

NEH AWARDS BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS ON "BECOMING AMERICAN" TO 2,000 LIBRARIES

***We the People* Bookshelf awards will support community programs**

WASHINGTON (April 19, 2006)--The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded free copies of classic books to 2,000 public, school, and military libraries throughout the United States and overseas. Each library will receive the 15 classic books on the theme of "Becoming American" from the *We the People* Bookshelf, along with copies of three of the titles offered also in Spanish. As part of the award, libraries will hold programs or events to raise awareness of these classic books and engage young readers.

"The history of our nation overflows with vivid and compelling stories of immigrants drawn to our shores by the promises of freedom, justice, and opportunity," said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. "The Endowment's *We the People* Bookshelf enables younger readers to see how America's immigrants have shaped our history and culture and to examine from many perspectives what it means to 'become an American.'"

The new awards are part of the Endowment's *We the People* program, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. The awards will go to neighborhood, military, and public school libraries--as well as libraries at private schools, charter schools, and home school cooperatives--throughout the United States, each of which will receive a set of the 15 books, posters, bookmarks, and other promotional materials from NEH through the American Library Association, which is working in partnership with NEH. NEH gratefully acknowledges the generous support for the *We the People* Bookshelf provided by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, whose gift enabled NEH to double the number of libraries receiving books this year.

The *We the People* Bookshelf on "Becoming American" contains the following books:

- Grades K-3: *The Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland, *Watch the Stars Come Out* by Riki Levinson (also in a Spanish edition), and *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say.
- Grades 4-6: *Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman, *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* by Virginia Hamilton, *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving (also in a Spanish edition), and *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord.
- Grades 7-8: *Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith, *The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, and *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep.
- Grades 9-12: *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather (also in a Spanish edition), *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* edited by Louis P. Masur, *Barrio Boy* by Ernesto Galarza, and *Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie* by Ole Edvart Rølvaag.

In 2005, NEH awarded 1,000 libraries the *We the People* Bookshelf on "freedom"; in the previous year, which was the first year of the *We the People* Bookshelf, 1,000 libraries received books for young readers on the theme of "courage."

A complete list of the school, public, and military libraries selected to receive the *We the People* Bookshelf on "Becoming American" is available in four Adobe PDF files: [Alabama through Illinois](#) (11-page PDF); [Indiana through New Hampshire](#) (9-page PDF); [New Jersey through South Dakota](#) (10-page PDF); and [Tennessee through Wyoming](#) (8-page PDF).

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