**Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women**

by Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin, 2000)

*Who invented the fire escape, pastry fork, and electric hot water heater? Women, of course! Your students will enjoy hearing these stories of legendary females who have impacted our lives by turning their dreams into realities. They'll find out what inspired these inventors, what obstacles they encountered, and what it took to follow through.*

**Mystery History**

*What do windshield wipers, alphabet blocks, and underwater telescopes have in common? They were all invented by women! Play this guessing game so students can see that many objects still used today were the product of a woman's ingenuity. Gather the following objects: chocolate chip cookie, ice cream cone, paper bag, disposable diaper, signal flare, medical syringe, and interlocking block. Each day, place a different item inside a box. Give three clues about the object, and let students try to guess its identity. As you reveal each object, share the following information:*

- chocolate chip cookie invented by Ruth Wakefield in 1930
- ice cream cone invented by an anonymous woman in 1904
- paper bags invented by Margaret E. Knight in 1870
- disposable diaper invented by Marion Donovan in 1951
- signal flares invented by Martha Hunt Coston in 1850
- medical syringe invented by Letitia Geer in 1899
- interlocking blocks invented by Mary Nolan in 1877

**The Ballot Box Battle**

by Emily Arnold McCully (Knopf, 1996)

*As the fictional neighbor of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, young Cordelia learns of this woman's fight for suffrage and how she once longed to "be as good as any boy" to please her father. Although more interested in horses than in voting, Cordelia goes to the polls with Mrs. Stanton. This experience leads to a turning point in Cordelia's life.*