

Worcester Historical Museum Alden Family Gallery Trade Book List - Compiled by Jayne Hughes, Maryann Toll, Clare T. Nadolski

Listed below you will find some suggestions for trade books offering stories about people, growing cities, diners, factories and innovation. Each can be used as a pre-visit activity, a “think about” jumping off point for a class discussion, an idea for an invention or even an inspiration for writing a story about your life here in Worcester. While picture books are listed for primary level students, they should not be overlooked as resources for intermediate students also. Some listed books are out of print but are available at local libraries and on Amazon or Ebay.

(*Note: **P** - people, **C** - cities, **D** - diners, **F** - factories, **I** - innovation, **W** - Worcester Facts)

Primary Level Books: K-3

| Topic | Title | Author and Publication Date | Comments |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| P | Then and Now | Heather Amery 2008 | Then and now compares late 1800s to now through detailed side by side illustrations. |
| P | If You Lived 100 Years Ago | Ann McGovern 1999 | Life in NYC 100 years ago is highlighted in this book featuring dress, travel, dining and entertainment. |
| P | Tobey Boland and the Blackstone Canal | Thomas L. Rooney 2005 | Tobias Boland’s (1795-1888) contribution to the construction of the Blackstone Canal from Worcester to Providence from 1826 to 1828. |
| C | The Little House | Virginia Lee Burton 1942 | The Little House watches town grow around it. *Reminds me of Salisbury Mansion when it was located at Lincoln Square. |
| C | Popville | Anouck Boisrobert 2010 | Pop up book lets you see houses, apartments, factories and power lines appear as you turn the pages. Clever paper engineering is used. |
| D | In the Diner | Christine Loomis 1994 | Written in rhyming word couplets, this book features a busy multicultural cast cheerfully cooking, eating and serving together at busy Joe’s Diner. |
| D | Breakfast at the Liberty Diner | Daniel Kirk 1997 | Bobby, a victim of polio, is inspired when he and his mom meet President Roosevelt while eating breakfast at the Liberty Diner. |
| D | Breakfast at Danny’s Diner | Judith Stamper 2003 | Danny’s niece and nephew help him out at his busy diner by putting their multiplication skills to work. |

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| D | Frank and Ernest | Alexandra Day 2010 | This book about a Deco era diner features many visual clues and “diner lingo” |
| D | Mel’s Diner | Marisa Moss 1999 | African American Mabel helps mom and dad run their informal neighborhood diner. Storyline features the great diversity of people enjoying themselves. |
| D | Uncle Phil’s Diner | Helena Clare Pitman 1998 | Ruthie and her dad share memories as they walk to Uncle Phil’s diner for breakfast on a cold winter morning. |
| F | Curious George Goes to a Chocolate Factory | H. A. Rey 1998 | George becomes curious about how chocolates are made when visiting the local candy store. |
| W | Worcester Stacks Up | C. J. Posk 2012 | Local author, C.J. Posk highlights Worcester’s firsts and fun facts in her book. *Proceeds from the sale of <i>Worcester Stacks Up</i> will be used to help support the Alden Family Gallery at Worcester Historical Museum. |



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Intermediate Level Books: Gr. 4-6

| Topic | Title | Author and Publication Date | Comment |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| P | Homer Price | Robert McCloskey 1943 | This book features a collection of six short stories about small town America |
| C | Centerburg Tales | Robert McCloskey 1979 | More adventures of Homer Price and life in small town America is highlighted in this book. |
| F | Counting on Grace | Elizabeth Winthrop 2007 | Grace writes about underage child labor in a factory in 1910 Pownal, VT. |
| F | Henry’s Freedom Box | Ellen Levine 2007 | This true story of the underground railroad tells about Henry Brown, and his risky plan to have himself crated up and shipped from slavery to liberty. |
| F | Kids at Work | Russell Freedman 1998 | Lewis Hine and his crusade against child labor is the storyline of this book |
| F | Smokestacks and Spinning Jennys: Industrial Revolution | Sean Stewart Price 2008 | This book tells how the invention of the spinning jenny, steam engine and telegraph changed daily life and working conditions in factories and textile mills. |
| F | The Candymakers | Wendy Mass 2011 | Four children are in competition to invent the tastiest confection for a national competition. |
| F | Mill | David McCauley 1989 | While this book is based on Imaginary mills, the planning, construction and operation detailed are typical of those mills built in nineteenth century New England. It demonstrates the importance of a mill to a community’s economic and social viability. |

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| I | Mistakes That Worked | Charlotte Jones 1994 | Forty inventions including piggy banks, potato chips, frisbees and silly putty are examples of items all invented by mistake. |
| I | Balloons Over Broadway | Melissa Sweet 2011 | Tony Sarg is the puppeteer who invented the upside down puppets that inspired Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons. |
| I | Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight became an inventor | Emily Arnold McCully 2006 | Using a sketchbook and her dad's tool box, Maddie invented toys, sleds and a foot warmer. As an adult she invented a machine to make the square bottom paper bags we still use today. She was contested in court by man who said the invention was his because a woman couldn't understand mechanical complexities. The importance of a patent is discussed. |
| I | Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions | Catherine Thimish 2002 | Inventions such as windshield wipers were made by women. What inspired them and what did it take for them to become a reality? |
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