b>	<b>Lexile Measure</b>	<b>Sample Ohio Learning Standards Connections (<i>other standards also apply!</i>)</b>
<i>Acoustic Rooster and his Barnyard Band</i>	Tim Bowers, illus.; Kwame Alexander	Ages 6-9	N/A	SS: History – Historical Thinking and Skills, grade 2; Science: Physical Science – Properties of Everyday Objects and Materials, grade K
<i>After Tupac &amp; D Foster</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	Ages 10 and up	750L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Craft and Structure, grades 6-7
<i>American Ace</i>	Marilyn Nelson	Ages 12-17	780L	SS: American History – From Isolation to World War, grades 9-12
<i>The Art Collector</i>	Jan Wahl; Rosalinde Bonnet, illus.	Ages 5-8	AD450L	Math: Geometry - Identify and describe shapes / Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes, grades K-1
<i>B is for Buckeye: An Ohio Alphabet</i>	Marcia Schonberg; Bruce Langton, illus.	Ages 6-8	N/A	SS: History, Geography (Ohio in the United States), grade 4; ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 3
<i>Beneath My Mother’s Feet</i>	Amjed Qamar	Grades 7 and up	770L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grade 7
<i>Beyond the Solar System</i>	Mary Kay Carson	Ages 9 and up	980L	Science: Earth and Space Science – Cycles and Patterns in the Solar System, grade 5
<i>Big Brothers Don’t Take Naps</i>	Louise Borden, author; Emma Dodd, illus.	Ages 4-8	660L	SS: History – Historical Thinking and Skills, grade K; ELA: Reading – Literature: Craft and Structure, grade K
<i>The Blue Sword</i>	Robin McKinley	Ages 8-12	1030L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 6
<i>Bone, Vol. 1: Out from Boneville</i>	Jeff Smith	Ages 11-15	GN360L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 5
<i>The Boy on the Porch</i>	Sharon Creech	Ages 8-12	680L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 4-7
<i>The Brothers’ War: Civil War Voices in Verse</i>	J. Patrick Lewis	Ages 10-14	N/A	SS: History – Civil War and Reconstruction, grade 8; ELA: History/Social Studies – Craft and Structure, grades 6-8
<i>Colo’s Story: The Life of One Grand Gorilla</i>	Nancy Roe Pimm	Grades 4-8	NC1080L	Science: Life Science – Interconnections within Ecosystems, grade 5
<i>Copper Sun</i>	Sharon M. Draper	Ages 14 and up	820L	ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes; Production and Distribution of Writing, grades 9-12
<i>Curious Critters: Marine</i>	David FitzSimmons	Ages 2-8	N/A	Science: Life Science – Interactions within Habitats, grade 2



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<i>Deadline</i>	Chris Crutcher	Ages 14-17	880L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 9-12
<i>The Death of Jayson Porter</i>	Jaime Adoff	Ages 14-17	560L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 8-12
<i>The Demon King: A Seven Realms Novel</i>	Cinda Williams Chima	Ages 12-17	760L	ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes, grades 9-10
<i>Dog Man</i>	Dav Pilkey	Ages 7-10	GN390L	Fine Arts: Visual Art – Perceiving/Knowing, grade 3
<i>Don't Get Caught</i>	Kurt Dinan	Ages 14 and up	HL770L	SS: Contemporary World Issues, grades 9-12
<i>East</i>	Edith Pattou	Grades 7 and up	900L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 9-12
<i>Eliza Bing Is (NOT) a Bog Fat Quitter</i>	Carmella Van Vleet	Ages 7-11	600L	SS: Economics – Production and Consumption, grades 3-4
<i>Fairy-Tale Detectives (The Sisters Grimm, Book 1)</i>	Michael Buckley	Ages 8-12	840L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grades 3-4
<i>The Farmer's Away! Baa! Neigh!</i>	Anne Vittur Kennedy	Ages 0-8	NP	ELA: Reading – Foundational Skills: Phonological Awareness, grades K-1.
<i>Farmers' Market Day</i>	Jane Dippold, illus.; Shanda Trent	Ages 3-7	AD390L	Science: Life Science – Basic Needs of Living Things, grade 1
<i>Fat Angie</i>	e. E. Charlton-Trujillo	Ages 14 and up	660L	SS: Contemporary World Issues, grades 9-12
<i>The Female of the Species</i>	Mindy McGinnis	Ages 14 and up	980L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 11-12; Health Education Curriculum, grades 9-12
<i>Firegirl</i>	Tony Abbott	Ages 8-12	670L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 5-6
<i>The First Day of Winter</i>	Denise Fleming	Ages 3-6	960L	Math: Counting & Cardinality, grade K
<i>Found</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	Grades 3-7	750L	SS: Government – Roles and Systems of Government, grades 5-6
<i>The Giant of Seville: A "Tall" Tale Based on a True Story</i>	Dan Andreasen	Ages 4-8	AD910L	SS: History – Historical Thinking and Skills, grade 4; ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grades 1-3
<i>The Girl of Fire and Thorns</i>	Rae Carson	Ages 13-17	730L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 11-12



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<i>Good Behavior: A Memoir</i>	Nathan L. Henry	Ages 14-17	860L	ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes, grades 11-12
<i>Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth</i>	James Cross Giblin	Ages 10-14	1130L	SS: History – Civil War and Reconstruction, grade 8
<i>The Hallowed Ones</i>	Laura Bickle	Grades 7 and up	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 8
<i>Henry Finds His Word</i>	Lindsay Ward	Ages 3-5	AD70L	Social and Emotional Development: Relationships – Empathy, grades K-1.
<i>I Wanna Go Home</i>	David Catrow, illus.; Karen Kaufman Orloff	Ages 5-8	AD610L	Approaches toward Learning: Initiative – Initiative and Curiosity, grades K-3.
<i>The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey</i>	Louise Borden	Ages 9-12	950L	ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grades 3-4; SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 6
<i>Just Ella</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	Grades 5-7	850L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 6
<i>Leaf Jumpers</i>	Carole Gerber; Lesile Evans, illus.	Ages 3-7	AD650L	Science: Life Science – Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things, grade K
<i>The Legend of Rock Scissors Paper</i>	Drew Daywalt; Adam Rex, illus.	Ages 4-8	AD670L	Fine Arts: Visual Art – Perceiving/Knowing, grades K-2; SS: Geography – Spatial Thinking and Skills, grades K-1
<i>Library Mouse</i>	Daniel Kirk	Ages 4-8	NC830L	ELA: Writing – Production and Distribution of Writing, grade 2
<i>Life</i>	Cynthia Rylant; Brendan Wenzel, illus.	Ages 4 and up	460L	Science: Observations of the Environment – Daily and Seasonal Changes, grade K.
<i>Little Man</i>	Fred Willingham, illus.; Dionne Warwick and David Freeman Wooley	Ages 4-8	590L	SS: Government – Civic Participation and Skills, grades 1-3; SS: Economics – Markets, grades 1-2
<i>Make Way for Ducklings</i>	Robert McCloskey	Ages 6-8	AD630L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grades K-1
<i>Miss Mary Reporting: The True Story of Sportswriter Mary Garber</i>	Sue Macy; C. F. Payne, illus.	Grades K-3	NC910L	SS: Economics – Financial Literacy, grade 2; ELA: Writing – Research to Build and Present Knowledge, grades K-2.



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<i>Moonpenny Island</i>	Tricia Springstubb; Gilbert Ford, illus.	Ages 8-12	640L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grades 3-5; Science: Life Science – Earth’s Living History, grade 4.
<i>Not a Drop to Drink</i>	Mindy McGinnis	Ages 14 and up	HL820L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 9-10; Science – Environmental Science: Global Environmental Problems and Issues, grades 9-12
<i>Once Upon an Elephant</i>	Linda Stanek; Shennen Bersani, illus.	Ages 4-8	AD570L	Science: Life Science – Interactions Within Habitats, grade 2
<i>Otis</i>	Loren Long	Ages 3-5	AD840L	ELA: Language – Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, grade K
<i>Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family’s Farm</i>	Michael J. Rosen	Ages 10 and up	1010L	ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Key Ideas and Details, grade 5; Science: Life Science – Interactions Within Ecosystems, grade 5
<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Sharon Draper	Grades 5 and up	700L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 6-7
<i>Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts about Peace</i>	Anna Grossnickle Hines	Ages 4-8	N/A	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grade 1-3
<i>The People Could Fly: Black American Folktales</i>	Virginia Hamilton; Leo and Diane Dillon, illus.	Ages 8-14	660L	SS: History – Civil War and Reconstruction, grade 8; ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grades 5-6
<i>The Relatives Came</i>	Cynthia Rylant; Stephen Gammell, illus.	Ages 4-8	AD940L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 1; ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes, grades 1-2
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor	Ages 10-13	920L	ELA: Writing: Text Types and Purposes, grades 5-6
<i>Roots and Blues: A Celebration</i>	Arnold Adoff; R. Gregory Christie, illus.	Ages 9-12	N/A	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 6-7
<i>Rosa</i>	Nikki Giovanni; Bryan Collier, illus.	Grades 3-5	900L	SS: Government – Civic Participation and Skills; Rules and Laws, grade 3; ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 3
<i>Saving Wonder</i>	Mary Knight	Ages 9 and up	870L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 5
<i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i>	Shelley Pearsall	Ages 10 and up	760L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 5; ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 5-7



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<i>Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep!</i>	Will Hillenbrand, illus.; Maureen Wright	Ages 4-8	AD790L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades K-1
<i>Surviving the Applewhites</i>	Stephanie S. Tolan	Grades 6-8	820L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 6-7
<i>Sweet, Hereafter</i>	Angela Johnson	Grades 7 and up	750L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 7-8
<i>Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World</i>	Marilyn Nelson; Jerry Pinkney, illus.	Ages 9-12	N/A	ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 4; ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 5
<i>There Will Be Bears</i>	Ryan Gebhart	Ages 10 and up	640L	Science: Life Science, grade 8; SS: Economics and Financial Literacy, grades 9-12
<i>The Thief</i>	Megan Whalen Turner	Grades 6-8	920L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 6-7
<i>Things That Surprise You</i>	Jennifer Maschari	Ages 8-12	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 3-5
<i>This is the Rope</i>	Jacqueline Woodson; James Ransome, illus.	Grades K-3	AD1090L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades K-3
<i>Tiger in My Soup</i>	Jeffrey Ebbeler, illus.; Kashmira Sheth	Ages 4-8	AD230L	ELA: Writing: Text Types and Purposes, grades K-1
<i>Tomás and the Library Lady</i>	Pat Mora; Raúl Colón, illus.	Ages 3-7	500L	SS: History – Heritage, grades K-2.
<i>Trouble Don't Last</i>	Shelley Pearsall	Ages 9-13	720L	ELA: Language: Knowledge of Language, grade 5; SS: History – Ohio in the United States, grade 4
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>	Natalie Babbitt	Ages 10 and up	770L	ELA: Writing: Text Types and Purposes, grades 4-5
<i>Two Girls of Gettysburg</i>	Lisa Klein	Ages 12-17	830L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 7
<i>Under Their Skin</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	Ages 8-12	760L	SS: Government – Civic Participation and Skills, grade 4
<i>The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy</i>	Kate Hattemer	Ages 12 and up	HL509L	SS: American Government – Civic Participation and Skills, grades 9-12
<i>Voices from the March on Washington</i>	J. Patrick Lewis and George Ella Lyon	Ages 10-18	NP	SS: American History – Social Transformations, grades 9-12



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<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech	Ages 8-12	770L	ELA: Speaking and Listening - Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 4-6
<i>What Happens Next</i>	Colleen Clayton	Ages 15-18	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 11-12
<i>When We Collided</i>	Emery Lord	Ages 14 and up	HL730L	SS: Economics and Financial Literacy, grades 9-12
<i>Where the Steps Were</i>	Andrea Cheng	Ages 6 and up	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Craft and Structure, grade 3
<i>Wind Flyers</i>	Angela Johnson; Loren Long, illus.	Ages 5-9	N/A	SS: History – Historical Thinking and Skills, grades K-3; Approaches toward Learning: Creativity – Innovation and Invention, grades K-3
<i>Winterfrost</i>	Michelle Houts	Ages 8-12	810L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 5
<i>Women of the Frontier: 16 Takes of Trailblazing Homesteaders, Entrepreneurs and Rabble-Rousers</i>	Brandon Marie Miller	Ages 12-17	1160L	SS: History – Expansion, grade 8; ELA: Reading: Informational Text – Key Ideas and Details, grade 7
<i>The Year of the Book</i>	Andrea Cheng; Abigail Halpin, illus.	Ages 7-10	590L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 3-5
<i>Zoe in Wonderland</i>	Brenda Woods	Ages 8 and up	710L	Science: Life Science – Behavior, Growth and Changes, grade 3

## Activity Ideas for Extension and Integration

*“Cardington Reads brought together the community with a focus on the history of the Underground Railroad in central Ohio. The titles **Copper Sun** by Sharon Draper and **Trouble Don’t Last** by Shelley Pearsall were used to promote activities in the middle school which included art, music, social studies and language arts, as well as performances by local historians and the eighth grade choir. Supported by an LSTA grant, the collaboration between the public and school libraries benefitted all involved.”*

*-- Katie Porteus, District Librarian, Cardington-Lincoln Local Schools*

CTRO supports integration across academic subject areas, and extension beyond the experience of reading the book. CTRO toolkits include suggested projects and extension activities. In many cases, these activities are explicitly related to examples of Ohio's Learning Standards. Here is an example from the toolkit for Michael J. Rosen's **Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family's Farm**:

*Social Studies – Economics: Financial Literacy. In order to save money and support their family, the Bennetts grow some of their own food, raise chickens for eggs, and sell hay bales. Develop students' financial literacy by discussing other ways to save or raise money on a family farm and how the Bennetts could use their saved income. Third graders may focus on budgeting, fourth graders on saving, and fifth graders on skill-building. Then, have each student select an item he or she would like to own, cut out a picture of the item (from a magazine, catalog, or web page), and glue it to a sheet of paper along with its price. Then each student will list ways they do, or can, earn money (allowance, chores, etc.) as well as ways to reduce their spending. On the sheet of paper, the student will formulate how long it will take to save enough money to buy the item. (Grades 3, 4, 5).*

Book-related activities may be designed to enhance collaboration, communication, and other knowledge-building skills. Student responses to CTRO books might include:

- Using technology tools to create and present products from slideshows to book trailers;
- Collaborating with other students in school, across Ohio, or around the world;
- Using INFOhio resources in an inquiry-based process to gain understanding of the issues and historical realities reflected in literary texts. Here is an example from the CTRO toolkit for Shelley Pearsall's **The Seventh Most**

### **Important Thing:**

*The book is set in Washington D.C. between 1963 and 1964. Research news events in the United States during that time period, using resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org). Do events in the early 1960's mirror those of today? Do you believe the time period, a period before the Internet and mass mobile phone usage, played a role in how the characters acted? How might the story and characters be different if the plot took place today?*



Here are some additional ideas for using CTRO in your school:

- Create a display of CTRO books in your library.
- Assign a CTRO title for your students' summer reading.
- Plan a read-aloud in the classroom or a school-wide reading event.
- Encourage families to read a CTRO book together and plan field trips or other activities related to the book.
- Produce a readers' theater performance of a CTRO title.
- Create and publish book trailers for CTRO titles.
- Collaborate with partner organizations on a community-wide book program.
- Ask the public library to support your CTRO project by supplying copies of your chosen book, providing after-school programming related to the book, or creating a display or booklist of additional texts.
- Research and map the Ohio connections of the CTRO authors.
- Have students prepare questions for a CTRO author.

CTRO toolkits include author contact information when available. A visit with an author or illustrator is among the most enriching experiences a class can have. If resources are short, partner with community organizations such as the public library, civic organizations, and other groups. Also consider visiting with an author online by voice, video, or chat. Online visits can be less costly because the author does not need to travel. Online visits also support the development of student skills in communication and technology.

### **About Choose to Read Ohio**

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups. Explore CTRO resources & toolkits: [library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).