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One definition of Social Justice is the effort to challenge injustice and work towards equality and fairness for all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or economic status. This is a selected list of books available in the Curriculum Materials Center that can be used in the PreK-8 classroom. If searching for additional titles in the online catalog, https://chengfind.wpunj.edu use a specific topic, e.g. hunger, immigration, etc

**Picture Books**

Two separate stories in one book, the first telling of Mari's starting school in a new land, and the second describing village life in her country before her family left in search of a better life.
**Call Number:** PJ Ali

Maddi's fridge is almost empty, while Sophia's fridge is full of food. How can Sophia help her friend Maddi without breaking her promise not to tell anyone?
**Call Number:** PJ Bra

Refugees from a Caribbean island embark on a dangerous boat trip to America where they have a special reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.
**Call Number:** PJ Bun

When seven-year-old Laura and her family visit Grandfather's grave at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, the Japanese American child leaves behind a special symbol.
**Call Number:** PJ Bun

Saya’s mother is sent to jail as an illegal immigrant, she sends her daughter a cassette tape with a song and a bedtime story, which inspires Saya to write a story of her own.
**Call Number:** PJ Dan
In Cuba, in the early 1950s, a young boy and his family try their best not to let the rebel soldiers keep them from traveling to Santiago to celebrate Christmas with their relatives.
**Call Number:** PJ Fig

Chandra and her sister Deena see a demonstration of a solar powered lamp, at a market in Nepal and are determined to buy one, knowing it will help their little brother's cough to stop using kerosene lamps.
**Call Number:** PJ Hei

Third-grader Sharonda and her mother help volunteers from their church to build the house that will be their very own.
**Call Number:** PJ Lyo

Two girls work hard all day to help support their family. Yasmin seeks a way to attend school, and learn to read so she can have a better life.
**Call Number:** PJ Mal

Three children from other countries struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States.
**Call Number:** PJ Obr

Winston is worried because the ice of the Hudson Bay is melting sooner each year and he and his fellow polar bears have less time to hunt for food. He comes up with an idea that will make the tourists realize what is going on.
**Call Number:** PJ Oki

After hearing a story about a girl in Uganda whose life is changed for the better by the gift of a goat, a class of fifth-graders pull together to raise for a similar donation.
**Call Number:** PJ Sch

A young African-American girl is traumatized when a gang attacks her and her brother on their way home from school and spray-paints her face white.
**Call Number:** PJ Sha
Elena lives with her mother and siblings in a small village in Guatemala where she tries to make time to improve her reading as she helps her mother with daily chores.

**Call Number:** PJ Sha

Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.

**Call Number:** PJ Wil

After Mama takes a job in Chicago during World War II, Ada Ruth stays with Grandma but misses her mother. Ada Ruth and her grandma keep up their daily routine and find strength in each other, and a stray kitten.

**Call Number:** PJ Woo

When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

**Call Number:** PJ Woo

A young girl and her grandmother visit the girl's father in prison.

**Call Number:** PJ Woo

A homeless boy on the streets of Haiti joins other street children, and together they build a home and a radio station where they can care for themselves and for other homeless children.

**Call Number:** PJ You

**Fiction:**

When Leo outgrows his bicycle, it finds a new home with Alisetta, who uses it to access her family's sorghum field and the market.

**Call Number:** J Isa
Maria Luz and her family have a small farm in Honduras, but may not have enough food to sustain them for the year. Her father leaves home to find work and Maria must tend the garden.
**Call Number: J Mil**

Mimi and her family help bring basic health care to their community. By making small changes like sleeping under mosquito nets and big ones like building a clinic with outside help, her family and their neighbors transform their Kenyan village.
**Call Number: J Mil**

Based on a true story, tells of how a poor Ghanaian boy buys a chicken through a community loan program, which eventually helps lift him, his mother, and his community out of poverty.
**Call Number: J Mil**

Razia dreams of getting an education, but in her small Afghan village, girls have not been allowed to attend school for many years. When a new girls’ school opens in the village, Razia must convince her family to let her go.
**Call Number: J Sun**

Garang, orphaned by a civil war in Sudan, finds the inner strength to help lead other boys as they trek seeking safety in Ethiopia, Kenya, and finally the United States.
**Call Number: J Wil**

Lillian at the age of 100 remembers her family’s tumultuous voting history while making her way to the polling place.
**Call Number: J Win**
Biographies:

Mandela's extraordinary life is a story of courage, persistence, hope, and belief. No matter what he faced Mandela always stood firm for what was fair and right.
**Call Number:** jB Mandela

The empowering story of Wangari Maathai, the first African woman and environmentalist, to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
**Call Number:** j333.72 Joh

A biography of Cesar Chavez, from age ten to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers' miserable working conditions.
**Call Number:** jB Cha

A biography of the Jewish heroine, Luba Tryszynska, who saved the lives of more than fifty Jewish children in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
**Call Number:** [Holocaust] j940.53 McC

Scott Reynolds Nelson recounts how he came to discover the real John Henry, an African-American railroad worker who became a legend in the famous song.
**Call Number:** jB John Henry

Wangari Maathai came back to her homeland after college to find the streams dry, the people malnourished, and the trees gone. She found a way to bring back the trees and restore the gardens needed to feed the hungry.
**Call Number:** jB Maathai

Born in Ghana, with one deformed leg, Emmanuel was dismissed by most people, except for his mother who taught him to reach for his dreams.
**Call Number:** j362.4092 Tho
A picture-book biography of two young Pakistani heroes, Malala Yousafzai and Iqbal Masih.
**Call Number:** j331.3 Win

After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, Nasreen stops speaking. While attending a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.
**Call Number:** j958.1 Win

**Nonfiction:**

Shows how children around the world stay healthy by eating good food, having access to clean water, living in safe homes, and sharing a loving community.
**Call Number:** j613 Ajm

The story cloth made for her by her aunt and uncle chronicles the life of the author and her family in their native Laos and their eventual emigration to the United States.
**Call Number:** j972.0495 Cha

Explore how children from six different countries use water every day.
**Call Number:** j363.6 Hol

When William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought in 2001, everyone's crops began to fail. William came across a book on windmills and figured out how to build a windmill that could bring electricity to his village and be used for irrigation.
**Call Number:** j621.4 Kam

Describes the new life of Nary, a Cambodian refugee, in America, as well as his encounters with prejudice. Includes some general history of U.S. immigration.
**Call Number:** j305.895 Kni
Edi Fejzullahu and his family fled their home in Kosovo to live in a Macedonian refugee camp when the Serbs adopted a policy of ethnic cleansing against Albanians.
**Call Number:** j305.906 Mar

Your way to school might be by yellow bus, bicycle, or car, but around the world children are using other forms of transportation. Some get to class by canoe, through tunnels, up ladders, by donkey and many other forms of travel.
**Call Number:** j372.9172 McC

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way until one bag became hundreds.
**Call Number:** j363.72 Pau

Explore the cultural and environmental aspects of traditional Balinese rice farming through photographs.
**Call Number:** j633.18 Rey

Written in verse and alternating narratives, this story describes the ecological and social transformation resulting from the work of Dr. Gordon Sato who made saltwater and desert land productive through the planting of mangrove trees in Africa.
**Call Number:** j577.69 Rot

A story of one little boy's dream to provide clean drinking water to the people of Africa.
**Call Number:** j361.7 Sho

Sylvia Mendez, an eight-year-old girl of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, played an instrumental role in Mendez v. Westminster, the landmark desegregation case of 1946 in California.
**Call Number:** j379.2 Ton

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