Boynton Middle School Library
Recommended Historical Fiction & Nonfiction
with a focus on books about the Progressive Era and Reform in the Early 1900s

American Women in the Progressive Era, 1900-1920
by Dorothy Schneider & Carl J. Schneider
Chronicles two decades of American women and activities they participated in during the Progressive Era.

The Progressive Party: The Success of a Failed Party
by Hilarie Staton
Photographs, diagrams, timelines, and first-hand accounts describe the Progressive Party founded in 1912 by former President Theodore Roosevelt.

Cheap Raw Material
by Milton Meltzer
Presents the history of child labor which stretches back to the beginning of civilization and how much has changed for the better, but tragedy still strikes today in sweatshops, on farms, and even in the fast-food industry.

Jeannette Rankin: A Political Pioneer
by Gretchen Woelfle
Profiles the life and career of early twentieth-century political activist and first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Jeannette Rankin.

The Jungle
by Upton Sinclair
Other Genre(s): CLASSIC
Describes the conditions of the Chicago stockyards through the eyes of a young immigrant struggling in America.

compiled by Annarose Foley, Teacher-Librarian (December 2014)
Looking at women activists of the Progressive Era can provide insights into both the problems of the period and the emerging role of women in public life. As the country moved into the twentieth century, society had to confront the effects of industrialization, the growing concentration of economic power, urbanization, and a great wave of immigration. Wells-Barnett founded the first African American women suffrage organization, and both she and Terrell worked hard to gain support for the amendment. When Elizabeth Cady Stanton resigned as president of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in 1900, Carrie Chapman Catt and a new generation of women replaced her. Pictured are women's vote advocates Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Jordyn Beasley. The Progressive Era. The Promise of American Life, Herbert Croly argued that because the corrupt politician has usurped too much of the power which should be exercised by the people, the millionaire and the trust have appropriated too many of the economic opportunities formerly enjoyed by the people. However, this period was also responsible for a number of Latin American invasions, a split in the Republican party that resulted in a Bull Moose, and brought America into a World War. Education with DocRunning. Secondary Education Collaborative Board. Women lined the rooftop and windows of the ten-story building and jumped, landing in a mangled, bloody pulp. Life nets held by firemen tore at the impact of the falling bodies. Among the onlookers, women were hysterical, scores fainted; men wept as, in paroxysms of frenzy, they hurled themselves against the police lines. By the time the fire burned itself out, 71 workers were injured and 146 had died.
The Progressive Era was a period of widespread social activism and political reform across the United States that spanned the 1890s to the 1920s. The main objectives of the Progressive movement were addressing problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and political corruption. The movement primarily targeted political machines and their bosses. By taking down these corrupt representatives in office, a further means of direct democracy would be established. They also sought
African Americans were faced with consistent racism in the form of segregation in public spaces and disenfranchisement from the political process. Access to quality healthcare, education, and housing was scarce, and lynchings were rampant in the South. To counter these injustices, African American reformists also emerged to expose and then fight for equal rights in the United States. African American Reformers of the Progressive Era. Booker T. Washington was an educator who established the Tuskegee Institute.