"Alone a woman's voice was a whisper. Together...their voices thundered." (Catherine Gourley, *Society's Sisters*, p. 10)

The struggle for women's rights in the United States has been a history of strong, heroic, fascinating women and men working to change the prevailing trends of society. Publishing, as an industry, has both followed society's restrictive trends and broken new ground in the movement toward freedom for all.

Today, in an increasingly conservative U.S. political climate, quality books exhibiting feminist viewpoints and ideals--especially books for children and young adults--are becoming difficult to find. The Amelia Bloomer Project of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association examined literally hundreds of titles for readers from birth to age 18 before it selected 30 titles published between July 2003 and December 2004 for the fourth annual Amelia Bloomer list.

The criteria used by the Amelia Bloomer Project in selecting books for the list include:
- Significant feminist content
- Excellence in writing
- Appealing format
- Age appropriateness for young readers

Through the course of the Amelia Bloomer Project, several key markers helped the group determine what is feminist and what is considered appropriate for the list. Among these are the following questions:
- Would the story change if the protagonist were male instead of female?
- Does the material show an awareness of gender-based inequalities with action to change these?
- Do females blaze new trails for themselves and those who follow them?
- Do females use power for purposeful action and empowering others?
- Is the character true to herself?
- Do girls and women take on nontraditional roles?

The books selected for the 2005 Amelia Bloomer List show the fight for the freedom of self, of body, of mind, and of spirit that embody feminist principles. The Amelia Bloomer Project applauds authors, illustrators, editors, and publishers who exemplify the courage to challenge today's society by publishing quality feminist literature for tomorrow's adults.

2005 Amelia Bloomer Project members: Jenny Baltes (WI), Chair; Marilyn Ackerman, Brooklyn Public Library (NY); Jane Cothren, Lincoln County Library District (OR); Christie Gibrich, Dallas Public Library (TX); Helma Hawkins, Kansas City Public Library (MO); Brenda Kilmer, Felix Varela Senior High School (FL); Gay Ann Loesch, Sun Valley Middle School (NC); Nel Ward (OR); and Ilene Cooper, Booklist, consultant.
The 2005 Amelia Bloomer List

Picture Book

Fiction

The young princess Violetta proves strength is not measured by size alone.

Following her dream of being a glassblower, a young Mexican girl learns this magical skill on an enchanted journey to Monterey.

Nonfiction

Jackie Mitchell, an 18-year-old baseball pitcher, plays against the legendary heroes Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig—with surprising results.

Intermediate

Fiction

When Helen finds out the secret that her tribe’s fattening hut contains, she runs away from all she knows for a chance to be free.

Calwyn, a young priestess of ice “chantment,” leaves the safety of Antaris to help save her homeworld from a sorcerer who would claim all the magic for himself.

In 1836, the impatient 14-year-old heroine saves her father’s ship and its crew before being confined to a boarding school run by the narrow-minded Reverend Wiggins.

Mable dreams of being a writer and having adventures, while secretly befriending a neighbor who holds scandalous opinions about women’s rights.
**Pratchett, Terry.** A Hat Full of Sky. 2003. 278p. HarperCollins, $16.99 (0-06-058660-5). Gr. 5-9. When young Tiffany Aching’s magical talent attracts the deadly attention of a disembodied hiver seeking her soul, not even the combined strengths of the witches and brawling tribe of Wee Free Men may be able to save her soul and her sanity.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz.** Becoming Naomi Leon. 2004. 246p. Scholastic, $16.95 (0-439-26969-5). Gr. 5-9. Abandoned by her mother, a shy young girl finds her will and her voice through the search for her father and the help of her loving grandmother.

**Stolz, Joelle.** The Shadows of Ghadames. Trans. by Catherine Temerson. 2004. 118p. Delacorte Press, $15.95. (0-385-73104-3). Gr. 5-9. When Malika helps care for an injured man hidden in her home in nineteenth-century Libya, the 11-year-old never dreams that this man, so opposed to women’s rights, may satisfy her yearning to read.


**Whelan, Gloria.** Chu Ju's House. 2004. 231p. HarperCollins, $15.99, (0-06-050724-1). Gr. 5-9. To protect her baby sister from being sent away as the second girl born to her parents, 14-year-old Chu Ju leaves home to survive on her own in a rural modern-day China.

**Nonfiction**


A girl from poverty and abuse rises to stockbroker and newspaper owner on her way to running for president in 1872, campaigning for women’s suffrage and equality.

In 2002 Nancy Pelosi did what no woman had done before: she took leadership of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Stearman, Kaye.** Feminism. 2004. 64p. Raintree, $22.95 (0-73986-415-7). Gr. 3-7.
This beginning portrayal of the many faces of feminism shows its influence, past and present, around the world.

When she declares her intention to become President, a girl is shown vignettes of the vital leadership roles of women world-wide in politics, paving the way for aspiring young women leaders.

Young Adult

**Fiction**

In the beginning, God created the wise, beautiful, and just serpent to train the newly-created Eve in the ways of the world. He knew not what he did.

Feeling like and alien within her thin, brilliant, and gorgeous family, 15-year-old Virginia deals with her self-image, her first boyfriend, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

The search for a runaway heiress leads private investigator Maisie Dobbs to a series of murders stemming from activities during World War I.

**Nonfiction**

Two women adventurers combine their skills and talents to achieve their lifelong dream of crossing the Antarctic under their own powers.

Twenty-two artists show the true feminist spirit in daring to celebrate their inner selves through demanding the same freedom as men.
This leading feminist of the early 1900s authored groundbreaking novels, essays, and short stories.

With grit, determination, and passion, female rock ‘n rollers are taking an increasingly visible and feminist stand, changing a male-dominated music industry and inspiring audiences, other musicians, and fans from all over the world.

This unconventional outstanding Canadian Olympian and sports journalist excelled in a multitude of sports in the early 1900s to the disbelief of males and the amazement of many before encouraging other women to enter sports once dominated by men.

This courageous group of older “invisible” women use unorthodox means—antics, songs, costumes, and other expressions of protest—to challenge Canada’s political landscape.

In this first true account by a victim of an attempted “honor killing,” Souad shares the story of her crime, her sentence and horrible punishment, and her survival.