How My List Helped Enrich My Class (Nonviolent Resistance)

I am using the trade books and websites listed below in an experiential learning class entitled “Fighting Back: Ways of Resistance” on nonviolent ways to resist oppression We started the class with studying the definitions and concepts of violence and nonviolence, and then moved on to studying individuals and groups around the world that have used and are continuing to use nonviolent action to empower themselves and create positive change.

This class consists of both high school and middle school students, all of varying reading levels. Therefore, I have chosen books with a variety of lexile levels to meet the needs of all students. I have also chosen a variety of books – some with colorful pictures for readers at lower levels, and some more appropriate for students with greater proficiency – to suit the interests of all students. Furthermore, I have tried to choose books that have won awards or whose authors have been recognized for their nonfiction work.

As a culminating activity in this unit, students will be required to create a lesson of their own to teach to elementary students. Their lesson can be on an individual or individuals who have used or are using nonviolence to create change, or they can teach about peaceful ways of conflict resolution.

The trade books and websites listed can be used both as resources in studying the content of this class as well as for use in creating their lessons. The list is as follows:

# Books:

* Birmingham Sunday (2010) [Larry Dane Brimner](http://www.amazon.com/Larry-Dane-Brimner/e/B000API7SM/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Calkins Creek. This book tells the story of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham that killed four African American girls, but eventually led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Lexile: 1190.
* Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez (2003) Kathleen Krull: HMH Books for Young Readers. This book tells about the life of Cesar Chavez, from his childhood to his rise to unite farm workers in a struggle for their rights. Lexile: 800.
* Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai (2008) [Claire A. Nivola](http://www.amazon.com/Claire-A.-Nivola/e/B001ILKG8Q/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR). As a young woman, Wangari Maathai, led a movement to stop environmental degradation in Kenya and improve the lives of her people. She was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Lexile: 1030.
* Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote (2010) [Tanya Lee Stone](http://www.amazon.com/Tanya-Lee-Stone/e/B000APN412/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Square Fish. The story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s resistance to oppression and her passionate work to gain women the right to vote. Includes her involvement in the 1848 Seneca Falls, N.Y. convention. Lexile: 700.
* If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights (2008) [Anne Kamma](http://www.amazon.com/Anne-Kamma/e/B001ILKCIU/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Scholastic. This book tells about the history of the women’s rights movement, how it began, and how they finally gained the right to vote. Lexile: 750.
* After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance (2009) [Anne Sibley O'Brien](http://www.amazon.com/Anne-Sibley-OBrien/e/B001HCXBMY/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Charlesbridge Publishing. This book offers a nice collection of stories about people worldwide that have resisted violence in nonviolent ways. Lexile: 1080.
* Peace Begins With You (1994) [Katharine Scholes](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=ntt_athr_dp_sr_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Katharine+Scholes&search-alias=books&text=Katharine+Scholes&sort=relevancerank): Little Brown Books for Young Readers. This book is best suited for the elementary level and teaches about peace and conflict resolution. Lexile: 840.
* Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World (2006) [Jane Breskin Zalben](http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Breskin-Zalben/e/B001HCVAKE/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Dutton. This book tells the stories of sixteen peacemakers throughout the world. Lexile: 1150.
* Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews (2000) [Ellen Levine](http://www.amazon.com/Ellen-Levine/e/B000APK8TI/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Holiday House. This book not only tells the story of how the Danish rescued their Jewish population from the Nazi Holocaust, but highlights their brave acts of nonviolent resistance in the midst of stark oppression. Lexile: 890.
* Refusing to Crumble: The Danish Resistance in World War II (2010) [Michael Burgan](http://www.amazon.com/Michael-Burgan/e/B000APFWQM/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1): Compass Point Books. This is another book that tells the story of the Danish nonviolent resistance to Nazi oppression during World War II. Lexile: 970.
* Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High (2007) [Melba Pattillo Beals](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=ntt_athr_dp_sr_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Melba+Pattillo+Beals&search-alias=books&text=Melba+Pattillo+Beals&sort=relevancerank): Simon Pulse. This book portrays the courageous story of Melba Pattillo, the author, and one of nine students that acted with nonviolence in the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Lexile: 1000.

# Websites:

* [United States Institute of Peace](http://www.usip.org/) The United States Institute of Peace was established in 1984 to provide education and training in an effort to promote peacemaking and conflict resolution. It is a nice resource for students as many are not even aware that such a nonpartisan institution even exists. It contains many links to resources.
* [Peace Child International](http://peacechild.org/) Peace Child International is an organization that encourages youth to work together with adults to address global concerns and strategize solutions. It has many resources about current global issues and youth that are working actively to create change.
* [Peace First](http://peacefirst.org/)  PeaceFirst is another organization that engages and empowers youth to create positive change in the world. It has a link to a digital activity center with videos, activities, and information on youth that are actively working to create change.