Packer Collegiate Institute
Hart Lower School Library
Economic Indicators Bibliography
2006

Socio-Economic Diversity

Picture Books

E ADLER

Adler, David A. The Babe & I.

While helping his family make ends meet during the Depression by selling newspapers, a boy meets Babe Ruth.

E CRISTALDI

Cristaldi, Kathryn. Samantha the Snob.

A young girl resents her new rich classmate until she gets to know her.

E DISALVO-RYAN

DiSalvo-Ryan, DyAnne. Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen.

A boy spends the day with Uncle Willie in the soup kitchen where he works preparing and serving food for the hungry.

E HAZEN

Hazen, Barbara Shook. Tight Times.

A young boy isn't sure why a thing called "tight times" means not getting a dog.

E RYLANT

Rylant, Cynthia. Silver Packages: an Appalachian Christmas Story.

Every year at Christmas a wealthy man rides a train through Appalachia and throws gifts to the poor children, in order to repay the debt he owes the people who live there.

E SCHOTTER

Schotter, Roni. Mama. I'll Give You the World.

At Walter's World of Beauty, Luisa's secret plans are underway to create a very special birthday celebration for her hard-working, single mother who is employed there as a stylist.

E SMALLS

Smalls, Irene. Don't Say Ain't.

In 1957, a young girl is torn between life in the neighborhood where she grew up and fitting in at the school she now attends

E SPINELLI

Spinelli, Eileen. The Perfect Thanksgiving.

Two families--one that is "perfect" and one that is far from it--celebrate Thanksgiving in their own loving ways.

Fiction

F ADLER

Adler, Susan S. Samantha Learns a Lesson: A School Story.

Samantha is determined to help nine-year-old Nellie, attending school for the first time, with her school work. In the process she learns a great deal about what it is like to be a poor child and to work in a factory.

F CLEMENT

Clements, Andrew. The Jacket.

Phil comes to an awareness of his own racial prejudice after he sees Daniel, an African-American boy, wearing his brother's one-of-a-kind jacket and leaps to the conclusion that Daniel has stolen the coat.

F CLEMENTS

Clements, Andrew. The Janitor's Boy.

Fifth Grader, Jack, finds himself the target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is one of the school janitors.

F CONLY

Conly, Jane Leslie. While No One Was Watching.

When two brothers steal a rabbit from a back yard in the rich part of town, the incident brings about their collision with other children from a background very different from their own.

F ESTES

Estes, Eleanor. The Hundred Dresses.

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates an important lesson.

F HURWITZ

Hurwitz, Johanna. Faraway Summer.

In the summer of 1910, Dossi, a poor Russian immigrant from the tenements of New York, spends two weeks with the Meade family on their Vermont farm, and all their lives are enriched by the experience.

F PARK

Park, Barbara. Junie B. Jones is a Party Animal.

Lucille invites Junie B. and her friend Grace to sleep over at her very rich Nanna's house, where everything is beautiful, expensive, and breakable.

F RYAN

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. Esperanza Rising.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California, There they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Homelessness

E BUNTING

Bunting, Eve. Fly Away Home.

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom.

E KIMIKO

Kimiko. Home is Where We Live: Life in a Shelter Through a Young Girl's Eyes.
Photographs with brief text chronicle a seven-month stay at a homeless shelter where a ten-year-old girl felt scared at first but, later, felt safe.

E KING

King, Stephen Michael. Mutt Dog.
A lonely dog finally finds a home after she makes friends with a woman who works at a homeless shelter.

E TESTA

Testa, Maria. Someplace to Go.
Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mother and older brother when the shelter opens at eight o'clock.

E WALLACE

Wallace, Judy. Changing Places: A Kid's View of Shelter Living.
Illustrations accompany the words of eight different homeless children describing their personal experience of homelessness and life in a shelter.

F HAMILTON

Hamilton, Virginia. The Planet of Junior Brown.
Already a leader in New York's underground world of homeless children, Buddy Clark takes on the responsibility of protecting the overweight, emotionally disturbed friend with whom he has been playing hooky from eighth grade all semester.

F HOLMAN

Holman, Felice. Slake's Limbo.
Thirteen-year-old orphan, Aremis Slake, hounded by his fears and misfortunes, flees into New York City's subway tunnels, never again—he believes—to emerge.