



Beyond STEAM: The value of liberal arts

In recent years, STEM has been a main driver in K12 education--understandably so in our science- and technology-oriented world. With STEAM, art has been thrown into the mix-but science, math, engineering and technology have remained preeminent.

But what about the liberal arts--the bedrock of Western education for centuries? What has happened to such traditional core subjects as literature, history, civics, geography, languages, and the fine arts?

They never really fell out of fashion completely, but there are signs that the liberal arts are coming back in vogue. There is beginning to be a renewed interest in the classic areas of study that have informed Western society since the ancient Greeks. The capacity to think clearly, identify and nurture core social values, and appreciate and create beauty are arguably more--not less--important as we become more technologically advanced.

Those core areas of study are important in nurturing learners now and leaders in the future. The evidence is all around us. Historically, most of our greatest presidents were educated in this tradition. The Founding Fathers; Lincoln; the Roosevelts; even such figures as Dwight Eisenhower, who successfully made the transition from war to peace, had a strong grounding in the liberal arts. (Lyndon Johnson started his working life as an English teacher.)

On a more mundane level, there's a practical benefit to teaching liberal arts as well. Top colleges and universities are once again looking for well-rounded candidates with a strong liberal arts background, and top employers value the flexibility, thoughtfulness, and "teachability" that a liberal education affords. And as social and political upheaval continue to dominate the world, we become more aware every day that, in the words of the Spanish philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

So, how do we incorporate liberal arts-based skills and values into students' everyday lives? We can begin by exposing them early to such bedrock skills as active reading, analysis, and cultural awareness, incorporating original texts, and providing a firm foundation in social studies and literature. One place to start is with the offerings in Perma-Bound's **Secondary Curriculum** and **Elementary Curriculum catalogs**.

And, for more ideas on how to enhance critical reading skills and incorporate literature and the arts into other areas of study, check out our **FREE active reading** and **paired titles** resources.

Sources:

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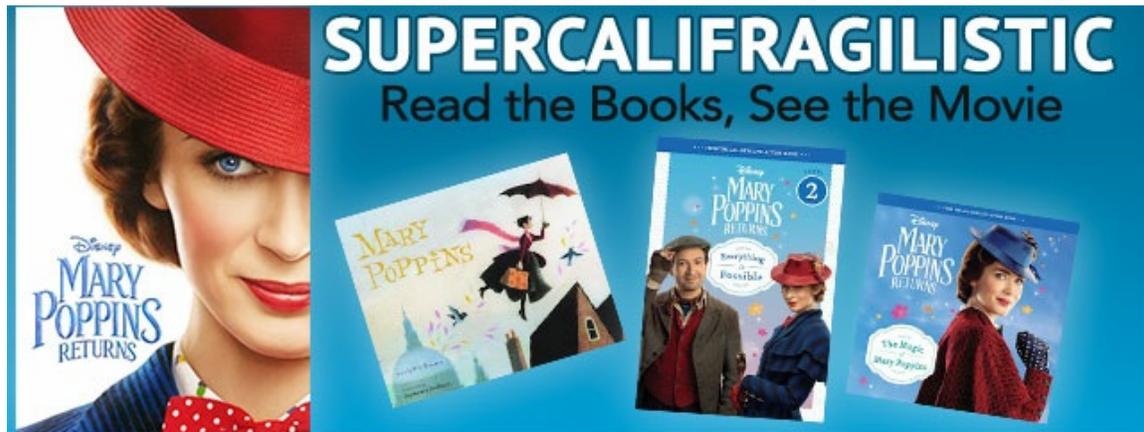
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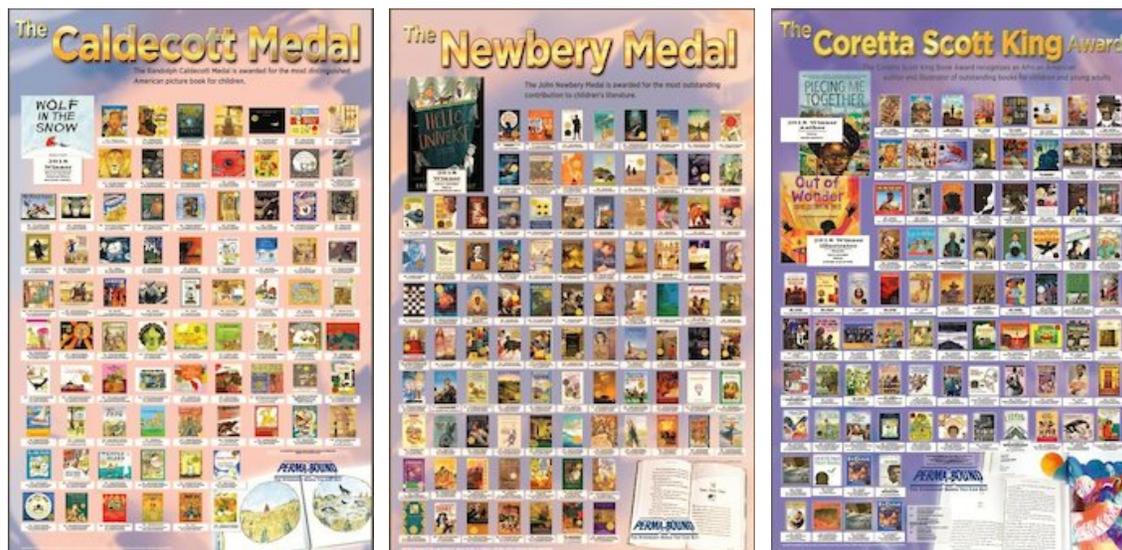


Remembering George H.W. Bush, 1924-2018

As the nation mourns the passing of our 41st president, we'd like to honor his memory, review his accomplishments, and reflect on the qualities that made him such a respected and beloved member of the Greatest Generation.

George Herbert Walker Bush was a distinguished public servant who wore many hats during his storied career. He was a World War II naval aviator who received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism. He was a Texas oilman who became a millionaire by his 40s. He served his country as a congressman, a U.N. ambassador, an envoy to China, the CIA director, and ultimately as vice president and president. He was also, by all accounts, a wonderful husband, father, friend and mentor, who used his long retirement to serve as a goodwill ambassador for America and to engage in such life-changing philanthropy as his famed Thousand Points of Light Foundation.

[Learn More](#)



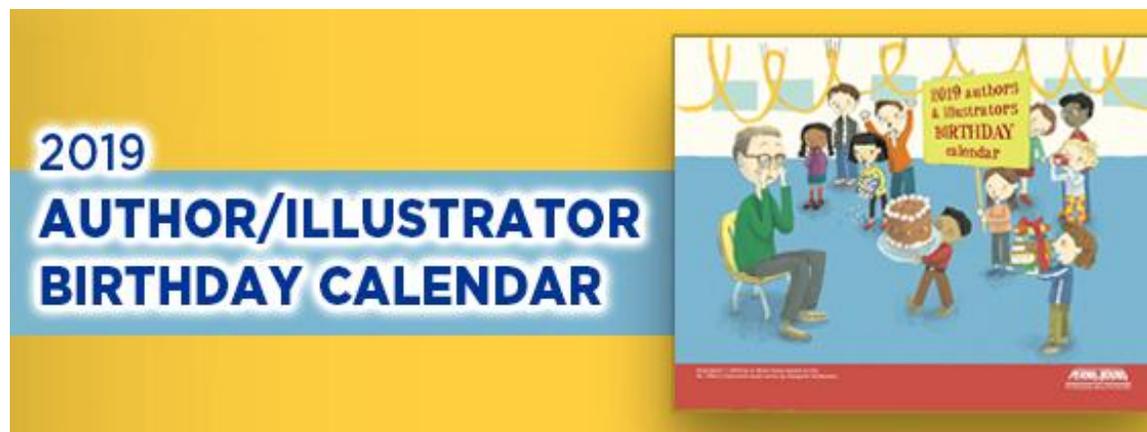
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