

Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

How We Organize Ourselves

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry “How We Organize Ourselves” for Bellevue Children’s Academy. Each book is related to the Central Idea. Included with each book title is a summary and a link to the book at King County Library. If there is no link to King County Library System (KCLS) then KCLS does not carry it. If there is a star at the end of the book citation then the library at Bellevue Children’s Academy also carries it.

Kindergarten

- Burton, Virginia Lee. “Katy and the Big Snow.” Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1971.*
 - A classic children’s picture book about how a truck helps out the community after a blizzard. Includes a birds’ eye view of the neighborhood, and the roles everyone played during the clean up.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Rocco, John. “Blizzard.” Los Angeles : Disney/Hyperion, 2014.
 - An intricately illustrated book about how a boy walked through his neighborhood to help out his community after a blizzard.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Hesselberth, Joyce. “Mapping Sam.” New York : Greenwillow Books, 2018.*
 - A lost cat traces his path through his community, illuminating forgotten corners. This book, also, discusses how to read a map.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Isadora, Rachel. “Say Hello!” New York : G. P. Putnam and Sons, 2010.
 - Another well known author and illustrator, Isadora details a girls’ walk throughout her neighborhood. As she greets the people she uses many different languages.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Dubuc, Marianne. “Mr. Postmouse’s Rounds.” Toronto : Kids Can Press, 2015.
 - A mouse who is a mailman walks through a neighborhood on his daily rounds.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Ziefert, Harriet. “ABC Dentist.” Maplewood, New Jersey, 2008.
 - A soothing text accompanies illustrations that help children learn what they can expect at the dentist’s office.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Rockwell, Anne F. “Career Day.” New York : HarperCollins, 2000.
 - A class is introduced to the parents’ careers. For example, children learn what a judge, chef, and crossing guard do.
 - [KCLS](#)

1st Grade

- Elliot, David. “Henry’s Map.” New York : Philomel Books, 2013.*

- Henry is a pig at a farm that likes everything neat, even the rest of the farm. So he designs a map to make it more organized. Chaos ensues.
- [KCLS](#)
- Rabe, Tish. "There's a Map on My Lap." New York : Random House, 2002.*
 - A book about how to use a map in Dr. Seuss's rhyming scheme. Cat in the Hat features prominently as well.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Boothroyd, Jennifer. "Map My..." series. Minneapolis, Minnesota : 2014.*
 - A series of books written just for this age on how maps work for continents, countries, cities, etc. Available only at Bellevue Children's Academy's Library at BCA2.
- Sweeney, Joan. "Me on the Map." New York : Crown, 1996.*
 - A student explains how her house, street, town, city, etc. displays on a map.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Mizielinska, Aleksandra. "Maps." Somerville, Mass : Big Picture Press, 2013.*
 - An involved, but visually appealing book that includes amazing details. While this may be challenging for some 1st graders, all will be drawn to the illustrations.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Ritchie, Scot. "Follow that Map! A First Look at Mapping Skills." Toronto : Kids Can Press, 2009.*
 - Five friends are looking for their lost pets. In this structure the rest of the book outlines how to read and use maps.
 - [KCLS](#)

2nd Grade

- Tarshis, Lauren. "I Survived..." series. New York : Scholastic, Asst. Dates.*
 - Some of the books in this series are not natural disasters, but the rest are fictionalized accounts of children living through some modern and some historical natural disasters.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Osborne, Mary Pope. "Tsunamis and Other Natural Disasters." New York : Random House, 2007.*
 - A non-fiction companion title to the Magic Tree House book "High Tide in Hawaii." You do not need to have read it to understand this title. It illustrates earthquakes and tsunamis in a dynamic way.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Yomtov, Nel. "The Children's Blizzard of 1888." Minneapolis : Lerner Publishing, 2017.*
 - A story not often told about in American history this book uses colorful pictures and pages to detail a blizzard that effected children while at school. This book is for second graders who read above their level.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Bauer, Marion Dane. "Earthquake!" New York : Aladdin, 2009.
 - A ready to read title that is a good introduction to earthquakes. Simple and easy to understand illustrations are included with appropriate vocabulary.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Furgang, Kathy. "Wildfires." Washington D.C. : National Geographic, 2015.

- A ready to read title with colorful photographs and sentence structures that can be easier to understand.
- [KCLS](#)
- Gibbons, Gail. "Hurricanes." New York : Holiday House, 2009.
 - Gail Gibbons is a well known legend and staple in the children's non-fiction world. Her titles always involve informative and fun text with wonderful illustrations. This title is no different and perfect for 2nd graders.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Gibbons, Gail. "Tornadoes." New York : Holiday House, 2009.*
 - Please see above.
 - [KCLS](#)

3rd Grade

- Roosevelt, Eleanor. "When You Grow Up to Vote." New York : Roaring Books Press, 2018.
 - Originally written in 1932, this book has been updated with a modern interpretation. Includes explaining government workers from trash collectors to legislators.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Ford, Jeanne Marie. "How the Government Works." Mankato, Minnesota : The Child's World, 2017.
 - While the book is thin, it is packed with information and a great design to help students learn about their systems of government.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Nelson, Robin. "The Congress: A Look at the Legislative Branch." Minneapolis, Minnesota : Lerner Publications, 2012.
 - With enthusiasm, both historical and stock photos, and straight forward language this is a great book to introduce the third graders to their government.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Burns, Ken. "Grover Cleveland, Again!" New York : Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2016.
 - Written by the famous documentarian, Ken Burns summarizes the legacies of the 43 presidents. Includes attractive illustrations and some first hand accounts.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Giovanni, Nikki. "Rosa." New York : Henry Holt, 2005.
 - A wonderful biography of Rosa Parks that, also, explores what normal people can do when their government fails to protect all of their citizens.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Rodger, Ellen. "What is the Judicial Branch?" St. Catharine's, Ontario : Crabtree Publishing, 2013.
 - A good introduction to the Supreme Court. The book describes how a trial proceeds, the role of the Supreme Justices, and appeals, and more.
 - [KCLS](#)

4th Grade

- Rhodes, Jewel Parker. "Sugar." New York : Little, Brown, 2013.

- A historical fiction title that takes place during Reconstruction on a sugar plantation where the main characters has always lived. Now, the influx of Chinese workers and her friendship with the plantation owner’s son starts to complicate her life.
- [KCLS](#)
- Harasymiw, Mark. “Bizarre Life Cycle of a Salmon.” New York : Gareth Stevens Pub., 2013.*
 - Rich with details, facts, graphics and vocabulary this is a good pick for budding scientists.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Read, Nicholas. “Salmon Bears.” Custer, WA : Orca Book Publishers, 2010.
 - Wonderful photographs coupled with moving text about how bears follow an important resource: salmon.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Howell, Izzi. “Earth’s Resources Geo Facts.” New York : Crabtree Publishing, 2018.
 - Colorful pages highlights this book’s scientific approach to the resources from the earth. This book features many different resources including lumber, deep sea fishing, and oil.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Thompson, Gale. “What is Importing and Exporting?” New York : Crabtree Publishing, 2010.
 - Informative text that explains a difficult topic easily to children.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Holm, Jennifer L. “Our Only May Amelia.” New York : HarperTrophy, 1999.*
 - A Newbery Honor title this book is about a girl growing up in a Finnish community in Washington in the late 1800’s. Her point of view is lively and funny, and the author used her own great-aunt’s diary during this time period to form the structure of the novel.
 - [KCLS](#)

5th Grade

- Grandin, Temple. “Calling All Minds: How to Create and Think Like an Inventor.” New York : Philomel Books, 2018.
 - World renowned scientist Temple Grandin creates a book that details where the ideas for inventions originate, and how young inventors can continue in this vein.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Bundles, A’Lelia Perry. “Madam C.J. Walker.” New York : Chelsea House, 2008.
 - Madame C.J. Walker is the first self-made female, African-American, millionaire in the United States. This biography explains how innovation led her out of poverty.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Nye, Bill. “At the Bottom of the World.” New York : Amulet Books, 2017.
 - First in a series called Jack and the Geniuses, Jack and his two foster siblings are adopted by an inventor who takes them to Antarctica. There they learn about how the scientists are trying to solve many of the world’s issues before one of the scientists disappears.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Mullenbach, Cheryl. “Industrial Revolution for Kids.” Chicago : Chicago Review Press, 2017.

- An engaging perspective on the Industrial Revolution, this book includes the changes in history, culture, and science that changed our world. Most of the primary sources used are from children.
- [KCLS](#)
- Applegate, K.A. “Crenshaw.” New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2015.*
 - This book is about a family who has problems meeting Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs and how that effects a boy just going into 5th grade.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Thompson, Laurie Ann. “Be a Changemaker.” New York : Simon Pulse, 2014.
 - Skews a bit older, but this book can be an inspiration in how to become a social entrepreneur.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Kahan, Alex. “Entrepreneurship: Create Your Own Business with 25 Projects.” White River Junction, Vermont, 2014.*
 - Designed to inspire children to create their own businesses, this book includes some comic strips, charts, a glossary, and practical skills. A good introduction to business.
 - [KCLS](#)