



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 readers' toolkits, bookmarks, and author READ posters to help schools, libraries, and book clubs build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors 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 Common Core 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 New 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 printable PDF handouts: <http://www.library.ohio.gov/ctro#toolkits>.

Learn more about CTRO here: <http://www.library.ohio.gov/ctro>.



<http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>

Title	Author(s)/Illustrator (Ohioan listed first)	Grade Level/Age Range (provided by publisher)	Lexile Measure	Sample Common Core/ONLS Connections (<i>other standards also apply!</i>)
<i>Acoustic Rooster and his Barnyard Band</i>	Tim Bowers, illus., Kwame Alexander, author	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 & D Foster</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	Ages 10 and up	750L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Craft and Structure, grades 6-7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6, RL.7.6)
<i>The Art Collector</i>	Jan Wahl, author, Rosalinde Bonnet, illus.	Ages 5-8	AD450L	Math: Geometry - Identify and describe shapes / Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes, grades K-1 (CCSS.Math.Content.K.G.A.1, K.G.B.4, 1.G.A.1)
<i>B is for Buckeye: An Ohio Alphabet</i>	Marcia Schonberg, author, 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7)
<i>Beneath My Mother’s Feet</i>	Amjed Qamar	Grades 7 and up	770L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grade 7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.1, RL.7.2, RL.7.3)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.6)
<i>The Blue Sword</i>	Robin McKinley	Ages 8-12	1030L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 6 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9)
<i>Bone, Vol. 1: Out from Boneville</i>	Jeff Smith	Ages 11-15	GN360L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 5 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7)
<i>The Boy on the Porch</i>	Sharon Creech	Ages 8-12	680L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 4-7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1, SL.5.1, SL.6.1, SL.7.1)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, RH.6-8.5, RH.6-8.6)
<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

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<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1, W.9-10.4, W.11-12.1, W.11-12.4)
<i>Deadline</i>	Chris Crutcher	Ages 14-17	880L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 9-12 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3, RL.11-12.3)
<i>The Death of Jayson Porter</i>	Jaime Adoff	Ages 14-17	560L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 8-12 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3, RL.9-10.3, RL.11-12.3)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.9, RL.4.9)
<i>Farmers' Market Day</i>	Jane Dippold, illus., Shanda Trent, author	Ages 3-7	AD390L	Science: Life Science – Basic Needs of Living Things, grade 1
<i>Firegirl</i>	Tony Abbott	Ages 8-12	670L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 5-6 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2, RL.6.2)
<i>The First Day of Winter</i>	Denise Fleming	Ages 3-6	960L	Math: Counting & Cardinality, grade K (CCSS.Math.Content.K.CC.B.4, K.CC.C.7)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.9, RI.2.9, RI.3.9)
<i>The Girl of Fire and Thorns</i>	Rae Carson	Ages 13-17	730L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 11-12 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3)
<i>Good Behavior: A Memoir</i>	Nathan L. Henry	Ages 14-17	860L	ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes, grades 11-12 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.3)
<i>The Hallowed Ones</i>	Colleen Clayton	Grades 7 and up	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 8 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1, RL.8.2, RL.8.3)

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<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7, RI.4.7); 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9)
<i>Leaf Jumpers</i>	Carole Gerber, author, Lesile Evans, illus.	Ages 3-7	AD650L	Science: Life Science – Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things, grade K
<i>Library Mouse</i>	Daniel Kirk	Ages 4-8	NC830L	ELA: Writing – Production and Distribution of Writing, grade 2 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.5, W.2.6)
<i>Little Man</i>	Fred Willingham, illus., Dionne Warwick and David Freeman Wooley, authors	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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.7, RL.1.7)
<i>Not a Drop to Drink</i>	Mindy McGinnis	Ages 14 and up	HL820L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 9-10 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.2, RL.9-10.3); Science – Environmental Science: Global Environmental Problems and Issues, grades 9-12
<i>Otis</i>	Loren Long	Ages 3-5	AD840L	ELA: Language – Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, grade K (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.4, L.K.6)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.3); 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5, RL.6.6, RL.7.5, RL.7.6)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.4, RL.2.4, RL.3.4)



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<i>The People Could Fly: Black American Folktales</i>	Virginia Hamilton, author, 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7, RL.6.7, RL.6.9)
<i>The Relatives Came</i>	Cynthia Rylant, author, Stephen Gammell, illus.	Ages 4-8	AD940L	SS: Geography – Human Systems, grade 1; ELA: Writing – Text Types and Purposes, grades 1-2 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.1.3, W.2.3)
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor	Ages 10-13	920L	ELA: Writing: Text Types and Purposes, grades 5-6 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3, W.6.3)
<i>Roots and Blues: A Celebration</i>	Arnold Adoff, author, R. Gregory Christie, illus.	Ages 9-12	N/A	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 6-7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4, RL.6.5; RL.7.4; RL.7.5)
<i>Rosa</i>	Nikki Giovanni, author, 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7)
<i>Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep!</i>	Will Hillenbrand, illus., Maureen Wright, author	Ages 4-8	AD790L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades K-1 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.2, SL.1.2)
<i>Surviving the Applewhites</i>	Stephanie S. Tolan	Grades 6-8	820L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 6-7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1, SL.7.1)
<i>Sweet, Hereafter</i>	Angela Johnson	Grades 7 and up	750L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Craft and Structure, grades 7-8 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.6, RL.8.6)
<i>Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World</i>	Marilyn Nelson, author, Jerry Pinkney, illus.	Ages 9-12	N/A	ELA: Reading – Informational Text: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 4 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.7); ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 5 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7)
<i>The Thief</i>	Megan Whalen Turner	Grades 6-8	920L	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 6-7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.7.1, RL.7.2, RL.7.3)



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<i>This is the Rope</i>	Jacqueline Woodson, author, James Ransome, illus.	Grades K-3	AD1090L	ELA: Speaking and Listening – Comprehension and Collaboration, grades K-3 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.1, SL.K.2, SL.1.1, SL.1.2, SL.2.1, SL.2.2, SL.3.1, SL.3.2)
<i>Tiger in My Soup</i>	Jeffrey Ebbeler, illus., Kashmira Sheth, author	Ages 4-8	AD230L	ELA: Writing: Text Types and Purposes, grades K-1 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.K.3, W.1.3)
<i>Trouble Don't Last</i>	Shelley Pearsall	Ages 9-13	720L	ELA: Language: Knowledge of Language, grade 5 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.3.b); 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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1, W.5.1)
<i>Two Girls of Gettysburg</i>	Lisa Klein	Ages 12-17	830L	ELA: Reading: Literature – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, grade 7 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.9)
<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech	Ages 8-12	770L	ELA: Speaking and Listening - Comprehension and Collaboration, grades 4-6 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1, SL.5.1, SL.6.1)
<i>What Happens Next</i>	Colleen Clayton	Ages 15-18	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Key Ideas and Details, grades 11-12 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1, RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3)
<i>Where the Steps Were</i>	Andrea Cheng	Ages 6 and up	N/A	ELA: Reading – Literature: Craft and Structure, grade 3 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4, RL.3.5, RL.3.6)
<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 (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1, RI.7.3)



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Activity Ideas for Extension and Integration

*"During the 2009-2010 school year, 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 New 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 Angela Johnson's **Sweet, Hereafter** :

As a group, discuss what you know about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Take a poll to determine whether your group believes Curtis suffers from PTSD. Talk about what happens in war that might have a profound psychological effect on a person. Then work in pairs to research PTSD using online library resources available to students through INFOhio (<http://www.infohio.org/>). Talk with your partner about what you learn, and write an essay together discussing the impact of PTSD and suggesting ways to support and help people with PTSD.



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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.

Starting with the 2011 & 2012 booklist, every CTRO toolkit includes 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, and/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 and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups. Explore CTRO resources & toolkits: <http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>.

This tipsheet created July 2014.

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